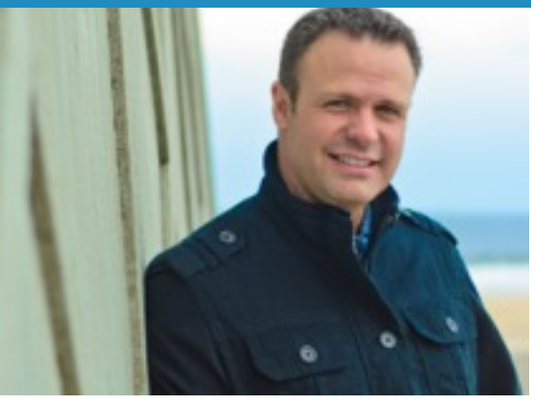


WHITEBOARD WORSHIP TRAINING MASTER CLASS

4 SECRETS TO PLANNING A GREAT EASTER WORSHIP SET

with dan wilt

worshiptraining



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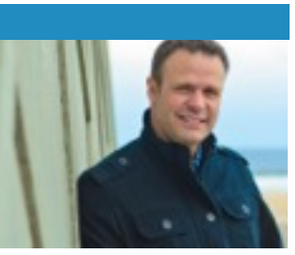
4 SECRETS TO PLANNING A GREAT EASTER WORSHIP SET

Easter – the high holiday of the Worship Year – comes one time annually. The day should be very, very special – on every front.

In the Worship Year Calendar, Easter is actually a 50 day season (Eastertide or the Easter Season) beginning on Easter Sunday, and ending on Pentecost Sunday.

For most contemporary churches, however, Easter is celebrated on *just that one day*, and is often simply a variation on a normal Sunday.

What "secrets" (ideas possibly unknown to others) do experienced worship set planners know that could help us make Easter Sunday very special, and a memorable event powerfully focused on the resurrection?



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SECRET 1 - People Want To Anticipate

Ideally, a church is planning through Lent and Holy Week to build anticipation for Easter.

If this is not the norm, and Easter is just a bigger version of a normal Sunday, then build in special elements (choirs, instruments, food, decor).

SECRET 2 - People Want To Celebrate

In particular, your congregation is geared up to celebrate the resurrection.

Avoid songs that linger on the cross – not because it's not important, but because all the theological riches of the resurrection are the focus on Easter.

SECRET 3 - People Want Familiarity

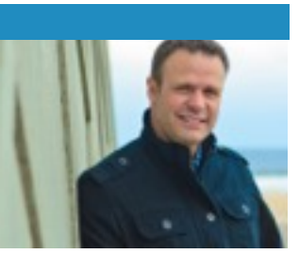
Build your worship set with close attention to the lyrical content, and the "epic" nature of songs.

In our church, we had one song that was a tradition every Easter. We rarely used it throughout the year, so that it remained "special," yet familiar.

SECRET 4 - People Want Inspiration

Many of your congregants may be bringing family members or neighbors to your Easter service.

Especially if your church is an experience they would like others to touch, they are hoping that Easter will inspire them, and those they bring.



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SECRET 1 - PEOPLE WANT TO ANTICIPATE

Lent is the season of "anticipation" building up to Easter, and many liturgical churches make it very different, like a good story, from the big "ending" that is Easter.

For churches that don't do this in their service planning, we are mainly setting apart Easter Sunday from the rest of the normal Sundays with which everyone is familiar.

Build anticipation by dropping out, a month before, songs with a big resurrection anthem approach. Let them have special appeal on Easter Sunday. Add other "unusual" elements for your church, telling them their will be special decor, choirs, food or other elements that will build enthusiasm in them toward gathering Sunday.

Experience worship leaders know this *changes the worship set enthusiasm*.



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SECRET 2 - PEOPLE WANT TO CELEBRATE

You're planning your worship set, and deciding what songs to do.

Try starting by picking out the top 5 "resurrection" focused worship songs you have in your list, that are beloved by the congregation.

From these, look for the more celebrative songs, and make sure they stack the front end of the set. Easter is one Sunday where people are geared to be hit full on with a celebrative, big start.

While celebrative doesn't necessarily mean "fast," think "energy." What songs consistently build in energy as the song progresses, have been proven to release the celebrative spirit of the congregation, and are able to be pulled off well by the band.

Experienced worship leaders *go with this desire to "let loose" that is in the congregation on Easter Sunday.*



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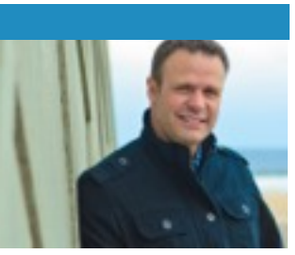
IDEA 3 - PEOPLE WANT FAMILIARITY

Remember that “new” songs are very special, and have become familiar, to the worship leader and band.

For the congregation, unless the new songs are very accessible, they are simply “new.” The congregation will spend their energy listening, and feeling on the outside to some degree, rather than engaging.

Build your set with some familiar songs that are dense with resurrection imagery, and anchor on them for the set. A big, familiar anthem, done with fresh instrumentation and higher energy, will go farther than a new song with fresh instrumentation and higher energy on Easter Sunday morning.

Experienced worship leaders *season the set with the new, and anchor the set in the familiar*.



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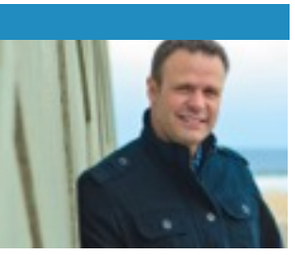
IDEA 4 - PEOPLE WANT INSPIRATION

If I went to the trouble to bring my Aunt Ethel to our service for Easter Sunday, or to invite my neighbor who is disconnected from our church, I want it to be a great time.

That "great time" should be start to finish. Carefully build the set so it flows, adds familiarity with celebration, builds to a climax, and releases the congregation into the miracle of what it means for death to have met its match.

Is there an inspiring way a rich scripture can be integrated into the set, with an instrumental, inspiring backdrop. Is there a moment in the set that a solo violin could soar with the melody to *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today* in a surprise location in a song?

Experienced worship leaders *look for moments to inspire, and surprise*, their congregation.



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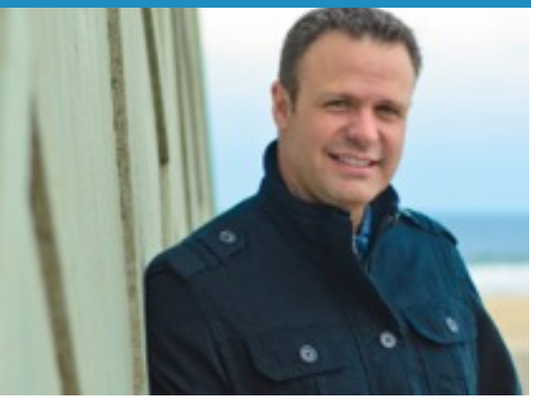
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