READY TO USE MUSIC

# Messy in heaven

Venbee and Goddard

Suitable for 13-plus

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction

This session comes with a warning! If you haven’t yet heard the song, the lyrics are shocking and undoubtedly offensive to those who follow Jesus. But this is the music our young people encounter, and it is important that we give them the tools they need to be able to process and push back on what they hear. In [one article](https://www.thelineofbestfit.com/tracks/venbee-messy-in-heaven), Venbee explains that ‘Messy in heaven’ is not a “religious song, or meant to offend anyone. It’s simply about how some of the best people put others before themselves. As a result of this, sometimes they fall into a downward spiral”.

## The session

Begin the session by gathering the young people together and taking the time to socialise together. Introduce the theme of the session by saying to the young people, when he was on earth, different people had different ideas about who Jesus was, and Jesus knew that. He once asked his disciples: “Who do you say I am?” (Matthew 16:15). Ask the young people how they would answer, if Jesus asked them that question.

Play the track, or if you prefer, distribute copies of the lyrics to look at together and ask the young people if they have heard it, and what they think of the song. How do they feel about Jesus being spoken about in this way?

Share the quote in the introduction above and ask the group how this helps us to understand the singer’s perspective on Jesus. How do we feel about this? How do they think their friends feel about Jesus? What different ideas do people have about who Jesus is or was?

Remind the group that the Bible has a lot to say about who Jesus is, from prophecies written hundreds of years before he was born, through the Gospels describing his time on earth, to the letters written later, which described who he was and what he did. Help the group to recall some of the different things they remember reading about Jesus. Why are these things so important?

Take a look together at 1 Peter 2:22-24. Ask the young people how this contrasts with the singer’s perception of Jesus and what “might happen”. Help them to see that Jesus cannot simply be disguised as a nice person who could fall into the wrong crowd, he is the very definition of the opposite of this!

Give the group the opportunity to ask their own questions, and to respond to the teaching of this session, as appropriate.

As you draw the session to a close, pray for the young people, and for any issues raised through this session. Pray that they would have courage, confidence and clarity when talking to other people about these things, and encourage them that they have the opportunity to explore difficult issues like this together in this group, before tackling them with other people.

**BECKY MAY**

is founder of The Resources Cupboard, resourcing the local church to make young disciples: [theresourcescupboard.co.uk](https://theresourcescupboard.co.uk/).