

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

FIFTEEN THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PREPARING TO LEAD WORSHIP.

1. Time with God

Be in the Word. Lead out of relationship. What has God been challenging you on? What aspects of God currently delight your soul? Leading out of these revelations makes it effortless.

2. Season of the church

What is the current climate at church? What are people talking about? What is the vision? Align with these things and speak life into them. Find or write songs that teach about worship in these contexts.

3. The message

See if there's any alignment you can bring with the sermon? Or a song that will help people grasp what is being taught.

4. A theme

Is there a theme emerging? How can you weave it through your set?

5. An emphasis

This may not be a theme throughout but often one song, phrase or line stays with you or jumps out in your preparation or even at rehearsal.

6. Songs

What songs are working? What songs will bring life based on the above direction you feel God leading you in?

7. Tempo

Consider the speed of the songs you've chosen. How well do the transition from one to another.

8. Arrangement

Do your song choices work with the band you have? What would it take to make it work? Who will play what and when?

9. Keys

Consider how songs will flow and how you will transition between different keys if required. Keep key changes to a minimum.

10. Gaps

Any unnecessary and distracting pause or silence that adds no benefit or meaning to the time of worship that can be avoided through preparation.

11. Intros and endings

How will each song start and end and transition? Don't assume everyone knows. Make intros and endings clear and confident and clear.

12. Order of songs

Simple changes like swapping two songs around can create a better flow or help to highlight a key teaching or create a moment of worship that would otherwise be diluted.

13. What will you say?

Assume you will say something every time you're leading. Consider the team, consider the practice, and consider the Sunday.

14. When will you say it?

When would be the best time to share what you feel God wanting to say? What will happen either side of what you share?

15. Including others

This isn't just about filling them in on YOUR plan. It's reminding the team to be aware and ready to go where God may lead.