



A Youthworker Guide

Top Artists Have Music & Messages To Help You
Prep Your Seniors For The Biggest Transition Of Their Lives

CONGRADULATIONS! CLASS OF 2021

INTRODUCTION

The class of 2021 will probably not be able to experience their graduation ceremony – or any of the programs and events that are tied to it:

- Senior Prom
- Baccalaureate
- Graduation Rehearsal
- Getting the Cap and Gown
- Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, and cousins coming from all over for the big event
- Post-graduation ceremony party

In addition, many (most?) churches have some sort of Grad Recognition – during a worship service and/or at a special banquet for the Seniors.

You have an opportunity to do something very cool, memorable, meaningful – and will be a warm memory for your graduating seniors, their families, and your congregation. Tobymac, For KING & COUNTRY and other top Christian artists offer music and a message of hope that will stick with your seniors long after this year.

GRADUATION

It is the end of another beginning. Depending on whom you talk to, it is known as either “graduation” or “commencement.” The “graduation” crowd is mostly made up of the graduating Senior Class. They see this as the time that they finally come of age and bring to a close their childhood. At graduation, they tend to want to look back, to remember the fun things they did as children together.

Those who see this event as “commencement” tend to be parents, school officials, and youth leaders. We can see very clearly the future that looms just over the horizon for the Senior Class of 2021. We want our Grads to look ahead

and make the wisest choices they can; choices that we adults know shape a person’s entire lifetime.

The surest way to see if a Senior is concentrating on “graduation” or “commencement” is to ask them a simple question: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Upon hearing that question, some students will look a little sheepish, smile self-consciously, and innocently shrug their shoulders. Others will stammer out something that makes little sense, but sounds suspiciously like something their parents would like them to say.

No matter how much your Grads want to focus on the past, their minds unwillingly sneak past graduation and look into the misty fog of the future. They wonder if they are doing the right things with their life. They question the directions they are headed. They hope everything will fall into place and work out well. That’s the reason behind this resource.

THIS GRAD RESOURCE

Use this material to plan an event for your graduating Seniors that will encourage them to celebrate their past, to reinforce the core values of a Christian, and to provide them with some skills they will need in their near future. Through the three sessions and the Grads-only experiences you provide, your graduating Seniors will reaffirm their unique position, and resolutely determine to pursue the dream that God has for them.

Using the music and interactive elements of *ConGRADulations* to reinforce the Biblical message makes sense. Most youth leaders are aware that teenagers listen to a lot of music. From the time they wake up in the morning until they fall asleep at night, music is the soundtrack of their lives. Its impact is undeniable.

By making use of this *ConGRADulations* Grad Event you are tying into the power of music in the lifestyles of your grads. By getting the *ConGRADulations* playlist onto their phones, you’ll be achieving the much-sought-after *double-whammy* effect: they discover the truth during your sessions, and then that truth is reinforced every time they listen to the playlist.

ADAPTING TO SOCIAL DISTANCING SITUATIONS

We know that COVID-19 has changed everything in student ministry! These resources have been created to be used in either a standard youth ministry or a COVID-19 setting. You will need to read through, adjust and adapt these resources to fit your unique circumstances. This symbol: ⚠️ indicates that the following information will need adapting to a “virtual youth meeting” situation.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

One of the most significant challenges in youth ministry during COVID-19 is how to effectively run a youth program when you can’t be face-to-face. Much of the ministry world has gone virtual using tools such as Zoom Video Conferencing to hold virtual events that students can attend from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

If you are not already on Zoom, check out our **Zoom QuickStart Guide** at the back of this Guide for instructions on how to get up and running with Zoom.

We have done our best to assist you by adapting this Youthworker Guide to include instructions for virtual gatherings. It is our prayer that you will find these valuable resources helpful as you seek to connect with and assist your graduates through this challenging period.

PLAYING MUSIC AND VIDEOS

At certain times in each session, you’ll play a song or video for your students. If you simply play the songs or videos, what your students hear will be distorted audio picked up from your computer’s microphone.

To ensure clear sound for your students, follow these steps:

- In your browser, visit the *ConGRADulations!2021* resource page. (<https://interlinc-online.com/grad-resources/>) and click on the resource you wish to share (i.e., Artist Videos, Grad Advice Videos, etc.).
- **Share Screen** at the bottom of your Zoom call window. Select the screen or window containing the *ConGRADulations 2021* resource page. Make sure to select **Share computer sound** and click **Share**.
- Go to the browser window containing the *ConGRADulations!2021* resource and click play on your desired media. Your students will hear the audio clearly through their device speakers.

SMALLER GROUPS

At other times throughout these sessions, you’ll have students partner up or break into smaller groups. Do this by utilizing the Breakout Room feature in Zoom Pro. You can visit (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206476093-Enabling-breakout-rooms>) to view a great video on how to do this.

SHARING FILES

Many of the Bible Studies have files such as worksheets that the student will need to participate fully. These files can be emailed to participants ahead of time, or you can download the files to your computer and share them through the Zoom Group Chat.

Open Zoom Group Chat by clicking **Chat** and the bottom of your Zoom window. Click on **File** at the bottom of the Zoom Group Chat window and browse to the saved file.

SHARING LINKS

Throughout this guide, we have shared valuable resource links with you that you can easily share with your graduates.

Open Zoom Group Chat by clicking **Chat** and the bottom of your Zoom window. Copy and paste the link into the Zoom Group Chat and make sure you have **To:** set to **Everyone** before pressing **Enter**.

GIVING THE GRAD GIFT

ConGRADulations! has been given to over 1.3 million graduates over the years. It has had many formats – from cassette to CD to CD-Rom to DVD to digital download.

ConGRADulations! Class of 2021 is the best ever! It has music from all the top Christian artists -Tobymac, for KING & COUNTRY, Lauren Daigle, Skillet, Crowder and more, media messages and videos from the artists, video advice from previous grads, and ministry connections. And it’s easier than ever to give to your grads by sending them the link (with special messages on Page G5 or the GRAD GIFT CARD) to grad2021.com/grads. There is a special video greeting from the artists when your grads open their gift from you!

