

Bassline



1 Peter 3:15



Today's session introduces The Salvation Army's new youth discipleship programme Bassline. There will be an opportunity to understand how each section of the new material works and explore 1 Peter 3:15, which forms the scriptural foundation of Bassline.

You will need:

- Notebooks and Bassline stickers (optional)
- Amplify handout
- Bibles and Bible commentaries

Introduction to Bassline

Say:

Bassline is the new small-group material that will help you grow your faith.

What if we think of our lives as a musical, and the life we live the melody?

We play out this tune, seeking to be in harmony with the notes played around us. But as we move through different spaces, as the people around us play out their own tunes, it can be hard to find our own song. It can be challenging to make music that is truly in tune with who we're created to be.

Rob Bell has said, 'Over time when you purposefully try to live the way of Jesus, you start noticing something deeper going on. You begin realising the reason this is the best way to live is that it is rooted in profound truths about how the world is. You find yourself living more and more in tune with ultimate reality. You are more and more in sync with how the universe is at its deepest levels.'

Bassline aims to help you tune in to that ultimate reality. It will help you find a point of resonance and dial up the bass line that provides the constant beating and driving rhythm we can layer our melody on top of. We can weave the notes of our every day with the deepest notes of God's truth.

Over the course of three years, you will be given the opportunity to engage with the whole Bible as it provides the theological bass notes for your faith. Informed by the doctrines of The Salvation Army, we'll explore the nature of God and discover more about his Church and our place in it. We will add the harmony of the Mission Priorities as we develop our understanding of not just what and why we believe, but how we live out those beliefs as Salvationists.

As the cacophony of sound continues to play out in your everyday life, Bassline offers your faith a deep and full foundation. The teaching will resonate beyond the noise and help you to play your part in God's beautiful symphony.

Each session contains the following sections:

Beat

Amplify

Sound check

Selah

Coda

In today's session we're going to find out more about each of these sections and how they will help you on your faith journey.

Leader's notes:

There is also a Bridge for each section. The Bridge is a section of a song that contrasts with the rest of the song and prepares the listener for the return of the song's main themes. Replacing the Additional Activities section, the Bridge will give the group the opportunity to develop and explore a theme in more depth. Each section will contain its own Bridge to take the group in a new direction if they want to consider another aspect of the theme.

Leader's notes:

Throughout the sessions, reference will be made to Bassline notebooks. If you would like to use notebooks with your group, stickers are available from the Children and Youth Department to decorate whatever notebooks you purchase. If you are using notebooks, please distribute them at this point in the session.



Say:

The first section of the Bassline sessions is called Beat. It sets the rhythm of the session and often introduces the theme. During a busy week, you will also have a chance to get in sync with each other and be ready to study God's word.

Leader's notes:

For the very first Beat activity, the young people will listen to some basslines. The clip provided is of a young bass player, Ellen, who has her own YouTube channel. There is no need to watch the entire clip, and you can skip through to the different basslines she plays. The activity aims for the young people to listen and discuss the role of the bassline in music. Ellen may even inspire them to pick up a bass guitar and start learning!

Watch:

My TOP Favourite Bass Lines – Part 1 (13:10)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KG8iGNFJ_s&t=1s

Alternatively, there are suggestions below for songs with a strong bassline. They come from different decades, but the group will have heard many of these before. Whether you use the Ellen clip or the tracks below, the aim is to discuss how the bassline sets the rhythm and feel for the music.

Bassline Suggestions

‘Uptown Funk’ – Bruno Mars

‘Stand By Me’ – Ben E King

‘Another One Bites the Dust’ – Queen

‘Seven Nation Army’ – White Stripes

‘Don’t Start Now’ – Dua Lipa

‘I Want You Back’ – Jackson 5



Say:

The bassline often creates the musical foundation for the song, sets the rhythm and style, and provides the building blocks for the melody and harmonies to flourish.

 **Bridge**

Ask:

If you could play the bass guitar for any group and any song, what would you choose?

 **Amplify**

Ask:

What does the word ‘amplify’ mean?

Say:

When we amplify, we increase the volume or add detail to something. In the case of Bassline, we’ll be amplifying Scripture to see what we can learn to help us and others in our faith journey. Each week, we will amplify the key themes of a passage of Scripture and discover the context and lessons found within God’s word.

For our first Amplify section, we will look at the Scripture that forms the foundation of Bassline.

Read:

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Leader's notes:

Give each group member a copy of the Amplify handout. Read through the Scripture together as a group. Work through each phrase of the passage, discussing its meaning and looking at other translations to see how they add understanding to the text. Bring a range of Bible commentaries to the session for the young people. Model how to use Bible commentaries to find additional information about the context and meaning of Scripture. The young people can also use online commentaries. The activity aims for the group to develop skills to amplify the meaning of Scripture. Encourage them to draw and record what they have discovered on their handout or in their notebooks and discuss their findings. The Amplify section will be more focused in future sessions, but today's aim is for the young people to use their research skills to explore and enjoy the Bible.

Ask:

After considering everything you have discovered in the Amplify section, what is the central message of 1 Peter 3:15-16?

 **Bridge****Ask:**

When it comes to reading and amplifying God's Scripture, what valuable lesson is Francis Chan trying to teach us in the following quote?

'Don't fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says.'
– Francis Chan

 **Sound Check****Say:**

The next section of our Bassline sessions is called Sound Check.

Ask:

Thinking of the world of arena tours and live concerts, how would you describe the purpose of a sound check?

Say:

A sound check takes place before a live performance to make sure that everything is working properly. Before a gig, the sound engineers run through a list of checks to make sure that the microphone batteries are fully charged, the performers can hear themselves, and the balance in the auditorium is perfect between the band members.

Ask:

Having heard what is involved in a concert sound check, why do you think we have called this section of Bassline, Sound Check?

Say:

In each session, we will take a moment to do a spiritual sound check. After amplifying the message of the key Scripture, we will take a sound check and consider how to apply the session's theme to our day-to-day living.

The spiritual sound check does not guarantee that everything will run smoothly in our lives. Just like a real sound check, things don't always go to plan. Just ask Celine Dion ...

Watch:

Celine Dion, 'My heart will go on' sound problem, Live in Concert - The Chorrix)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GLp5h1GFaY>

Ask:

- How did the crowd react when the sound issues started?
- What do you think was going on in the tech section of the concert?
- How did Celine Dion react to the sound issues?

Say:

At the moment the sound problem started, the engineers would have relied on the knowledge and understanding they had gained over the years to get things back on track. Their sound check wasn't about perfection; it was ensuring that all the basics were in place before the concert began. When things went wrong, they had the foundations in place to know which steps to take next.

Leader's notes:

Using the content of their discussions so far, ask the group to create a spiritual sound check. What essential checks do we need to make to ensure the foundations of our faith are solid? How are others involved in this process? How can we support each other as we explore our faith and check out what the Bassline teaching means for our everyday living?

Give the group time to explore and discuss their spiritual sound checks. They can jot down their thoughts in their notebook or on the back of the Amplify handout.

Say:

The sound engineers perform sound checks before every single concert; they aren't a one-off. In each Bassline, you will have the opportunity to sound check your faith journey and see how you can be more in tune with the music God wants to play in your life.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

How do you think the weekly Bassline sound checks will help you grow in your faith?

 **Selah****Say:**

The Selah section of our Bassline sessions help us to take a moment to pause and reflect on everything we have learned. The term 'Selah' is used throughout the Psalms (and also in Habakkuk where it's also in a psalm of prayer). There isn't a consensus on its exact meaning, but it seems to be an instruction for reading or singing. Watch the clip to find out some of the ways 'selah' is used in the Bible.

Watch:

What Does Selah Mean in the Bible? – gclmedia (3:23)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSK76GjO4SM>

Ask:

- After watching the clip, how would you define the word selah?
- How do you think having a moment of selah in each Bassline session could be helpful?

Say:

The Amplified Bible adds 'Pause and calmly think about that' to each verse where selah appears, so that's what we're going to do.

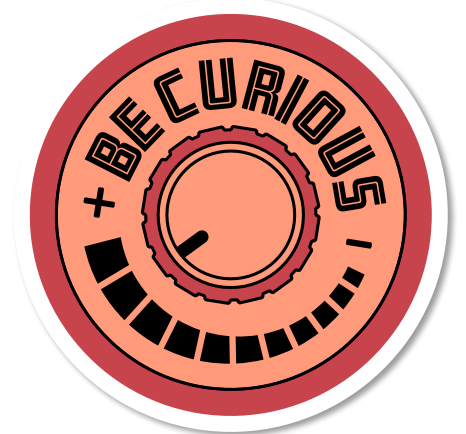
Leader's notes:

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 to the group. Spend time praying for each other as you begin the Bassline journey together.

Read:

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

(1 Peter 3:15-16)



Coda

Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

In every Bassline session you will have an opportunity to share your Coda. You'll take a moment to review what you've learned and share it with the rest of the group.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is the one thing you will take away from the very first Bassline session?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

If you have any feedback you would like to share, please email ChildrenYouth@salvationarmy.org.uk with the subject 'Bassline'.



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(1 Peter 3:15-16)