READY TO USE MUSIC

# When I grow up

From the soundtrack to *Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical*

Suitable for under-tens

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## Introduction

This song is from the original Tim Minchin score, which has been discovered by a new audience in the release of the new film in 2022. In this song, the children reveal some of their hopes and dreams for the future before Miss Honey reveals that she still has hopes for her own ‘grown up’ life. This session is designed to help our younger children explore some of their own hopes for the future, as well as exploring what the Bible has to say about growing in maturity, while at the same time valuing childhood and childlikeness.

## The session

Begin the session by gathering the children together and asking the question: what do you want to do or be when you grow up? The leaders of the group can share some of their own ambitions, things they had hoped to be when they grew up. As an alternative, you could run the activity as a circle time, with a sentence starter: “When I grow up…”, encouraging them finish the sentence.

Play the track, sharing copies of the lyrics, if it is helpful, for the children to follow along. Explain that when we’re young, we have all sorts of ideas about what it is to be a grown up, and the same can still be true when we are grown up!

Explain that the Bible has stuff to say to us about what it is to grow up too! Provide Bibles and help the children to look at the verses below (you may prefer to provide a printout with the verses on instead):

* 1 Corinthians 13:10-12
* Ephesians 4:13-16
* Hebrews 6:1

Discuss what these verses say to us about growing and maturing in God before telling the children that the Bible also commends childlikeness as something we should hold onto! Take a look at Matthew 18:1-5 and talk about what Jesus meant when he said we should become like a child. What is Jesus teaching his followers to do here? What bits of being a child should we hold onto when we do grow up?

Help the children to explore how we can hold these two things together: remaining childlike but also growing in maturity, and how we can do both of these things. Remind the children that just as Miss Honey still had lessons to learn, being an adult doesn’t mean we have all the answers; being open to learning is a great thing in our walk with God.

As you draw the session to a close, pray for the children, thanking God for them and for the insight they bring, and praying that God would help us all to grow in maturity with him.

**BECKY MAY**

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