

# Talk about Music

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Invite your teenager to think more about the music he or she listens to—and why. As a family, talk about the ways music can affect your choices and attitudes.

**For**  
Teen Family

## Season

Spring

## Needed

Bible, What Are They Singing About worksheet (see last page), pencils or pens, computer, Internet access

## Prepare in Advance

Print one copy of What Are They Singing About worksheet (see last page) for each family member. Go online and access the music reviews at Common Sense Media: [Reviews of Current Songs](#).

## Activity Plan

1. Pray aloud to begin:

*God, thanks for the gift of music in our lives. Send your Spirit to help us to talk openly and honestly about the music we love. Amen.*

2. Ask someone to open the Bible and read aloud Colossians 3:16 and Philippians 4:8, or use the following text:

*Colossians 3:16:* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

*Philippians 4:8:* Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

3. As a family, discuss your answers to these questions:
  - Why is music such an important part of our lives?
  - Does it matter what kind of music we listen to? Why or why not?
  - Do you believe music can influence how a person thinks and acts? Why or why not?
  - Should a Christian make different music choices than a person who is not a Christian? Why or why not?
4. Give each person a copy of What Are They Singing About worksheet and a pen or pencil. Have each young person identify one of their favorite songs at the moment. Adults should recall a favorite song from their teenage years.



5. Ask each person to find the lyrics to their favorite song online, if they do not know them by heart. Usually you can find the lyrics by searching for the name of the song in quotations followed by the word *lyrics*. Or you may find them at: [Song Lyrics](#)
6. Have each person complete the What Are They Singing About worksheet, referring to the song lyrics of his or her favorite song.
7. As a family, discuss:
  - What did you discover as you did this activity?
  - How important are the lyrics of a song to you?
  - At what age do you think children should be able to listen to any song they want to? Why?
  - When parents were teenagers, did their parents have concerns about their music choices? Why or why not?
  - Why can music become a source of conflict in families?
  - How can families work through conflicts that may arise about music?
8. Visit Common Sense Media at [Music Reviews](#) and read the reviews of some songs you know. Do you think these ratings are accurate? Why or why not?
9. **Note to parents:** The goal of this activity is to open communication about song lyrics, not shut down conversation. If you're concerned about the music your teenager is listening to, be honest, but try not to be overly harsh and punitive. Find opportunities, such as riding in the car together, to listen to music your teen likes and ask about the lyrics and the tune. Encourage your child to think more about what he or she is listening to, rather than just automatically listening to whatever friends like.



## What Are They Singing About?

It's easy to get caught up in the beat and melody of a song and not realize what the lyrics are saying. Listen closely to your favorite song and then answer the following questions about the lyrics.

1. What is the theme or subject matter of this song?
  
2. What feeling do you get from this song? Why?
  
3. Do the lyrics include any language that some people might find offensive? If so, what?
  
4. What does the song suggest about how to act toward other people?
  
5. What do the lyrics say about ...
  - Drugs
  - Alcohol
  - Smoking
  - Sex
  - Violence
  - Owning expensive items
  - What's right and what's wrong
  
6. What do you like best about this song?
  
7. What other songs do you like from this musician or group?
  
8. Does it matter what the lyrics say? Why or why not?
  
9. To what extent does this song affect the way you live?

