READY TO USE MUSIC

# Praising you

Rita Ora

Suitable for ten to 13s

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## Introduction

This latest release from Rita Ora revives Fatboy Slim’s 1998 dance-floor classic, ‘Praise you’. The video, as with the original, pokes fun at Christians, here set within a church-like building. A warning: the song does include the unabbreviated exclamation OMG, but this song does give us the opportunity to ask what it is to praise, how each of us is created to praise, how some of us recognise that this is for God, while others point our adoration in other directions.

## The session

Begin the session by gathering the young people together, perhaps over food, and give them the chance to talk about their week. When you are ready, explain that this week, you’re going to be thinking about what it means to praise someone or something, and ask the young people if they can think of other words which describe ‘praise’ and help us to understand what this means. Talk briefly about the way ‘praise’ is used in different contexts: you praise someone when they have done something special, for instance. This is slightly different from worship, which goes further and gives ultimate value or adoration to God or to something you have filled his place with. Explain that it might be helpful to remember these two words as you work through this session, as there is an indication that the praise in this song is something that goes deeper.

Introduce and play the track, providing copies of the lyrics for the young people to follow. The official video is available [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FlOlDUikBQ). If your group are familiar with the video, they may find it helpful to talk through some of the symbolism in the early scenes, but you may find that this is more of a distraction from the theme of this session. You may want to give them a warning about the choice of language, but explain that you are going to be discussing this further.

Ask the young people what they notice about this song; what stood out to them? Who was the singer directing their praise to? Why were they praising them? How does this song help us to understand how people feel about God (or not) nowadays? As Christians, how does this song challenge us?

Distribute Bibles and look together at Isaiah 43:1-7. Ask the group what this tells us, in relation to the song. Help the young people to see that everyone was created by God to be his people, it is set within humans to worship him, but many people do not know God and so this praise or worship directs itself at other things. The singer in the song even talks about how the one she is singing to has become her religion!

Take some time to praise God together, reflecting on what it is to give him all your adoration; depending on your group, this may be through singing together, praying or spreading out huge sheets of paper to graffiti with praise, for instance. Draw your group together to pray as you close.

**BECKY MAY**

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