READY TO USE MUSIC

# Break my soul

Beyoncé

Suitable for over-13s

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## Introduction

The term ‘diva’ may well be overused, but it can justifiably be applied to the singer who has come a long way from her days in Destiny’s Child. She is no stranger to singing about faith matters and many of her songs over the years have provided material for discussion. This, her latest release with its confident declarations, is no exception. This session provides an opportunity to discuss some of those, and talk about how our identity, security and direction are found in Jesus alone.

## The session

Begin the session by gathering the young people together and taking the time to socialise together, perhaps over some simple snacks. Introduce the session, explaining that we are going to listen to a track by Beyoncé and explore some of the issues it raises for us.

Play the track, distributing copies of the lyrics for young people to follow, or perhaps showing the official video (there are three or four available, but watch them beforehand to make sure you are happy to show them to your group). Ask the young people what they thought of the song; what message is she trying to give? Which lyrics stood out the most to them?

Together with the group, explore how this song is a declaration or a statement of the singer’s achievement and defiant position. Explore how this song echoes many common messages we hear in society about who we are and what we should aspire to have. Discuss how the singer claims these things for herself; she has achieved her position and status, not only materially, but spiritually also, and talk about how people try to find this for themselves in many different ways.

Invite someone to read Matthew 7:24-27, checking that the young people are familiar with the story and talking about what it means. Explain that in the song, Beyoncé talks about finding a new foundation and a new salvation, something which she has found for herself. In this parable, Jesus explains that he saves those who put their trust in him, who build on firm foundations on listening to and obeying him. Take some time to talk about what this looks like, in practical terms.

Help the young people to see that people seek meaning in all kinds of different ideas. This song is an anthem to the singer’s own personal walk; she is celebrating what she has done, but Jesus offers an alternative. We don’t have to ‘do’ anything to find salvation; Jesus has done it all for us.

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.

**BECKY MAY**

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