

youthESource Bible Study

With My Headphones On

by Steve Meyer

based on the song "Headphones" by Jars of Clay

Who here listens to music? (Most likely everyone)

What types of music do you like? (no wrong answers, just an ice-breaker)

How do you listen to music? (stereo at home, radio in car, iPod & headphones everywhere...)

Do you listen to music in public places? If so, what kinds of places? (bus, mall, coffee shop...)

Do you see others doing the same? (of course)

What are you doing/thinking while listening to music? (nothing, escaping/relaxing, running, working out, studying...)

What do you think they are doing/thinking? (probably the same)

Do we talk to people with headphones on? (No)

Why not? (privacy, don't want to disturb...)

Listen to the song

- What's this song about?
 - Literally (not listening to bad news on TV, not listening to other people, seeing someone else do the same)
 - Figuratively (shutting other people out, escaping and being in seclusion)
- How does this relate to our lives? (we sometimes want to get away and escape from the world)
- How do we take our headphones off? (communicate with others, have authentic relationships/friendships, be in community with others...)
- Can we take off others' headphones? (yes)
- What does that look like? (reach out to others, be kind/friendly...)
- Read Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch)
 - Who had "headphones," and who took them off? (Eunuch had "headphones," Philip took them off)
 - How? (simply reaching out and offering to help)
 - Wouldn't it have been easier for Philip to ignore the eunuch?
 - What would've happened? (the eunuch would have remained confused and not believed in Jesus)
 - What was the result? (the eunuch believed and was baptized)
 - How is this a model for us? (a simple act of caring can change a life. Philip didn't slowly and reluctantly approach the chariot. He ran.)
- Let's look at this in a different way. Having been baptized and having heard some of God's Word, do you have headphones on when His Word is being read and preached? (Yes!) Should you have? (No!) How do we get them off? (Be at Divine Service; be engaged at Divine Service; listen to God's Word as the word of life you know it is! Set aside time to turn off the noise and put away the phone and get into God's Word, and get into it. Get your Pastor or parents to help you as your personal Philip when you can't get the headphones off yourself!) Open your ears to hear, first Christ's word to you: "You are baptized! You are forgiven! You are mine!" and then the often quiet or even unspoken question of your neighbor, about your Lord, "What does this mean?"
- God's Word to us contains Law and Gospel, and we tend to have headphones on for both. We (according to the sinful flesh) don't want to hear about our sins, even though they are destroying our lives and our neighbors' lives; we don't want to hear about forgiveness because we'd rather go on thinking we did it right ourselves. We need to be listening to both, and hearing clearly.
- What are some other examples of headphones being removed? (Saul-Ananias, Jesus-Zacchaeus, many others)
- My challenge for you this week is to take off your headphones. Don't hide or hold back. Hear God's Word to you, then reach out to others, who may be hurting. Be open to others who want to help you. Show love like Philip showed to the eunuch, and like Jesus shows to us.

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Headphones
by Jars of Clay

I don't have to hear it, if I don't want to
I can drown this out, pull the curtains down on you
it's a heavy world, it's too much for me to care
If I close my eyes, it's not there

With my headphones on, with my headphones on
With my headphones on, with my headphones on

We watch television...but the sound is something else
Just a song played against the drama,
so the hurt is never felt
I take in the war-fires,
and I'm chilled by the current events
it's so hopeless, but there's a pop song in my

Headphones on, in my headphones on
With my headphones on, with my headphones on

At the Tube Stop, you sit down across from me
(I can see you looking back at me)
I think I know you
By the sad eyes that I see
I want to tell you (It's a heavy world)
Everything will be okay
You wouldn't hear it (I don't want to have to hear it)
So we go our separate ways...

With our headphones on, with our headphones on
With our headphones on, with our headphones on

I don't wanna be the one who tries to figure it out
I don't need another reason I should care about you
You don't want to know my story
You don't want to own my pain
Living in a heavy, heavy world
And there's a pop song in my head
I don't want to have to hear it