

## INTRO

### 1. Selecting Songs

**“Our first purpose [in selecting songs for worship] is this: to give people a clearer picture of God’s glory in Christ. We want them to walk away from a time of singing more impressed with God, not our song selection or arrangements.... If you want to point people’s hearts and minds to the glory of God in Christ, make *what* you want to say more important than the music you use to say it.”**

**- Bob Kauflin, *Worship Matters Blog*, [www.worshipmatters.org](http://www.worshipmatters.org)**

- Have a Well-Balanced Broadlist
  - Use this list as a goal for songs you can be learning
- Plan your songs around a Theme
  - Pick songs that have one cohesive message
- Have a Healthy Diet of Songs
  - Wordy Songs vs. Simple Songs
    - Wordy Songs
      - Crown Him with Many Crowns
      - Come Thou Fount
      - Hallelujah What a Savior
      - Knowing You
    - Simple Songs
      - Breathe
      - How Great is Our God
      - Amazing Love
      - Meet With Me
  - Objective Songs vs. Subjective Songs
    - Objective – songs that meditate on and sing about truth
      - In Christ Alone
      - Debtor to Mercy
    - Subjective – songs that express emotion or feeling in words
      - Hungry
      - It Is You
  - Fast Songs vs. Slow Songs
    - Don’t do all slow
    - Don’t do all fast
  - New or Really Old Songs vs. Familiar Songs
    - New & Really Old
      - Only True God
      - Jesus Died for Me
    - Familiar
      - High Above All Things
      - Famous One

## 2. Giving Exhortations

- What is an exhortation?
  - Planned, extended comment generally between songs highlighting a specific aspect of how the gospel reaches into and affects our lives now. – Kauflin’s Definition
    - EX: Jonah & Nothing but the Blood –from *Worship Matters*, by Bob Kauflin, pg. 112
  - Here are a few questions that will get you to think of ways to exhort:
    - Why is this line true?
    - What difference does it make?
    - What if this wasn’t true?
    - What’s not being said here?
    - What does this word mean?
    - Why does this line follow the last one?
  - Other ways to creatively exhort the folks in your group
    - Read a Psalm
    - Recite a quote from a book you’re reading
    - Use a quote from the Quotes page we’ve given you
    - Share how a song has personally effected you
    - Explain a line of the song that might easily be overlooked or misunderstood
    - Connect a line of a song with the night’s theme
    - See Mark Altrogge’s “Considerations for Giving Good Exhortations”
- Preparing Your Prayers
  - Try preparing a few thoughts for the times when you’re going to pray.
    - When are you going to pray?
    - Why are you going to pray?
    - What are you going to pray about?
  - “No day has passed that has not proved me guilty in Thy sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart; My best services are filthy rags.” - Valley of Vision

### 3. Making Good Music

- Know The Tempo
  - Singing the chorus in your head to start can help
  - Get yourself a metronome and play to it
  - You can be creative with the tempo to change the feel or focus of a song
- Plan & Practice Transitions
  - For an easy flow, when applicable, pick songs that are in the same key
  - Some Silence Permitted
    - This is the perfect environment for that – you’re there to serve your friends, not impress them with how skilled you are at executing seamless transitions
  - Make sure you know what key you’re coming from and what key you’re going to
    - It’s helpful to play the I, IV, V in the new key to establish it in your mind
  - Try planning to pray while you change keys or remove capo
  - Ask someone in advance to pray after the song with the hardest transition to give you the time and ability to give it your undivided attention
- Learn to Linger & Sing Spontaneously
  - Use simple chord progressions
    - I - IV (key of G: G - C, key of D: D - G, key of E: E - A)
    - iv - V - IV (key of G: Em - D - C, key of D: Bm - A - G, key of E: C#m - B - A)
    - IV - V (key of G: C - D, key of D: G - A, key of E: A - B)
  - You can usually tag the line at the end of a song
  - Sing the chorus softly

### 4. Guitar Techniques

- Know your chords
- Strumming
  - Down strokes – Glories of Calvary (E)
  - Metronome Method – You Are the Way (D)
  - Palm Muting – When I Survey (D)
  - Single Strums – Thank You For Saving Me (E)
- Picking
  - Arpeggio
  - Finger vs. Pick

## 5. Piano Techniques

- Block Chord
  - Play Chord on down beat
- Broken Chords
  - String out chord over measure hitting one note at a time on different beats
- Rocking Chords
  - Rock back and forth with your fingers on a chord
- Left hand as a bass
  - Practice 1/4 notes and 1/8 notes

## 6. Percussion Techniques

- Acoustic/Keyboard player is the lead instrument
- Shouldn't need to play the whole time
  - Tap on the side during verse
  - Use dynamics
  - Don't feel like you always have to play just because you've got a drum in your lap
- Percussion player should be listening and watching the leader as much as possible

## 7. Odds & Ends

- Common Mistakes
  - Doing a song in too high of a key
    - Rule of Thumb – D over middle C is the highest you should sing congregationally
  - Doing a song that's too complicated
    - Be aware of vocal ability of the folks in your group
  - Doing songs that are too unfamiliar
    - Can be old or new songs
- Generally plan for 3 to 4 songs or 15 to 20 minutes whichever comes first
- Perhaps consider getting someone to turn/hold pages for you
- If possible, print lyric sheets for your group
- Be ready at all times