

Welcome

Welcome to QuaverChristian — a music curriculum for grades K–5. This curriculum will take the best of QuaverMusic’s teaching rigor and infuse it with Bible truth, helping students understand the creativity of God, the world He has made, the love of Jesus, and ultimately help them develop a worldview that lets them “live in God’s world God’s way.” There are four Core Biblical Values:

- God created with order and purpose.
- I am made to worship God.
- I have a responsibility to use my gifts wisely.
- I am made to be able to create.

Overview

God created the world and, in doing so, gave us music. But how can we teach music excellently and help students discover their Creator and the vast scope of what He has done?

QuaverChristian explores the fundamentals of music (beat, pitch, rhythm, meter, timbre, etc.) and teaches how these elements reinforce and illuminate what God has already created. The curriculum shows how a *deeper* understanding of music can deepen our understanding of God.

These documents, written for every unit, will outline how you, as a teacher, can understand this and help your students make these connections.

Each unit, based on a Core Biblical Value, introduces a Big Idea, a Bible verse, and guided discussion questions.

- **Big Idea:** This is built from the most appropriate Core Biblical Value and the musical theme of the unit. The Big Idea is a bite-sized, memorable phrase the teacher can return to throughout the unit.
- **Bible Verse:** Scripture that supports the Big Idea.
- **Guiding Questions / Discussion:** Each unit contains three questions designed to encourage critical thinking and engagement as the teacher helps students deepen their understanding of scripture and form their biblical worldview.



Kindergarten Unit 1: Beat

Core Biblical Value: God created with order and purpose.

Big Idea: God made everything, even music.

Bible Verse: John 1:3 — “Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”

Unit 1: Biblical Immersion — Teacher Understanding:

1. God is our creator. He made everything, and therefore created music and the ability for us to make music. This idea underpins the whole of this curriculum. Music is God’s idea (John 1:3).
 2. Humans are unique in that they are highly creative; we make things, we draw, we color, and we move. God has given us music, and, like all art subjects, we can use the arts to express our feelings and thoughts. The arts also show our love and thanks to God for His world (Psalm 150:3).
 3. Beats are a fundamental part of music, which reflects the ordered and purposeful world that God made.
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Student Questions in the Lesson:

- **Question 1:** Why do you think God made music?
- **Answer 1:** God made us and music for us to enjoy; it is part of His creation, and we are creative people (John 1:3).
- **Question 2:** Can you think of some different kinds of music?
- **Answer 2:** God has made humans to be unique. Because of this, people create music in unique (different) ways.
- **Question 3:** How do you think God feels when we sing or make music?
- **Answer 3:** God loves it when we use, play, and appreciate what He has made.

1st Grade Unit 3: Rhythm

Core Biblical Value: God created with order and purpose.

Big Idea: God has created a rhythm in our world!

Bible Verse: Genesis 1:31 — “And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.”

Unit 3: Biblical Immersion — Teacher Understanding:

1. God uses sounds to make the world richer and more glorious, just like the colors we see in nature. It's like the world is His theater, and He is putting on a show for us (Psalm 24:1)!
2. Nature's sounds highlight the uniqueness of each animal and element like woodpeckers, grasshoppers, thunder, and wind. Language comes from the sounds that humans make. Language is given to us by God to help us communicate.
3. Often, we can hear patterns or rhythms of sounds in nature and language that are used to communicate. When we create sounds and patterns of sounds in music, we are communicating as well. Music allows us to express our feelings and communicate them with others.

Student Questions in the Lesson:

- **Question 1:** What are some sounds you hear in nature that have a rhythm?
- **Answer 1:** Some sounds we hear in nature are woodpeckers, dolphins, and squirrels.
- **Question 2:** Why do you think God created a rhythm in our world?
- **Answer 2:** Rhythm was given to help us communicate with others and to express emotion and movement. Often, rhythms are associated with dance forms that help us to express our feelings not just with sound but with our bodies (Psalm 30:11).
- **Question 3:** Is singing or praying to God a part of your family's rhythm of life?
- **Answer 3:** Gather responses.

2nd Grade Unit 5: Melody

Core Biblical Value: I am made to worship God.

Big Idea: Melodies are a special way to worship God and bring joy to our hearts and those around us!

Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:19 — “Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit; sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”

Unit 5: Biblical Immersion — Teacher Understanding:

1. God has made us, and God knows what is best for us. The Bible tells us to worship God and tell others about Him. If God has asked us to do it, we know it will be good for us.
 2. Music as an art form is a means of self-expression and creative communication. Oholiab and Bezalel were two men whom God enabled, by His Spirit, to create in amazing ways with gold and silver material (Exodus 31:2-3). In the same way, God, by His Spirit, will help us create melodies and music that glorify His name and use our gifts to their maximum.
 3. We have been created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). Therefore, we are created to create. This means we can use the tool of music to create melodies and songs that glorify and praise God.
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Student Questions in the Lesson:

- **Question 1:** Can you think of a song that always makes you feel joyful inside?
- **Answer 1:** Gather responses.
- **Question 2:** What are some ways we can use melodies to bring joy not just to ourselves but also to others around us?
- **Answer 2:** Christians are called to serve others (Matthew 23:11). This means not just with our actions, but with music. We can bring joy to others by sharing our songs with them.
- **Question 3:** How do you imagine God feels when we sing or listen to melodies that praise and worship Him?
- **Answer 3:** The Bible says that we were made to worship God. Singing and praising God with music is part of this, and God loves it because He knows it is good for us, and it is an act of obedience (Hebrews 13:5; Ephesians 5:19).

3rd Grade Unit 7: Instruments

Core Biblical Value: I have a responsibility to use my gifts wisely.

Big Idea: God created me with purpose and uniqueness to glorify Him.

Bible Verse: Psalm 139:14 — “I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Unit 7: Biblical Immersion — Teacher Understanding:

1. It is clear from Scripture that we are fearfully and wonderfully made; we are unique. We are given gifts by God, and we have a responsibility to use them (1 Peter 4:10). The parable of the talents tells us not to bury what God has given us but to work and develop our gifts to their maximum. This is our responsibility before God.
2. We have been given different combinations of gifts and abilities. This is the way God has designed us.
3. Learning and playing instruments and developing musical talent is a way we can use our gifts. The challenge to humans is: Will I use my gifts wisely in a way that glorifies God or myself?

Student Questions in the Lesson:

- **Question 1:** Can you name some things about yourself that are different from your friends or family members?
- **Answer 1:** Gather responses.
- **Question 2:** Why do you think God made each person unique instead of making everyone the same?
- **Answer 2:** This is part of God’s creation, that humans, like snowflakes, trees, animals, and rocks, are all unique. Not one of them is the same.
- **Question 3:** How do you think it would be if all instruments played the same sound? How is that similar to people being unique?
- **Answer 3:** It would be dull. When different instruments are played to their best, it creates harmonious music. This is the way God’s Kingdom should work. Unique Christ followers, living to please God, combine together to produce a harmonious community that glorifies God.

4th Grade Unit 8: Chords and Harmony

Core Biblical Value: God created with order and purpose. / I am made to be able to create.

Big Idea: Chords and harmony show us how God created different parts to work together in unity to make something beautiful.

Bible Verse: Ephesians 4:3 — “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Unit 8: Biblical Immersion — Teacher Understanding:

1. We can see how in God’s creation, individual parts interact, working with each other in a harmonious way. For example, squirrels use trees to live in, birds distribute flower seeds, and bees make honey from pollen.
2. Harmony in music reflects God’s harmonious order. Notes work together and “sound good.” It is important to note that as students mature, what “sounds good” to some might not “sound good” to others. Like in all art subjects, there is a good deal of subjectivity. However, music reflects harmony in God’s world.
3. Harmony is the element of music that produces the most emotional feelings. A melody on its own can create emotion, but harmony enriches a melody. We are also able to create amazing works of music using harmony and melody. So just as God created a harmonious world, we are able to create by making music that is harmonious.

Student Questions in the Lesson:

- **Question 1:** What does it mean to live in harmony with one another?
- **Answer 1:** It means that we understand that each of us is different, but our differences are what create the best outcome — the “harmony.” The Bible verse in this unit shows us that this takes effort.
- **Question 2:** How can Christians live in harmony with people who have different opinions or beliefs?
- **Answer 2:** To live harmoniously does not necessarily mean we will agree. In fact, showing love and service to others is a way of demonstrating Christ’s love, regardless of what they believe. This can produce a harmonious response from others.
- **Question 3:** How does living in harmony with others reflect God’s love for us?
- **Answer 3:** The Bible tells us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). If Jesus loved us while we were sinners, we should learn to understand and give grace to others for their sins and mistakes. This creates harmony and is what Jesus calls us to do.

5th Grade Unit 3: Singing

Core Biblical Value: I am made to worship God. / I have a responsibility to use my gifts wisely.

Big Idea: Praises sung from our hearts to God will always sound beautiful to Him.

Bible Verse: Isaiah 43:21 — "The people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."

Unit 3: Biblical Immersion — Teacher Understanding:

1. Ultimately, we are made to worship God. To truly fulfill our earthly calling, we will live a life that, as Paul says, is a living sacrifice — this is our spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1).
2. Singing is a very important part of our lives. In the Bible, songs were used in multiple ways. Sometimes, they were used to remind the people of what God had done (Exodus 4:6). Other times, they were used to lament and express sadness (Psalm 6) or sing songs of praise (Psalm 92). However, when we offer our songs to Him, our Father listens and hears them.
3. Singing is a fundamental part of human history, and its impact cannot be underestimated. God has given the arts to humanity to express love and devotion to Him.

Student Questions in the Lesson:

- **Question 1:** Why do you think it's important for our praises to come from the heart rather than just saying words?
- **Answer 1:** We are charged by Jesus to love the Lord our God with our heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:30). We want our praises and our worship to be authentically from our heart, not because our faith is borrowed.
- **Question 2:** Do you think there's a difference between singing praises alone and singing them with others? Why or why not?
- **Answer 2:** Christians are part of God's Kingdom (Mark 1:15), and the kingdom of God is a community of believers. Singing together is a powerful expression of our love for Jesus and an expression of the Kingdom of God. Alternatively, singing alone is a way we can express our own feelings and love for God, and can be used as a way for us to focus on God in a quiet time or devotion.
- **Question 3:** Can you think of a song or hymn that you feel really connects with your heart when you sing it to God?
- **Answer 3:** Gather responses.



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