



Deus Ex Musica: Musical Bible Study Session
Suggestions and Guidelines

Greetings! Thanks for your interest in using Deus Ex Musica's "musical Bible study" resource in your class, church, or community.

First of all, we would like to emphasize that this event requires **no musical experience** or background on the part of the leader(s) or participants. We believe in the power of music to speak to everyone, regardless of their musical experience. The only skill required of moderators is that of running a small-group discussion with a diverse group of participants. In our experience, participants can gain significant personal, spiritual, and intellectual value from this event by responding to the musical settings in subjective and informal ways. If you are a moderator, we ask that you focus on creating an environment that encourages participants to respond honestly and personally to the music and Scripture: especially in ways that are meaningful to them. There is little value (in this project) for specific, technical musical comments. It is *not* a music appreciation session; rather, it uses music as a "lens" for learning and spiritual growth.

If you would like to use our resources, there are two options:

- Independently-organized sessions
- Collaborative sessions

For an **independently-organized session**, please feel free to organize your event as you see fit. You may choose any combination of psalms. All of the videos and texts are available on our website, and you may download a pdf packet texts and worksheets. All of our resources can fit into various time-frames and can be adapted to a variety of goals. (Please see our Psalms Format Options sheet for suggestions.)

For the discussion sessions we recommend one moderator for every 8 participants. As mentioned above, moderators need not have any musical experience.

A **collaborative session** includes one or more members of the Deus Ex Musica team as a moderator. Each moderator is an experienced educator and musician who has contributed to Deus Ex Musica in a variety of ways. Please contact us if you would like to discuss a collaborative session.

If you run an independently-organized session, we ask that you let us know about the details. We would be grateful if you would contact DEM director Delvyn Case with information: del@deus-ex-musica.com. We will add your information to our website.

While we offer our materials for free, you may make a contribution (of any amount) to support our ministry. Donations are fully tax-deductible and may be made through our fiscal sponsor, ARC, here: <https://artsreligionculture.org/deus-ex-musica>

For collaborative sessions, we ask for a donation of \$50 for each Deus Ex Musica staff member involved. The donation may be made using the link above.

For any questions, please contact Delvyn Case: del@deus-ex-musica.com