READY TO USE MUSIC

# Unholy

Sam Smith (ft Kim Petras)

Suitable for 13-plus

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## Introduction

This song has references of a sexual nature and it is recommended that this session be carried out with older teens only. Nonetheless, this is an important subject and this song provides a meaningful opportunity to discuss what it means for us as followers of Jesus, to be set apart or holy.

## The session

Begin the session with some refreshments and an informal time of socialising together. When you are ready to start the discussion, provide a large roll of paper and pens and invite the young people to mindmap what we mean by the word ‘holy’. Work together to draw out some important strands.

Introduce and play ‘Unholy’, explaining that it doesn’t reference God but it does feature a choral style of music, and if you play [the lyric video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QXDnWRy6MI), it does include a cross in the lettering. It can be argued that this song makes a mockery of what we understand as holiness, almost as though the behaviour described is nothing more than harmless fun, and being ‘unholy’ is seen to be a good thing. Give the group the opportunity to share what they notice from the song too, rather than simply telling them what is wrong with the song and the message it contains.

Invite the young people to share other examples of how in popular culture we may see examples of behaviour and actions that we know to be wrong or harmful being normalised or even celebrated. Explain to the group that there are times when it can be really hard to do the right thing, to choose to be different and to choose to follow Christ. This conversation will need some careful handling so as to avoid pointing the finger, and recognising that we all do wrong, but that we are called to live differently.

Provide Bibles and look together at 2 Timothy 1:9. Help the young people to see the two parts of this verse; that we don’t become holy by anything we do; Jesus has made us holy by his death and resurrection, but we are called to live out of that place of holiness; choosing to do what is right and honouring God with all that we are. Take some time to discuss what this looks like in our day-to-day lives.

As you draw the session to a close, pray for the young people that they would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live the holy life that God has called us into. Take the opportunity to minister to the young people as appropriate, reminding them of the grace of God that is available to each of us.

**BECKY MAY**

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