

Thirteen Tips That Will Help Your Song Introductions

One of the greatest challenges that praise bands face is in verbally bridging between songs. Doing this well can bring a seamless thread to your worship set and help lead your people into heartfelt worship. Doing this poorly can create the stop and start feeling of a beginning driver with a manual transmission. Your congregational worship never seems to get off the ground.

Here are thirteen tips to help your song introductions to flow.

1. Be sure your content is biblically sound. This is where a solid Pastor / Worship Leader relationship is essential.
2. You do not need to speak between every song. Allow some time for meditation. This generally works best on quieter songs. Try a soft instrumental bridge to enhance contemplation.
3. Speak with authority - shyness is not a virtue. You are leading so lead. Speak boldly into the microphone. Don't mumble. Speak to the people in the last row, as well as the first
4. Try not to correct yourself. You can focus so much attention on your gaffes that Christ-centered worship is stalled.
5. Don't condemn the people for not worshiping in your way - encourage instead. It works better to inspire by example - worship is more caught than taught.
6. Speak with a smile in your voice. Focus on communicating warmth and welcome to the congregation. At the beginning of the praise set let the congregation know how great their praises sound. You are one of the first impressions of the church. Your goal at the beginning is to break down barriers and allow people to feel comfortable. You want to capture their attention and make them eager to experience the rest of the service.
7. Draw your congregation into worship. Begin your speaking toward the congregation and then gently move your focus more towards God as the medley continues. Move from horizontal to vertical in attention.
8. To be interesting to the congregation, be interested in the songs. Take time in advance to meditate on the words. Ponder specific examples on how God has proven Himself true in the words of the songs that you are about to sing.
9. Use a conversational manner, and you will seem sincere, natural. No need to suddenly go into "reverent" or "preaching" mode.
10. Whenever possible, substitute 'we' for 'I'. You are trying to create a corporate worship experience. **We** have all fallen. **We** are all grateful for God's grace. **We** are strengthened in God's presence.
11. Remember that your speaking sets the mood for the next song. Match the mood of the song. If it's a worship song you don't want to say something like "Here's a little ditty that was one of my favorite songs when I was younger." If the song is reflective, make your speaking reflective. If jubilant, make your speaking jubilant.
12. Take note of who you're speaking to. If the songs before and after are singing to God, pray between instead of talking to the people. Keep the focus on God.
13. Use other resources. Feel free to use prayer books and devotional books for ideas. Use scripture. You can use more contemporary versions of scripture. (e.g. Leslie Brandt's "Psalms Now" from Concordia Publishing House)

Prayerfully consider your speaking as important as the songs you choose. Your congregation will be blessed in their worship.

For scripture references for over 100 of the most popular worship choruses, visit our web site at www.new-creation.net or www.arlensalte.com. Feel free to use these for your song introductions.

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