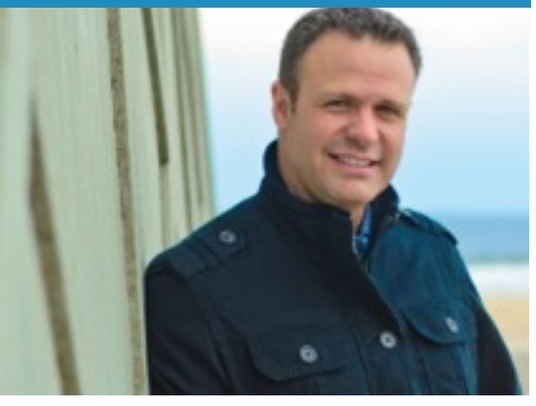
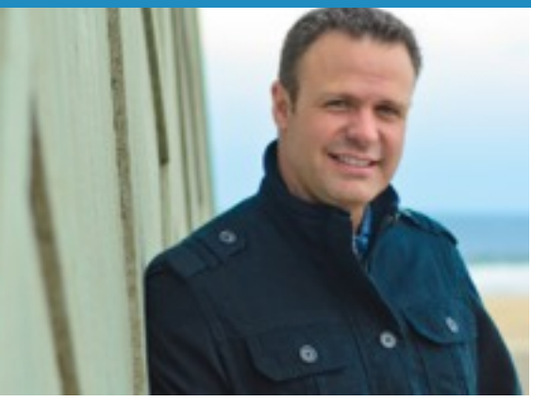


BAM! WORSHIP TEACHING BOMBS... AND HOW TO USE THEM

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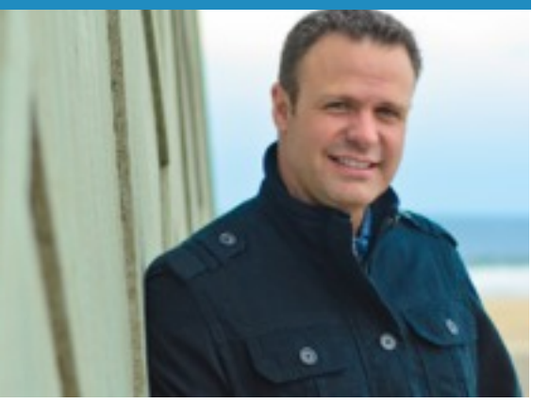


What Is A "Worship Teaching Bomb?"

A little bit of time can go a long way. During a worship set, there are usually moments at the beginning of a set, in between songs, and during prayers that worship leaders spontaneously speak.

In some cases, we use those unplanned moments well to nurture and encourage the worship life of our church. In other, weaker moments, we simply ramble aimlessly, pray "touchy-feely stuff," repeat our hobby-horse thoughts about worship, or even communicate theologically sloppy ideas.

With just a little bit of forethought, we can powerfully use these moments to deepen our congregation in their awareness of what is happening as we worship, and what worship is truly all about.

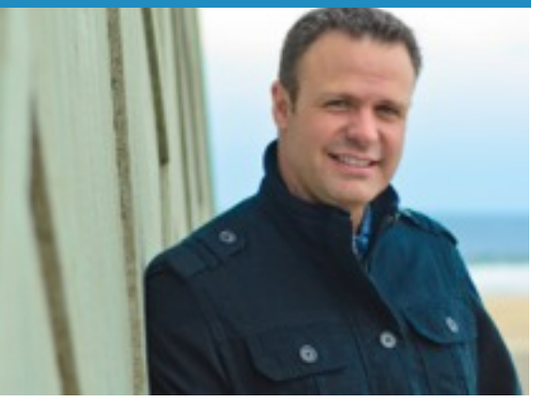


What Is A “Worship Teaching Bomb?”

A few years ago, I began to drop what I call "Worship Teaching Bombs" into the midst of a set.

Worship Teaching Bombs are two or three sentence "mini-teachings" about worship that are planned beforehand (at least until they become spontaneous).

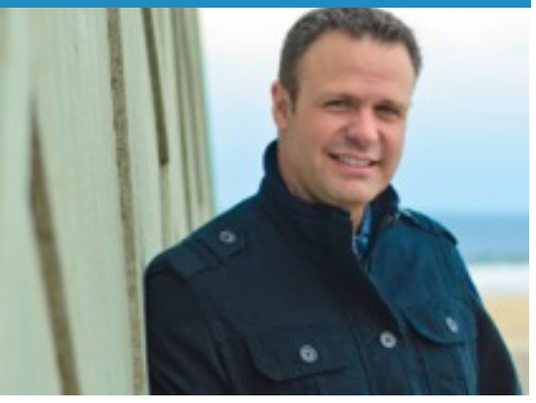
Each is short and sweet (10-20 seconds max), and communicates one big idea about worship. These are now always in my arsenal as I head into a worship set – with a desire to make every moment count.



Some Examples.

"As we enter into this next song, let's remember that songs are a place we go to meet with God. Songs are more than melodies and words; they are places where we speak to God, and God speaks to us."

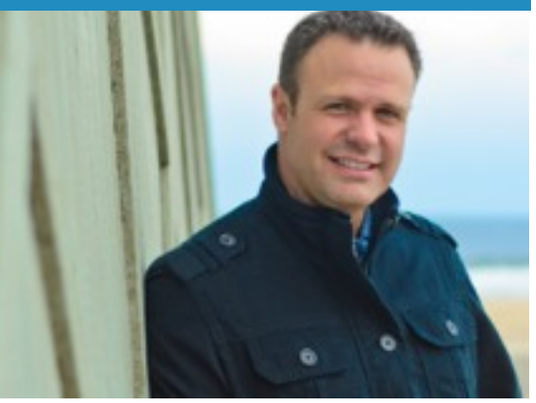
(Teaching: Songs are a place we go.)



Some Examples.

"As we gather to worship, let's remember that we don't come to worship to 'escape' reality, but rather to enter into God's greater reality – a reality that we are affirming in these songs."

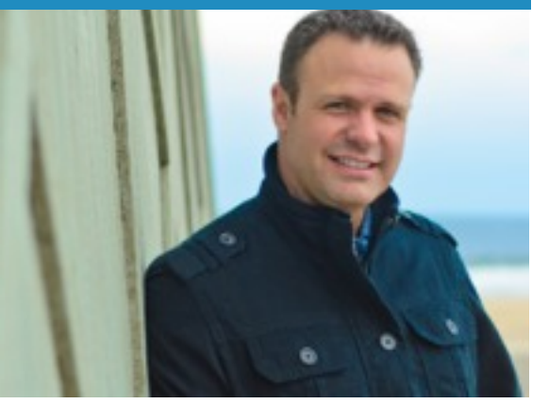
(Teaching: Worship is the opposite of escape.)



Some Examples.

"Music is a powerful gift from God, and a song can literally take us somewhere. As we enter into this time of worship today, allow the music to take you somewhere with God – to a place where He meets with you and you meet with Him."

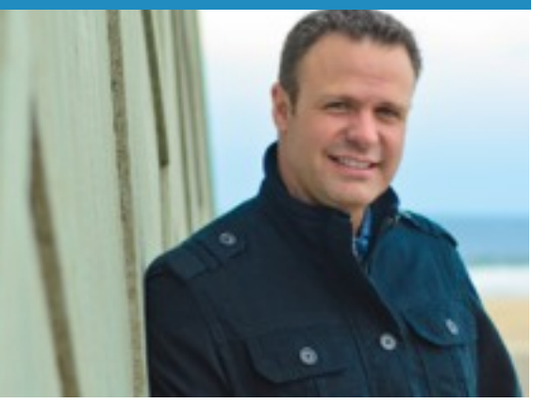
(Teaching: Music has a role to play in enhancing your relationship with God.)



Some Examples.

"As we sing this next song, we are remembering Who God is, and who we are in the light of His Love. God first loved us, 1 John 4:19 tells us, and our worship is simply our response. Let Love win your heart once again as we sing."

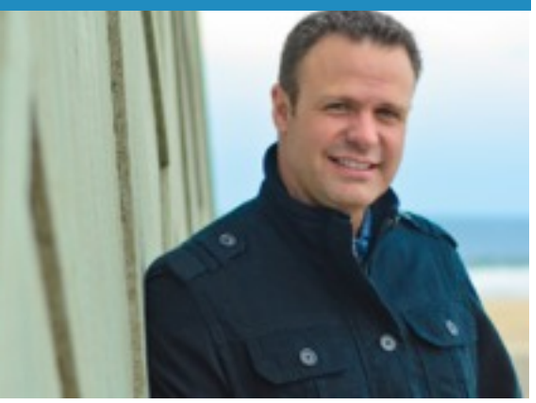
(Teaching: Gathered worship is a response to the Love of God, not primarily our initiative.)



Some Examples.

"Music is just one of the many beautiful ways we can express our love, devotion and allegiance to Christ. Let these songs we use in musical worship strengthen you for the Life Worship that you will give to God this week."

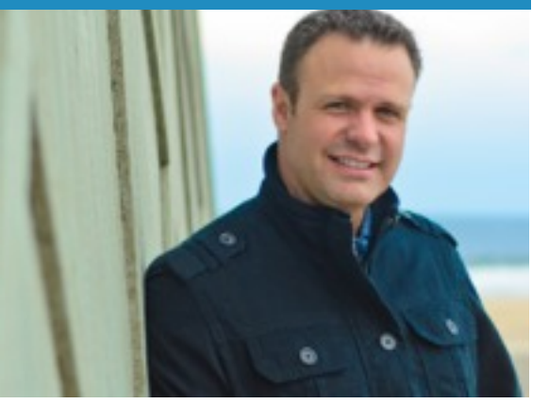
(Teaching: Music is just one, beautiful way we express our Life Worship.)



Some Examples.

"In these times of gathered worship, let's remember that we all have a part to play. We as a band will lead these songs, but it takes all of us together to sing them from the heart, to elevate Jesus in our midst, and to offer together a response that pleases the heart of God. Let's worship."

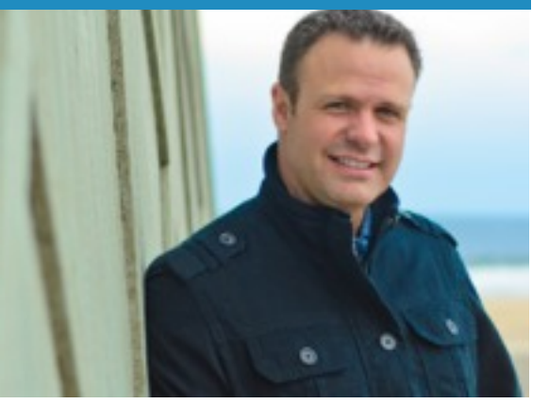
(Teaching: Gathered worship is a dynamic, collaborative effort - we all have something to contribute.)



Some Examples.

"Worship is something that we do together, every time we gather. Let's choose to get beyond just the melodies and lyrics, the sound and the instruments, as we welcome the Spirit of God to meet with us as a community."

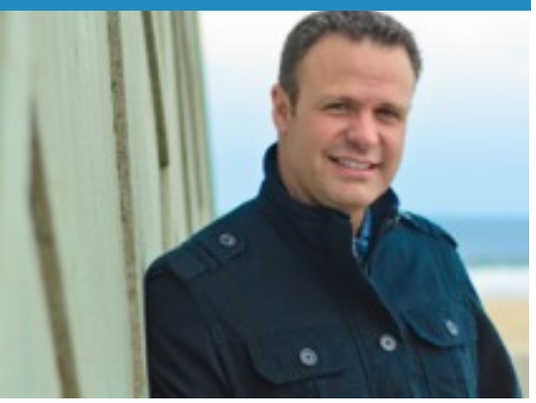
(Teaching: We worship as a community, and each of us has a part to play.)



Some Examples.

"As we begin worship, remember that who you are, and every detail of your life, matters to God. He is truly here, and because He is here, Hope has entered the room. Let's sing, and as we sing, let's remember that there is Hope for everyone – Hope for you – no matter your circumstance."

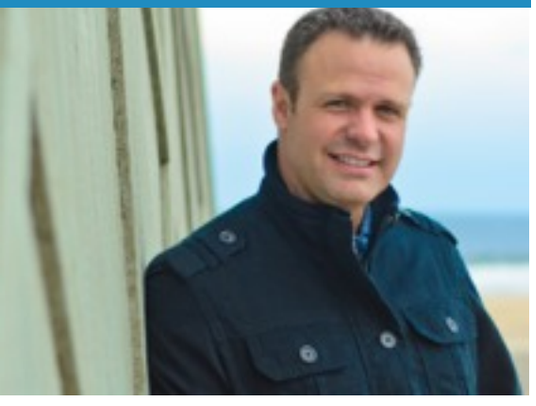
(Teaching: Musical worship helps us remember that Hope is present among us.)



Some Examples.

"Sometimes we come to worship, analyzing what songs have been selected and seeing if our favorites, our preferences, are in the list. We all have songs that we love – and they're often very different than one another. Let's each lay down our preferences as we gather as one, and let's take these songs – chosen specifically for this morning – and make them the foundation for our unified, corporate offering to God today."

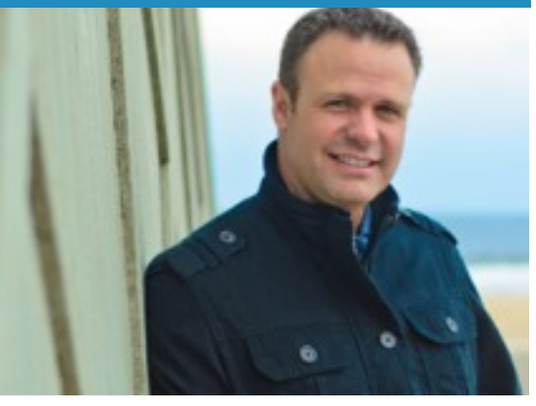
(Teaching: Your preferences are important, but they are different from others and must be submitted to a higher goal.)



Some Examples.

"When we come together to sing, we are expressing what is called 'Gathered Worship.' These are the things we do together to strengthen our Life Worship – which is our total life surrender to Christ. Allow these songs to become anthems, soundtracks, for your Life Worship, and to prepare you to enter into the week ahead."

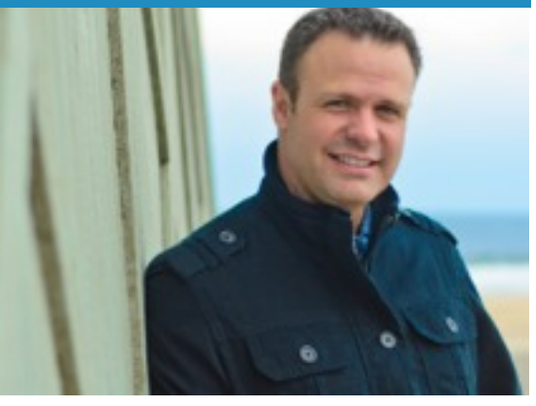
(Teaching: Music is an expression of Gathered Worship, meant to fuel our Life Worship.)



Some Examples.

"As we sing this next song, we want to get beyond the words to the very heart of what this song is all about. During one of the familiar choruses, we will turn off the lyrics so we can close our eyes and linger in the meaning of what we're singing."

(Teaching: We can take our eyes off the screen, and get beyond reading lyrics to making them our prayer.)



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