



Sounds like the woods – music with natural instruments

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors on a meadow or indoors sitting in a circle



Key idea

Making music with stones, sticks and shakers and praising God together with all creation



Effort

Materials 10 min · Preparation 15 min



45 minutes



6–12 children



3–6 years



loud and quiet



Materials

- ☐ smooth stones and short sticks (two of each per child)
- ☐ empty yoghurt pots or tins without sharp edges
- ☐ pebbles, rice or dried peas for filling
- ☐ strong tape for sealing
- ☐ dry leaves in a basket



Schedule

0–5'

Arrival – Listen: what sounds does nature make? Wind, birds, leaves ...

5–20'

Making instruments – Fill the pots and tape them shut firmly with a leader; try out stones and sticks.

20–30'

Sound puzzle – One child makes a sound behind their back and the others guess: stone, stick, shaker or leaves?

30–40'

Devotion – Psalm 98:8: even the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing for joy. All creation praises God – and we join in!

40–45'

Closing – Accompany a song with all the instruments: first very quietly, then loudly, then quietly again.



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Show each instrument one at a time: how does the stone sound? How does the stick sound?
- 2 The children fill the pots themselves; a leader tapes them shut.
- 3 Play "loud and quiet": hand up means loud, hand down means quiet.
- 4 One child is the conductor and shows who may play.
- 5 At the end everyone together – a big thank-you concert for God.

 **Example:** "Can you hear the leaves rustling? That is what autumn sounds like. God even gave the leaves a sound – and gave us voices to sing with."

Safety

- Rice, peas and pebbles only under supervision and in firmly sealed pots – small parts can be swallowed.
- Do not swing sticks at face height; use only short sticks.
- Watch the volume so that it does not get too loud for anyone.

Variations

- Rainmaker: fill a cardboard tube with nails (prepared by a leader) and rice.
- Nature concert outdoors: sit still and just listen to what nature is playing.

Something to think about

Which sound from nature do you like best?