01
3 People To Talk With Before You Write Worship Songs

When you begin to write worship songs for your church you should have conversations with three people. Having these conversations will give you some incredible perspective, it will go a long way to show that you are serious about doing this and it will also hopefully give you some encouragement as you begin the process.

01 Your Pastor

Speaking with your pastor about your desire to write worship songs for your church as soon as possible is a great move. This allows your pastor to encourage you, to pray for you, to cheer you on. It also gives him the opportunity to talk with you about some future sermon series he may be working on – perhaps there's a certain series that needs a song which just isn't written yet.The pastor/worship leader relationship is not always perfect but if you can go to your pastor with more than an "I wanna" when it comes to your desire to write worship songs, chances are he will be excited and will want to see you pursue this.

Make sure your pastor knows that you are coming at this from a place of serving your congregation and not your own career – if there's the sense that you only want to use your position as a platform for your original songs, that's going to put a bad taste in your pastor's mouth from the very beginning. Allow your pastor to speak in to the direction of new songs and maintain communication as songs are being written. He will appreciate the opportunity to look at lyrics, give some early feedback and encourage you along the way.

02 Key Member Of Your Worship Team

Getting buy-in from another worship leader or solid musician on your worship team is great and will help as songs get finished and begin to be introduced to your congregation. Having a conversation with someone from your team early in the process to get them excited about the idea of writing original worship songs will give you someone to cheer you on and help develop music ideas as you write worship songs.

Involving other musicians and songwriters from your church is a great idea and we'll be talking about that later but at this point I'm not necessarily talking about someone who is a songwriter. They should be someone who is respected by other musicians in your worship ministry and can help encourage the implementation of these new worship songs.

03 Key Leader In Your Congregation

This isn't about making the right people happy but you should have a conversation with a key leader from your church and explain to them that you sense this new desire to write worship songs and that you really feel there is an opportunity for your church to be involved in helping to write these songs. I promise that as you pursue this songwriting adventure there will be times of questioning and discouragement – to have someone on your side who is one step removed from the songwriting process but who also understands the blessing that these songs are to the congregation will be huge.

Keep this person updated. Don't come at it from a place of self-promotion or blowing your own horn but if you do get to the place where you are teaching new original songs to your congregation, send this person an email before the Sunday comes to let them know. Maybe you've got a rough demo of the song you can send them so at least one person in the congregation is familiar with it before you sing the song.

Three people you should talk with before you begin to write worship songs: your pastor, key member of your worship team and a key leader in your congregation.

Next up: the most important conversation before you write worship songs.

02
The Most Important Conversation Before You Write Worship Songs

As much as you love your congregation, love the people you are trying to reach, love the musicians on your team and love the leadership of your church I promise you there is someone who loves them more. As much as you care about the songs that you sing and the process of how you will write worship songs for your own congregation, you need to be reminded that Jesus cares about your church, your people, your music, your mission much more than you ever will.

This is a good thing.

The success of new worship songs is not dependent on your own talent. Important to develop as a songwriter? Of course! But if bringing new worship songs to your church is only about marketing, you're missing the point. You want to give your church worship songs which allow them to give praise, honor, adoration and glory to God and to Him alone. We pour our heart and soul into these songs and the hope is that the acclamation goes to Jesus, not to us.

This is a good thing.

As you begin to write worship songs, before making plans or coming up with strategy, bear your heart before the Lord. He knows your plans better than you do. He knows the steps which have been set out before you. He knows if you are coming at this from a place of integrity or a place of selfishness.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. ***Proverbs 4:23***

Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble. ***Proverbs 28:14***

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ***Matthew 6:21***

Speak with God about your plans and your desire to write worship songs for your church. Pray that God would be honored, that your church would be given some new words to sing as an expression of their worship, but above all pray that God would search your heart and that you would be coming at this from a right place.

The most important conversation before you write worship songs: talk with God about this hope and dream and desire that He's given you and ask Him to speak to your heart clearly.

Next up: 3 ways the Bible inspires you to write worship songs.

03
3 Ways The Bible Inspires You To Write Worship Songs

So you've got this idea to write worship songs for your church, you've had conversations with three key people and you've asked God to search your heart as you begin. There is no inspiration like the inspired word of God and it is an endless well of ideas, encouragement, teaching and motivation.

So many great worship songs throughout the history of the church have been written either directly from or inspired by scripture and this will not end anytime soon. Every generation needs to hear the voice of God through His word and discover what it is He is speaking. Songwriters and other creatives have the opportunity to read the Bible, pray that the Spirit of God would speak and form some of those key thoughts into creative art forms which inspire and inform those who know Christ and those who don't.

Here are three ways the Bible can be an inspiration to you as you write worship songs -

01 Write worship songs for a sermon series
This is one of my favorite ways to get inspiration for a new worship song. I'll talk with my pastor about an upcoming sermon series and what book or passages he'll be using for that series. As I spent time thinking about songs we could use during that series I'll usually spend some time looking at the passages and the overall big idea for the series and ask if there is the opportunity to write a new worship song just for that series.

Read through the passage, look at the context and what the author is trying to say. Think about how this will apply to your congregation and how your pastor is going to relate it as part of his message. You may want to write a song which could act as an introduction to the whole series, as a lead in to one message or maybe as an opportunity for your congregation to respond to what they've heard during the sermon.

02 Write worship songs which help memorize scripture
Scripture memory is incredibly important and our brains remember melody and lyric much easier than we remember verbatim text. Help them learn and memorize more passages of the Bible by putting them to music word-for-word.

Remember that the Bible was not written to be put to music so the authors were not thinking of you and your need for a verse/chorus/bridge structure but that's okay. Find the key phrase of that passage and build your chorus around that. Build verses which support the main chorus idea.

When you introduce a song like this to your congregation, tell them right up front that it is directly from scripture and so it may not sing like other songs you do as a church but if they're able to memorize songs like this they will actually be memorizing scripture.

03
3 Ways The Bible Inspires You To Write Worship Songs

03 Pay attention to verses God brings to mind
There are times in my life when I see specific verses or passages more times than normal in a short period of time. I've learned to pay attention when I see or hear verses mentioned by different people. I take this to mean that God is trying to get my attention and there may be an opportunity to write a worship song out of what this verse would have to say.

Don't ignore these times when a verse or passage seems to impact you in a unique way and it shows itself in your life multiple times. I know this has happened for me with Psalm 121, Colossians 3, John 4, Luke 24 and other passages. Every time I've recognized this I've spent time writing a worship song out of these passages – sometimes it's a song I'll use in personal worship, sometimes it's a song I'll share with others.

Three ways the Bible can be an inspiration to you as you write worship songs: write worship songs for a sermon series, write worship songs which help memorize scripture, pay attention to verses God brings to mind.

Next up: three reasons to write worship songs with people inside your church.

