READY TO USE MUSIC

# SPACE MAN

Sam Ryder

Suitable for over-13s

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## Introduction

The almost-Eurovision-winning song may well become the upbeat anthem of our summer as we collectively reflect on some of the black holes we’ve been down over the last few years, and the exuberant celebrations of a more optimistic summer. This session explores what it is to recognise God with us in every circumstance along life’s journey.

## The session

Depending on the interests of your group, you could begin the session with some Eurovision or Platinum Jubilee-themed refreshments or a simple summer party vibe to set the mood for the session.

Play the track or, if you are able, show the [official video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udsMTb2NIak). (If you’re going down the Eurovision root, show the [Eurovision version](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ0hqX_92zI); for a Jubilee theme, show [this version](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npkNYzBB0MQ).) You could distribute copies of the lyrics instead. Invite the young people to sing along, if they wish – can they reach the highest notes? Ask them what they think of the song; what lines stand out most to them? How do they feel about the song?

Help the young people to see how the image of space is used both as a way of escaping the realities of life and as a way of expressing joy in life itself. The singer recognises the ‘black holes’ we sometimes find ourselves in, and how we don’t need to escape from life: it has joy in and of itself.

Spread out a large roll of paper and pens or individual sheets for each young person, if you prefer. Invite them to create a visual representation of the journey life has taken over recent years. They could continue with the space analogy or perhaps find an alternative image to use. When they are ready, gather the group together and invite them to share some of the things they have included in their diagram.

Read Psalm 23, explaining that the psalmist uses similar imagery here to show his life’s journey. In the psalm, God is with him in every circumstance, the joys and the sorrows. Invite the young people to look back at the pictures they have created and ask them to reflect on where God was in this. Where did they feel close to God? Where might they have felt further away from him? Where did they experience joy in unexpected places?

Allow plenty of time for the conversation to flow, perhaps including the diagram as a vehicle for discussion. As you draw to a close, give the young people the opportunity to respond as appropriate, and pray together.

**BECKY MAY**

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