

Unavoidable. Pervasive. Inescapable. Secular pop music is everywhere. Even if you can get your young Christian friends to switch their listening habits from secular to sacred, they are still going to hear the top popular songs everywhere they go. In this section we provide you some

ideas to take advantage of some of the most popular secular songs. Use the opening questions, the thematic concepts and discussion ideas to spice up your Bible study, Sunday School lesson, camp/retreat meeting or outreach event message.

## Artist:

## Ariana Grande

Song: Problem

Album: My Everything

By: Sarah Taylor  
sarah\_t@gmail.com

## Theme:

Friendship; Peer Pressure

## Teaching Point:

People will come and go in our lives, but God remains steadfast!

## Opening Discussion:

- Have you known a person who liked to cause drama—maybe a friend/boyfriend/girlfriend you knew you were maybe better without?
- How did you deal with it?
- How did that relationship affect you as a Christian?

## Discussion

Sometimes, we find ourselves in relationships that aren't healthy. Sometimes, as Ariana Grande sings, we should be wise to realize when we're better off without people in our lives. What really causes the problem, though, is when these friendships hinder our walk as Christians, when these friendships and relationships draw us away from God.

In **1 Corinthians 8:9** Paul writes about becoming a stumbling block for other believers. He writes, "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak." While he was writing about the practice of idol worship, the same can be said for relationships today.

In any of our relationships, if we allow others' behaviors to hinder our walk with Christ—or worse, if WE become the reason another Christian stumbles in their walk—it can be like the song says, they can be better off without us—or we can be better off without them.

## Conclusion

In whatever we do as Christians interacting with friends, family, peers, Christians and non-Christians, we have to live as true examples of Christ. As Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (**Matthew 5:16**) Evaluate your relationships. Are you allowing others to see Christ through you? Do your relationships help you grow in your walk with Christ? If anything, what needs to change?

## Artist:

## Colbie Caillat

Song: Try

Album: Gypsy Heart

By: Keith Jones  
life.cvbc@gmail.com

## Theme:

Beauty

## Teaching Point:

God doesn't make junk, so you can feel confident in your appearance.

## Opening Question:

What defines beauty?

## Discussion:

The definition of beauty has been vastly distorted by the godlessness of our world. The entertainment business has led the charge in giving unrealistic images of what true beauty is. These images, which are often enhanced by computer, paint a picture that is both demeaning of women and misleading to men. That is only half of the problem. The other half of the problem is that we buy into this fairytale land of what we are supposed to look like.

For a true definition of beauty, **Genesis 1:27** tells us, "So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female." This one simple verse points to the One who created the definition of beauty when He created us all. God created the Earth and said, "It was good," but when He created us, He said that it was "very good."

Colbie Caillat's words echo the false doctrine of the world. The song talks about how girls are told that they need to look a certain way, be a certain size, and wear certain clothes. But, the song reminds women that they don't need to try to please a world that doesn't appreciate who they are. The song points out the question that many women forget: do you like you?

The God of all creation does not make junk. This includes all of us, even the guys who feel increasing pressure to have a certain look. We are told that God made us fearfully and wonderfully. (**Psalms 139:14**) It is time that we start looking to the Father for the definition of our beauty.

## Conclusion:

The world preys on our insecurities and perceived deficiencies. But, our focus should be on our Father's definition of beauty—the way He created us. The only words we should ever concern ourselves with are when our Lord says, "Well done, good and faithful servant." God made you special. He made you who you are for a great purpose. Do not conform to this world's thoughts and ways because you don't have to try, God loves you just the way He made you!

## Artist:

## Coldplay

Song: A Sky Full of Stars

Album: "Ghost Stories"

By: Doug Ranck  
dranck@fmcbsb.org

## Theme:

Love; Committed

## Teaching Point:

Love is more than attraction and feelings; it includes effort and nurturing of relationships.

## Opening Questions:

Think about a time you had a "crush" on someone—what were the feelings you experienced? Did the other person ever know you were enamored with them?

## Discussion:

The writer of this song describes the feelings one might have toward one to whom they were deeply attracted. With statements like, "You're a sky full of stars," "You light up the path," "I'm gonna give you my heart," and "You're such a heavenly view" the author's view of this highly-favored other person is unmistakable. The author describes a "crush" so big he doesn't care if he is "torn apart." We might say this person is "head over heels 'in love'" or "he's got it bad!" There seems to be no downside to this relationship!

While a "crush" can be innocent and is temporary, God calls us to something greater. He calls us to a love that goes beyond the admiration of only the great things we see in a person whether physically, socially, mentally, and emotionally. This love is unconditional and invites us to look at the eternal values in life.

In **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** the apostle Paul describes love as extending beyond "admiring" when he says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." In these words, we find a situation where effort must be put into nurturing a lasting and meaningful relationship.

**Conclusion:** Where do you find deep and meaningful love in your family, in your friendships and in your relationship with God? What can you do to show this deep love of God to others and receive it as well?