

The Studio

EPISODE // CHOOSING MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

When it comes to choosing songs for worship, four key elements are important: the resources you have, the lyrics of the song, the music, and where the song is going to fit in worship. Hopefully these four practical steps will assist you the next time you choose music for worship.

- ✦ **Have good resources.** There are many to choose from, but here are some we recommend.
 - ✦ www.praisecharts.com
 - ✦ www.songselect.com
 - ✦ www.worshiptogether.com
 - ✦ A hymnal or other song books

- ✦ **Pay attention to the lyrics of the song.**
 - ✦ Are the words true?
 - ✦ Are they grounded in scripture?
 - ✦ Do you believe what they say?
 - ✦ Will your church believe them?

- ✦ **Pay attention to the music.**
 - ✦ Does it have complicated melodies and rhythms the average person can't sing?
 - ✦ Is it too high or too low? [Most congregations sing well between thirteen notes: A and E]
 - ✦ Is it catchy and simple enough for people to sing?
 - ✦ Can you and your team learn and play the song?

- ✦ **Pay attention to what the song does in worship.**
 - ✦ Is the song being sung to God or to one another?
 - ✦ Is it a song that thanks God?
 - ✦ Is it a song that tells God, "We're sorry?"
 - ✦ Is it a song about living in community with other Christians?
 - ✦ Knowing what the song does will help you place it in worship, and it will help you introduce it to the congregation.

There's a lot of bad worship music out there, but there's a lot of good music, too. The next time you have to choose music for worship, take your time and be thoughtful. You have the great responsibility and privilege of leading your congregation in singing, so ask God to help you make wise decisions. And, don't settle for anything less than the very best you can find.