

MUSIC/WORSHIP

Anything to photocopy? No

Here are the parts of this lesson:

- ◆ **Four on a Couch** *game*
- ◆ **Paraphrasing the Hymnal** *lesson*
- ◆ **Singing Worship Service**

GAME

FOUR ON A COUCH

This is best played with at least 20 players. Write everyone's name on a slip of paper, one name per slip, and place the papers in a container.

Now sit everyone in a circle, with the couch (or four chairs) as part of the circle. Two boys and two girls (alternating) should sit on the couch. The teens sitting on the floor in a circle should leave one empty space.

The goal is to fill the four spaces on the couch with either all boys or all girls.

Once your teens are all situated, have each player draw a name from the container. Then start with the person sitting to the right of the open space: he calls the name of anyone in the group. Whoever holds the slip of paper with that name on it moves to the open spot and trades slips with the person who called the name. The play continues, with the person who now sits to the right of the vacant spot. (Pay attention, especially to the last name called.) Other players may not give hints to the player whose turn it is.

Christopher Graham

LESSON

PARAPHRASING THE HYMNAL

Here's a great learning strategy that everyone will enjoy. Have the students in your group take some old familiar hymns and paraphrase them. They should read the hymns and try to restate the message of the hymn in common, everyday language. Do this with a number of hymns from your church's hymnbook. Have the youth read them to the adults in your congregation at one of your services, and see if they can identify the hymn that has been paraphrased.

This exercise can accomplish three things: First, it helps students to look for the meaning in the hymns that they sing in church. Second, it shows the value of the poetry in the song. Usually students will discover that even though their paraphrased versions are easy to understand and conceptually correct, they still lack the impact of the original hymn. Third, the exercise is fun and gets everybody involved.

Here are some sample hymn paraphrases (first verses only), written by one group of young people. *Jerry Daniel*

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

There's no time of day or night, Lord,
when I'm self sufficient. The calming influ-
ence of your words keeps me going. I hope
you will help me, since I'm so lost without
you.

"Joy to the World"

Since Jesus came in royal power,
the whole earth can be glad, if we will
only allow him to be our master. To do
this we must each one individually get
our hearts ready for him; but when we
do this we'll rejoice just like the natural
and supernatural world does.

"All Hail the Power of Jesus"

Name"

Everyone, including the angels,
should lie down in homage to the great-

WORSHIP/MUSIC

SINGING WORSHIP SERVICE

This is an attempt to put more meaning into the songs we sing in church. Have the kids (one at a time) request favorite songs. The only condition to singing it is that the kid must give a personally meaningful reason for requesting that particular song. *Ron Wilburn*