

TOBYMAC



Artist:

TOBYMAC
TOBYMAC.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

HEAVEN ON MY MIND
FOREFRONT RECORDS

Song:

NOTHIN' SWEETER

Study by:

KEN McCOY
JUMPSTART MINISTRIES
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
KENNYMAC@MAC.COM



Playlist

This song is featured on "The Linc: God's Love" Spotify playlist – which is the perfect way to remind your students what you've taught them in this session. To share it with them, click the live link on the web version of this study.

Theme

God's Love, Optimism, Joy

Objective

Sometimes, teenagers get the feeling that being a Christian means giving up on fun, joy, excitement, and thrills. In this session, they'll learn that there is nothing better than the joy that comes from experiencing God's love.

Warm Up

Taste and See– Before the study, get a pack of the Jelly Belly® BeanBoozled® jellybean game – the normal version, not the "Fiery Five."

In the game, two volunteers are given identical jellybeans, one with a sweet flavor and one with a gross flavor. For example, "Top Banana" or "Peach" vs. "Wet Dog" or "Barf." There are 10 pairs of jellybeans in the pack.

Ask for a pair of volunteers to play the game, announce the two flavors, and have the rest of the group guess which player gets which flavor.

Repeat the process with a new pair of volunteers for all 10 jellybean pairs. When the game ends, reward the players with a handful of normal jellybeans.

Transition

- What did it feel like not knowing what you were going to get?

- Was there a moment where you felt uncertain, or how did it feel when you realized the jellybean was not what you expected?
- How does the uncertainty in this game relate to our trust in God's plan for us?

Introduce the key verse of this session –

Psalm 34:8 (NIV) *"Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the person who takes refuge in Him."*

Life can sometimes feel like that game, uncertain and unpredictable. But one thing we can count on is God's goodness and His love for us. This session is about discovering that nothing is sweeter than experiencing God's love. Let's dive into how God's love brings true joy and fulfillment in our lives.

The Song

Hand out the Student Guides. Explain that TobyMac's song "Nothin' Sweeter" explores the joy and fulfillment that come from knowing God's love. Encourage the students to fill in the missing lyrics as they listen.

Play "Nothin' Sweeter" by TobyMac.

- How does the song reflect the joy and peace that come from experiencing God's love?

- What aspects of the song stood out to you as being "sweet" or fulfilling?
- How does this song compare to how the world views joy and happiness?

Transition

Here are the missing lyrics:

wrong, view, graveside, answered, moment, graduated, lessons, deserve, love, enough, leave, sunset, counting, best, You

Bible Study

Have the students form four groups. Give each group one of the following Bible passages, and assign them the job of doing a "Reader's Theater" reading of each passage. Emphasize that you'll reward the group that does the most convincing and creative reading of their passage.

They'll have five or ten minutes to create their "Readers Theater" plans. Then, have the groups present their performance to the audience. Reward them with more jellybeans!

Here are the four passages:

Psalm 19:7-11
Psalm 34:1-8
Psalm 119:97-104
Romans 8:38-39

- What's the common theme among these different Bible passages?
- How do these Bible passages relate to TobyMac's song?

- What kind of emotional response is communicated in these passages?
- How is this kind of thing unlike what most people think that being a Christian is like?

Wrap Up

God's love is sweeter than anything else we can experience in life. Just like we trust that the jellybean game will bring both sweet and unexpected moments, we can trust that God's love is always good, and His plan for our lives is full of joy and fulfillment.

This week, let's focus on experiencing God's goodness in every area of our lives. Whether it's through gratitude, trusting Him with our worries, or loving others, we can experience His sweetness and share that with the world.

Finish by helping your group memorize **Psalm 34:8** (NIV) *"Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the person who takes refuge in Him."*

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