

RED POINT WORSHIP

PRAISE THE LORD, MY SOUL;
ALL MY INMOST BEING, PRAISE
HIS HOLY NAME

PSALM 103 :1



SONG
SELECTION





CREATING A SET LIST

For worship leaders, selecting songs and song order for a time of praise and worship is vital. It gives life and direction to the time of praise and worship. Unfortunately, many times it's thrown together, and we plan by saying: "this song is my jam" or "they know these ones" and done. If this is the case, there's more at stake than we realize because praise and worship provides a space for encounter with God and a deepening of that relationship. It's an opportunity with eternal consequences for conversion and evangelization, to draw us closer to God.

While there's nothing wrong with simply picking a few songs and playing through them, something powerful happens when you approach the time of praise and worship as a cohesive journey of prayer. It's easy to just focus on picking songs and the dynamics of the songs within themselves, but there are two additional areas to think through: the direction of lyrics and the space between songs - the transitions.



DIRECTION OF LYRICS

Before selecting songs, look at where you begin and where you want to go. Are people entering the time of praise and worship just walking in from their everyday lives? Or is the time of praise and worship following an inspirational message? Are you ending with sending people out encouraged or are you ending with quiet prayer or adoration? These answers should dictate not only the energy and tempo of the music, but the lyrics as well.

○ Praise and worship is a deepening of relationship, and true relationship develops in a progression. Conversations themselves have a progression, when talking with a friend you typically don't start by sharing your deepest thoughts, you wait until the conversation progresses naturally. The lyrics and music of the songs we choose should reflect this progression of intimacy, because ultimately we're inviting those we lead into a deeper relationship with God.

1. Songs of Invitation
 - Examples: We Have Come, O Come to the Altar (slower tempo, but lyrics fit this category)
2. Songs of Declaration
 - Examples: This Is Amazing Grace, The Lion and the Lamb, Good, Good Father
3. Songs of Response
 - Examples: Great Are You, Lord, Build My Life, Lord, I Need You
4. Songs for Encounter
 - Examples: Reckless Love, Tremble



WORKING WITH THE SPIRIT

Most importantly, it's critical to allow everything we do to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, especially selecting songs. God has a plan, if we listen, then he will speak through the time of praise and worship to each person in a way greater than we'll know.

Many times, there's a tension between spending hours planning and being inspired in the moment. If we spend hours planning, are we trying to constrict and out-plan the Holy Spirit? If we prefer to wait until Holy Spirit inspires us, are we going to miss out on planning the perfect set list, and in the mean time stress out our other musicians by not having a plan?

First of all, it's important to remember that God works through order. All of God's creation was formed with process and order, so should our set lists. But sometimes, God changes our plan at the last minute. If we're the type of personality that prefers order and God calls us to change our plans in the moment, we need to remember that it doesn't mean that the Spirit wasn't inspiring the previous plan. When our plans change, it's all a part of the journey God desires for us. Be open to the Spirit changing a song or transition in the moment, something powerful and anointed may happen if so. In all that we do, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our thoughts, so that He will anoint our planning and leading to stir God's presence in the hearts of those we lead, leading all of us closer to Him.