



Take Me To Church – Hozier – Notes



- **Activity types:** Vocabulary, listening for specific words, gap fill, discussion/writing
- **Level:** Intermediate
- **Notes:** This is the debut single by the Irish singer-songwriter Andrew Hozier-Byrne, known as Hozier. It was released in September 2013 and became 2014's most-streamed track globally on Spotify - over 87 million times.
The song attracted attention after the release of its music video, which criticizes Russia's anti-LGBT policy. Hozier told Billboard magazine: "Growing up in Ireland, the church is always there – the hypocrisy, the political cowardice. The video has the same theme [as the song] – an organization that undermines humanity."

1. Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet and ask them to work on Activity 1, individually or in pairs/groups. Explain that all the words refer to religion.

Key: 1B 2L 3N 4G 5C 6O 7D 8A 9H 10I 11F 12K 13M 14J 15E

2. Play the song. Ask students to listen for the words from the previous activity and number them in the order they hear them in any form. If they appear more than once, refer to the first time.

Key: See complete version of the song

3. Feedback, then students unfold the page and fill in the gaps with the missing words, based on their answers to the previous activity and context.
4. Play the song again. Students check their answers in pairs or in groups, then correct in open class and sing together!

FOLLOW UP:

Students discuss or/and write about Hozier's following statement from an interview with New York Magazine in March 2014:

"Sexuality, and sexual orientation – regardless of orientation – is just natural. An act of sex is one of the most human things. But an organization like the church, say, through its doctrine, would undermine humanity by successfully teaching shame about sexual orientation – that it is sinful, or that it offends God. The song is about asserting yourself and reclaiming your humanity through an act of love."



Take Me To Church – Hozier



Activity 1. Match the words with their corresponding meaning:

1. Absolution
2. Amen
3. Church
4. Faithful
5. Funeral
6. God
7. Goddess
8. Heaven
9. Innocence
10. Pagan
11. Ritual
12. Sacrifice
13. Shrine
14. Sin
15. Worship

- A. A place of eternal happiness, opposite of Hell
- B. Forgiveness
- C. A service or ceremony for a dead person
- D. A female spirit or being
- E. Venerate
- F. A religious service or ceremony
- G. A person who believes in a particular religion
- H. Absence of guilt
- I. A person who does not belong to a religion
- J. An action which breaks the laws of God
- K. An offer to a god in a religious ceremony
- L. A word at the end of a prayer to show approval and agreement
- M. A holy place of worship
- N. A group of people within the Christian religion/A place where Christians worship God
- O. The spirit or being worshipped as the creator of the world

FOLD

Activity 2. Complete the song with the words from the previous activity:

My lover's got humour
 She's the giggle at a _____
 Knows everybody's disapproval
 I should've _____ her sooner

If the _____ ever did speak
 She's the last true mouthpiece
 Every Sunday's getting more bleak
 A fresh poison each week

'We were born sick, ' you heard them say it
 My _____ offers no _____
 She tells me, ' _____ in the bedroom.'
 The only _____ I'll be sent to
 Is when I'm alone with you

I was born sick,
 But I love it
 Command me to be well

Chorus (x2):

Take me to _____
 I'll _____ like a dog at the _____ of your lies
 I'll tell you my _____ and you can sharpen your knife
 Offer me that deathless death
 Good _____, let me give you my life

If I'm a _____ of the good times
 My lover's the sunlight
 To keep the _____ on my side
 She demands a _____

Drain the whole sea
 Get something shiny
 Something meaty for the main course
 That's a fine looking high horse
 What you got in the stable?
 We've a lot of starving faithful

That looks tasty
 That looks plenty
 This is hungry work

Repeat Chorus x2



No Masters or Kings
 When the _____ begins
 There is no sweeter _____ than our gentle _____

In the madness and soil of that sad earthly scene
 Only then I am human
 Only then I am clean
 Oh, oh.

Repeat Chorus x2



Take Me To Church – Hozier – Complete



My lover's got humour
She's the giggle at a **funeral**
Knows everybody's disapproval
I should've **worshipped** her sooner

If the **heavens** ever did speak
She's the last true mouthpiece
Every Sunday's getting more bleak
A fresh poison each week

'We were born sick, ' you heard them say it
My **church** offers no **absolutions**
She tells me, '**Worship** in the bedroom.'
The only **heaven** I'll be sent to
Is when I'm alone with you

I was born sick,
But I love it
Command me to be well
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Chorus (x2):

Take me to **church**
I'll **worship** like a dog at the **shrine** of your lies
I'll tell you my **sins** and you can sharpen your knife
Offer me that deathless death
Good **God**, let me give you my life

If I'm a **pagan** of the good times
My lover's the sunlight
To keep the **Goddess** on my side
She demands a **sacrifice**

Drain the whole sea
Get something shiny
Something meaty for the main course
That's a fine looking high horse
What you got in the stable?
We've a lot of starving faithful

That looks tasty
That looks plenty
This is hungry work

Repeat Chorus x2

No Masters or Kings
When the **ritual** begins
There is no sweeter **innocence** than our gentle **sin**

In the madness and soil of that sad earthly scene
Only then I am human
Only then I am clean
Oh, oh.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Repeat Chorus x2