

Music & Kids



Notes for the person facilitating this training are written in blue. It's important to read through all exercises and all blue text instructions when preparing to facilitate this training.

All videos can be previewed prior to the training session but be aware that this course has a two-month limited access. So the training needs to be completed within two months from the date of purchase.

The timing of each exercise is a guide only. For example, a larger group may need more time in sharing ideas from multiple small groups after a brainstorming exercise.

Allocate two hours for this training, with a twenty minute break after Exercise #5 (around the 70 minute mark). If possible, provide tea and coffee and some light refreshments.

Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideally 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper for people to draw/write on
- Place coloured markers on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)

Need:

- Data projector
- Sound system

Introduction:

- Welcome people.
- Indicate timing of breaks and essential information for all in attendance (toilet locations, emergency exits...).
- Begin by committing the time to God in prayer.
- Encourage everyone to introduce themselves to those in their group.

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Welcome people and open in prayer.

LET'S BEGIN

Read the text in the blue box below prior to beginning Exercise #1.

The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary for Kids defines worship as, "Giving honor, reverence, and praise to God. Whole of life expression, not just singing. But it includes singing."

EXERCISE #1 (10 minutes, group exercise)

1. What songs did you learn as a child about God that have stayed with you? Who taught you these songs?
2. As a group, brainstorm everything you think of when you think of 'music and kids'. Encourage groups to record brainstorming on the paper provided on their table. See list below for examples if groups find it hard to get started.

Routine songs: welcome songs, birthday songs, pack-up songs, goodbye songs

Transition songs and chants

Memory verse arrangements

Action rhymes

Chants, raps

Commercial songs

Songs made-up by children or leaders

New words to old tunes

Sound effects

Tempo or dynamics effects

Scatterings

Creates a welcoming, calm atmosphere

Used in games

Video #1: **THE WHY**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

~ Colossians 3:16

Why is music important?

- Songs teach Biblical truth
- Music creates an atmosphere that helps settle children
- Music stirs our emotions (addresses our affections)
- Music Intelligence is a dominant learning style for some children
- Music takes children from being passive observers to being active participants
- Music aids concentration
- Words set to music are more easily remembered

Music is one key way we help children know, love and respond to God.

Music is one way we equip children to encourage each other to keep on trusting Jesus.

EXERCISE #2 (6 minutes, group exercise)

1. Music is a beautiful gift from God. It can stir our affections for him, encourage our hearts, and be used to give God the honour and praise he deserves. How do we guard against using music to manipulate children's emotions?

Things to consider: We could be in danger of manipulating children's emotions by only ever singing happy, upbeat songs, or singing the same song again and again and again.

2. Name children you think are strong in Music Intelligence. What does each child do that makes you think music is their preferred learning style?

Video #2: Psalm 139 (narration, but no music)

Play the Kidswise movie, Psalm 139 (music background not included).

Stop at 1 minute 20 seconds.

Video #3: Psalm 139 (narration and music)

Play the Kidswise movie, Psalm 139 (music background included).

Play this version in full.

EXERCISE #3 (10 minutes, group exercise)

1. What difference does the music make?
2. Psalm 139 is one of 150 songs of God's people. Pause and reflect on this Psalm and turn your thoughts into prayers of praise.

Encourage each group to share one or two reflections from Exercises #2-3 (5 minutes).