

and that's what  
you missed on



# Leader's Guide

## Why Glee?

Most youth ministers and those who work with teens strongly believe in engaging culture and pointing out where God is present within it. Too often, culture is seen as the “bad guy” and the church makes a great effort to avoid culture altogether. But youth workers know full well that teens cannot avoid culture.

Maybe you’re a Gleek. Or maybe you only watch *Glee* to stay culturally relevant. Our goal for this series is to use *Glee* to point out where God is present within culture in order to connect God’s story with our story.

Even though teens are not the primary watchers of *Glee*, the show represents what they experience every day in a very real way. In fact this might be the reason that they don’t watch the show: it connects too well. This series is intended to bring up discussions on topics that teens encounter in life, school, family, and even in church and youth group.

## The Backdrop

*Glee* is set in the small town of Lima, Ohio at William McKinley High School. Like most high schools, the jocks rule the hallways. So if you’re not a jock, you’re a loser. The show focuses on the high school show choir, also known as the glee club, called New Directions. Check out [Glee’s Wikipedia page](#) for more information than you ever wanted to know about the show and the cast.

## Finding Glee Clips

This series is written around various episodes of Glee. We’ve chosen to focus on the episodes that cover themes that teens deal with every day. The theme is carried through the episode, but is usually broken up over several clips. Thus, the clips do not run concurrently.

We suggest getting the episodes from either the DVDs (Netflix or similar) or from itunes (\$2.99 per episode) in order to ensure a clean, malware-free clip.

## How to

Leaders should always try to tweak or edit this resource so that it makes more sense in their contexts. Each lesson is broken up into six sections, which are explained below along with suggestions on how to contextualize the lesson for your group. Since *Glee* is song-based, we had some fun using song structure elements for each section heading.

### **The Melody – Objective/Lesson Overview**

This is the main point you are teaching within each lesson; if the group gets nothing else, you want them to get this.

**Contextualize:** *Print out the objective and distribute so that each person can take it home to think about during the week. Or write out the objective on a whiteboard or a piece of butcher paper and hang it up so that everyone can see.*

## The Bridge – Video Clips

These are the video clips needed to tell the story. **It is recommended that you watch all of them before showing them to your group so that you know what to expect.** *Glee* can be very blunt with how topics are presented (which is why it is such a good show) but you should always know what you're getting into. Each clip has a start and stop time listed, along with a general description of the clip or the dialog that immediately precedes the clip.

**Contextualize:** *If there are several clips, break them up and ask some of the discussion questions as you go along. It's also possible to watch them all the way through and then work through all the questions after watching – that approach depends on the dynamic of your group.*

## The Chorus – Discussion Questions

These are discussion questions to be used to engage the group with what has happened in the video clips.

**Contextualize:** *If you break up the clips with discussion, choose questions that tie into the clip you are watching. Also, you might need to reword or add more or less explanation with the question depending on your group.*

## The Verses – Scriptures

These are scripture passages that help connect the lesson topic with God's story. This section also contains further discussion questions to continue the conversation, this time more directed toward God and scripture.

**Contextualize:** *If your group is new to scripture, make sure to add that this scripture ties in with God's bigger story, where God is at work in the world, and asks us to help in the continued redemption of the world back to God's Kingdom. If your group is very familiar with scripture, challenge them to try to explain how this particular passage connects to God's bigger story.*

## The Coda – Final Words

These might be the final words to say to tie up the lesson. These topics are hard, and it is good to try to end with some sort of hope.

**Contextualize:** *This is where you MUST contextualize. What you say here must be heartfelt. Don't lose the point of what needs to be said, but make sure to fit it to your ministry.*

## The Rehearsal – Take Home Challenge

These can be used in a variety of ways, but the goal is to help teens take the lesson from church and try to live it out in their everyday lives.

**Contextualize:** *There are several possible uses: give teens a take home challenge sheet with this section printed on it, or utilize social media to challenge them again after a few days to further think through what you discussed. You might even use this if you have a separate small group time later in the week to help continue the conversations already begun.*

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