

LEARN TO LEAD WORSHIP IN 14 DAYS

EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE

PRACTICAL ADVICE
TO KICKSTART YOUR WORSHIP
LEADING JOURNEY — FAST

TIM LUCAS

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LEARN TO LEAD WORSHIP IN 14 DAYS (EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE)

Practical advice to kickstart your worship leading journey – fast.

BY TIM LUCAS

Creator of WorshipDeeper.com & The Worship Leader 101 Podcast

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JESUS

INTRODUCTION

So, you want to start leading worship. Great! You're about to embark on a journey that you wouldn't believe, even if someone told you.

**“For I am doing something in your own day,
something you wouldn't believe even if
someone told you about it.”**

HABAKKUK. (HABAKKUK 1:5B)

Leading worship will put you in places you never thought you'd be. In front of hundreds of people. Leading worship in other countries. In youth groups, churches, and maybe even some pubs and bars. Wherever God calls you!

I've led worship at all these places and more in the past 20 years of being a worship leader. It wasn't because I'm outgoing (I'm not), especially musically gifted (I wish I were), or a great singer (I have about a 2-octave range). But one thing I am is available. It's not your ability—but your availability—that God uses.

If you're ready to start this journey, let's go.



CAN I REALLY START LEADING WORSHIP IN 14 DAYS?

I know what you're thinking. You could never learn to lead people in worship in 14 days. You've never done it before and you don't know where to start. You have stage fright and maybe don't even know if you can sing.

That's exactly where God wants you. And it described my situation when I started. God did not gift me with charisma or good stage presence and I certainly wasn't a good musician when I started.

But I think that's the point. God doesn't often use the most obvious choice for a job. Paul explains it in 1 Corinthians 1:26-27: "Think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." (NIV)

If you still think you can't do it, consider this: I didn't have a whole 14 days to prepare the first time I led worship. I had less than 14 hours.

Here's the story.

When I was 15 years old, a leader at my youth group passed around a clipboard and asked us to sign up if we wanted to be involved in the youth worship team.

I figured that's something the cool kids would probably do. What's cooler than playing music in front of people? Being extremely shy, I thought this was finally my chance to get in with the cool crowd.

But it didn't work out as I had planned. None of the cool kids in youth group signed up. But at that point, I was committed.

The next step? Anyone who signed up would lead a song at Sunday morning youth group. This was a great idea, except that we would only be meeting the Saturday night before to prepare. I had just a few hours to get ready.

So, what happened? First of all, I picked a really easy song. Then, I practiced simple piano chords to accompany what was likely a very terrible singing voice. (I had been playing piano for about two years, but wasn't very comfortable with playing and singing yet.) I practiced a lot that night, but didn't feel particularly confident. I had never sung in front of anyone.

This was going to be a trainwreck. The next morning, I tried to put aside all my nerves. A few other kids did their songs, then it was my turn. I sat down at the piano, and... I started to play the chord progression on piano. It was probably off-beat and full of wrong notes. I could feel my face getting red. I couldn't do this.

But I kept on. The first lyric was coming up. Would my voice work? Would it sound twice

as bad through a microphone? I started singing. I didn't have the nerve to look out at anyone. I'm sure outwardly the youth group kids were polite. Inwardly they were thinking, "Wow, this is bad." At least that's what was going through my mind.

But to my surprise, I played the song to the end. I got through it. The universe didn't cave in. The most important thing is that I had done it. I didn't back down because of fear.

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

(JOSHUA 1:9)

And that attitude has made all the difference in life. Huge opportunities have come from times that I did something scary, despite great personal risk of embarrassment or failure. That day, I had led worship, playing and singing in front of people. More important, I launched an exciting adventure that would turn into more than two decades of leading thousands of people in worship.

You see, there's only one thing holding us back from doing scary but important things. It's ourselves. We tell ourselves we can't do something. So we don't. Right now, the only thing stopping you from leading worship within the next two weeks is your own voice telling you that you can't. You're too shy. You don't know if you can sing. You don't play an instrument. You can't...Fill in the blank.

Well, I'm here to tell you that you can. Just like the youth leader convinced me to lead worship with just a few hours of preparation, I'm going to convince you to lead worship in the next couple of weeks. This book is a compilation of practical steps I've used myself and to train others over the past two decades. Ready? Then let's roll.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

I wrote this book because not everyone has a pushy youth leader who makes you get up in front and lead worship. Consider this book your virtual worship leading coach that encourages you— and makes you do things you don't want to do — all for the purpose of launching you into your calling.

At the end of each chapter, I've included space to write down your response to daily action items, prayers, and thoughts. Also included with the book is a companion journal (If you don't want to print out the whole book or you're reading this on an e-reader.) Use either of these spaces or your own journal to keep track of your progress and plans. I've mapped out all the steps to lead musical worship at a church, youth group, small group, or any other event. The process is laid out in chronological order, but don't feel like you have to follow it exactly as written.

You might skip steps, add steps, or do things out of order, and that's okay. And the steps may not happen in 14 consecutive days. It could take you a month or more, but that's fine, too. If the result is that you led worship, then you will have achieved your goal. Keep in mind that some steps will be harder than others. Personally, I would have the hardest time asking to lead worship and getting counsel, while it would be easy to prepare on my own. You might find it easy to get others involved, but have a hard time finishing the self-directed work.

Use your strengths to compensate for your weaknesses. For example, if it's easy for you to get others involved, ask them to keep you accountable for preparing each step. If you hate talking to people, use email. Technology has empowered introverts everywhere! Be creative and use all the weapons in your arsenal to start leading worship!

BONUS: WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

I reached out worship leaders in the WorshipDeeper.com community and asked for their best advice for new worship leaders. I got dozens of responses.

At the end of each chapter, I include a short piece of wisdom from these folks. Enjoy!



DAY
01

FIND OUT

IF YOU'RE CALLED

TO BE A

WORSHIP LEADER

This might seem like a strange first step. But it's important!

If you're not called to be a worship leader, your efforts to become one won't work. Sure, you might lead worship a few times here and there, but you'll never gain traction. Doors just won't open. The fact that you're reading this book, though, is a good indication that you are called.

He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord.

(PSALM 40:3)

If you were called to be a firefighter, computer scientist, or sports star, you would probably be reading books about those subjects. But you're not. You are reading a book called "Learn To Lead Worship in 14 Days."

I don't know of many people who would use their time and money to learn about something they didn't feel drawn toward.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M CALLED?

I don't think there's a sure-fire way to know that you are called to lead worship. But I'll give you some indicators that you might be.

GOD WILL START OPENING DOORS FOR YOU. Once you start leading worship, you'll find it hard to stop. Everywhere you go, people will ask you to do it. You'll join a new youth group or small group, and the next thing you know, the leader will ask you to take on that responsibility. God has ways of leading you into situations where you can use your gift, and leaders in those situations will recognize this calling on your life.

YOU HAVE ALWAYS DREAMED OF PLAYING MUSIC. Since you were a kid, you wanted to see yourself on stage, singing a song in front of people. Some people just have this desire. If that's you, it's a good indication that God is calling you. Not to bring attention or glory to

yourself, but to Him. Those “natural” desires are God-given. It’s God’s way of getting you to do what He wants you to do: lead His people in worship.

YOU ARE ATTRACTED TO THE ARTS. You enjoy watching great actors, singers, and dancers. You examine paintings and photography. Some of your heroes are the most talented artists in the world. Remember that God created all the arts and gave some people an attraction to them. Sure, the world uses arts to promote ungodly things, but let’s not forget who created arts in the first place. Some of the following statements probably describe you:

- You can’t switch off music awards shows when you see one on TV
- You get little tunes stuck in your head and you don’t know where they came from
- You find it hard to concentrate while listening to music because you are dissecting the various melodies, instruments, and voices
- You have the urge to play a piano every time you walk by one — even if you don’t know how to play

These admittedly are non-spiritual indicators. But many times, that’s how God attracts you to the ministry in the first place, and that’s okay. Often, it’s much later that you realize your true desire was to sing the songs of God the whole time.

Some “more spiritual” signs are that you like to investigate the Word of God. Something else you could consider adding is that they simply love worshipping. They find themselves worshipping in their hearts without even thinking about it. You might be interested in Genesis because there’s so much mystery there. Those who communicate God’s truths via music are using a very mysterious medium.

For instance, why is our ear attracted to one melody line and not another? Why do we like 4/4 time? It’s all a mystery. As a worship leader, your job is to tap into the unknown to make God known. If you’re intrigued by this idea, that’s a good indicator that you’re meant to be a worship leader, too.

But let’s not forget the most obvious way you might know you’re called: you love to worship. At church, at home, in the car, train, or bus. Worship music is on a loop in your brain constantly. If all this sounds like you, the next step is to start leading worship.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

I had been leading worship for a long time before I really sat down and studied what worship is. Since I've done the homework, I'll start you off on the right foot in your worship journey.

The simple definition of worship is declaring the greatness of someone or something. In the Bible, both the Old and New Testament refer to worship as bowing down or sacrificing something that's important to you.

Jesus talks about worship quite directly. He says you must worship in spirit and in truth. What does that mean exactly?

Worshiping in spirit likely means connecting with God on a non-physical level. Knowing that fact is freeing to the worship leader. Everything you do assists in worship, but worship doesn't depend on how well you do in the physical realm. You and the people you are leading can worship in spirit no matter what goes wrong musically.

Worshiping in truth simply means genuinely worshiping. Not trying to act like a famous worship leader or impress anyone. Trust me, God's not impressed. Well, that is, unless you are worshiping with no other agenda. Then He's super impressed.

DAY 1 ACTION ITEMS

- Study worship
 - John 4:20-24
 - Romans 12:1
 - Psalm 92:1-4
- Spend some time journaling about why you think you are called to be a worship leader. Each person will have different evidence in their lives about their calling.
- Pray and ask God to show you over the next few days whether you are called to be a worship leader.
- Write down any evidence God gives you. Keep it handy for when you doubt your calling.
- Check out this article on [WorshipDeeper.com](https://www.worshipdeeper.com): Click the link "[What Is Worship?](#)" or Google "Worship Deeper how does the Bible define worship?"
- Take 15-30 minutes and write at least 500 words. Just write whatever comes to mind.
- No one will see this except you, so be honest. There are no wrong answers.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"The Lord has chosen you. He knows about your scars and mistakes. He watched you build up your testimony (and it wasn't pretty), but He has called you higher. Your past makes you more relatable to those whom you're leading in worship. Don't boast about how bad you were, but boast about how good He is."

--Keith F., Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA



DAY

02

DETERMINE

YOUR

ACCOMPAINMENT

If you're going to lead worship, you have to have some kind of accompaniment, meaning instrumentation or backing music. Luckily, there's more than one option to get this done. If you already know how to play an instrument, this part should be relatively easy. If you don't, you must get a little more creative to reach your goal of leading worship. I'll cover different situations and you can skip to the one that applies to you.

But first, if you're deciding which instrument to learn, let's talk about which ones are best for worship leaders.



WHICH INSTRUMENTS ARE BEST FOR LEADING WORSHIP?

I recommend leading worship from either piano, keyboard or guitar (either acoustic or electric is okay.). This is for a couple of reasons.

FIRST, IT'S EASY TO LEAD WORSHIP BY YOURSELF.

Many times, I've had no band but led worship anyway. I simply grabbed my guitar. It would be hard or impossible to lead worship by yourself from a drum set or bass. Plus, you can lead worship wherever you happen to be. Sometimes, I didn't even have an instrument with me. But I know how to play guitar and piano. These instruments are so universal, chances are, you can find one at someone's house, a camp, or church, wherever

you might be.

Second, you can play these instruments and sing at the same time. That's a little harder on flute, saxophone, or violin.

Third, you can hit a wide range of notes with keys and guitars. You can cover bass, rhythm, and basic chord structures all at the same time. They provide huge versatility whether you are leading solo or with a group.

Of course, guitar and piano aren't the only instruments from which you can lead worship. Less common instruments like banjo or mandolin could work too. Whatever instrument you play, see if you can lead worship from it. You might become one of the world's few harp-playing worship leaders.

SCENARIO 1: YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT

If you already know how to play an instrument, you're well on your way. Like I said in the introduction, I had only been playing piano about two years before I led worship for the first time. Don't think that you have to be an accomplished instrumentalist to lead worship.

Still, you're probably a little concerned about playing and singing at the same time. See the section below about how to practice this craft. As a worship leader, you're thinking about a lot. Words, chords, what the band is doing, what the Holy Spirit is doing, and how the people are reacting to the song. Don't make things more complicated than they have to be.

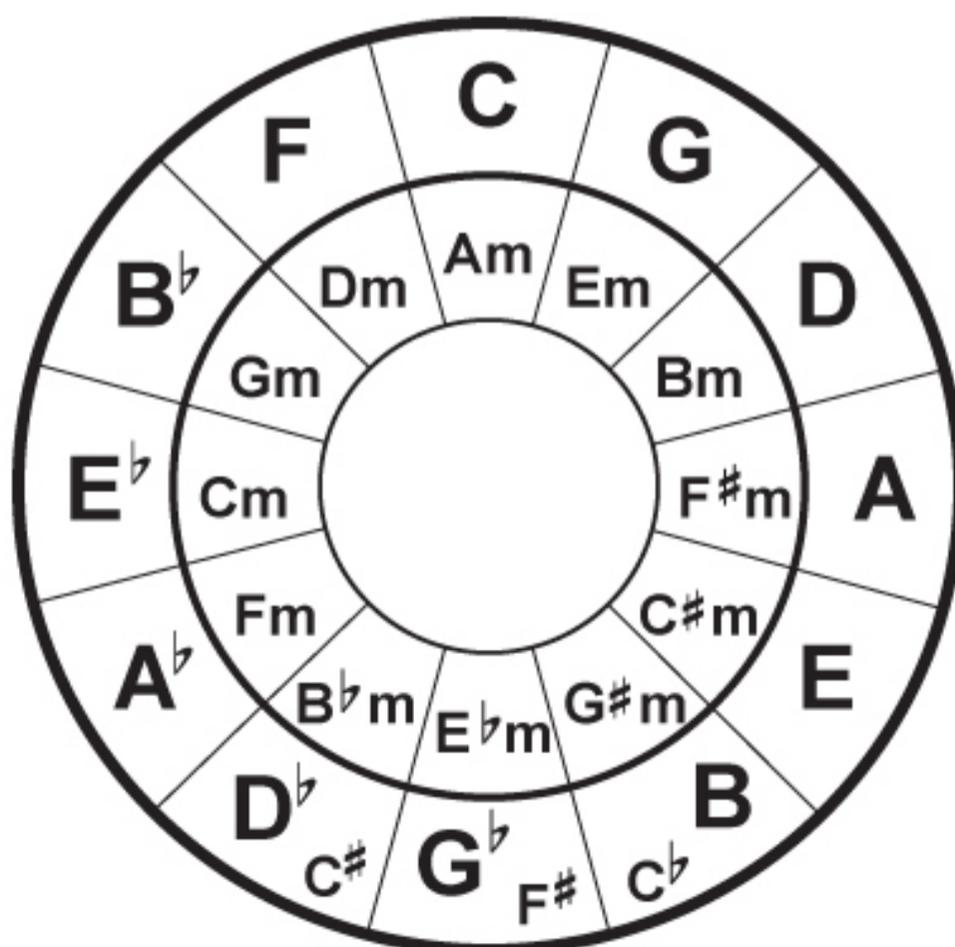
The simpler you make your worship set, the more confident you will be when you lead worship. Keep it simple!

PLAY BY EAR: Your greatest tool as a worship leader who plays an instrument will be playing by ear. If you are the type of player that needs to see the notes to know what to play, you'll have a hard time playing most worship music. Throw away the sheet music, listen to the song and try to play with just a chord sheet. Most worship music will not have written-out parts. Even if it did, you probably won't be able to lead worship and read music at the same time, and still engage with worshipers.

Playing by ear might intimidate you. But remember that it's more natural for people to play by ear than to read music. When's the last time you heard a child ask, "Mommy, can I get some sheet music so I can sing my ABCs?" Never. Small children hear and pick up tunes naturally all the time.

Here are some tips to develop your ear.

1. Learn basic music theory. Knowing some theory will let you know what 6 chords are likely to be in any song, depending on its key. [See this article](#) or Google "Worship Deeper 5 minute music theory" to see how you can learn theory fast.
2. Choose a familiar worship song. Play the melody — just the melody line — on guitar or piano. Don't look at any music. Just figure it out on your own. These are single notes, so it shouldn't be too hard, even if you've never played by ear before.



3. Now take that song and figure out the chords on your own. Pull up my 5-minute music theory post again. I have charts showing what chords will likely be with what keys. If the song is in G, it will probably use G, C, D, Em, and Am. If in E, it will contain E, A, B, C#m, and F#m. In a short time, you'll probably have figured out all the chords of the song because you know what chords to try.

If you're still having trouble finding the right chords, take the advice of a site called StringKick.com. Turn up the bass on your music player. Find the bass note for each chord. That note is likely the root of the chord. For instance, if the song is in the key of E and you hear a C# bass note, the chord is likely a C#m.

You only need to know six chords to play most worship songs. And, you are the worship leader, so you can pick the simplest songs possible. (More on this on Day 4.) If you have some songs in mind, start practicing just those. Remember, you don't need to have a repertoire of hundreds of songs yet. All you need to know is the three or four you will use for your worship set!

PLAY AND SING AT THE SAME TIME: This can seem like juggling on a tight rope if you've never done it. But this is why you have to commit some time every day to practicing. It's amazing how flexible the mind is. It adapts quickly when you force it to perform difficult tasks.

Here are five tips to help you learn to play and sing simultaneously:

4. Choose the easiest song you know. Use songs that are easy to sing and play. Start with songs with only 3 or 4 chords like "Nothing I Hold Onto" by United Pursuit or "Build My Life" by Housefires.
5. Play in your most familiar key. If you know the key of G on the guitar very well or are comfortable in C on piano, start there. Use a capo on the guitar if you need to change the key. You can learn to play and sing in other keys later.
6. Play the song in a singable key. Don't try to play in the original key. Worship artists have super-human voices. You're not at that level yet. Choose a comfortable key for you.

7. Pick one part of the song. Play just a few lines over and over while you sing. Focus on a small part. That will help you get the hang of playing and singing simultaneously. Now, move on to other parts of the song. Soon you'll know how to play and sing that song and your entire worship set.
8. Set aside 30 minutes per day to practice. There's no substitute for regular, intentional practice. If you commit to working on this skill, you will get good at it.

SCENARIO 2: YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT

You might think I'm crazy to say that you can learn to play an instrument to accompany your worship leading within two weeks.



For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

It's entirely possible, but a lot depends on your natural ability.

I once led a youth worship band. I asked one student if he could try his hand at drums. He was so talented he played almost perfectly the first time with almost no practice. He did the same on bass. It blew my mind.

Some people just have a God-given talent to pick up instruments. If this is you, try learning some basic chords on the keyboard or guitar. Then, review the previous section "You Know How to Play an Instrument." That will give you ideas on how to make playing your instrument as easy as possible.

If you're not a natural-born player, that's okay. Most people aren't, and it could take months or years to become proficient enough to play and sing at the same time. In that case, you'll have to get creative to find accompaniment.

FIND A FRIEND: A friend, relative, or church musician can help. You only need one guitarist or pianist to provide accompaniment for your first time leading worship.

FORM A BAND: Form a band: Start talking to musicians around you. If you can find a guitarist, bassist and drummer, you have a complete band to accompany you.

But don't limit yourself to these instruments. Look for someone who plays banjo, harp, hand drum, violin or ukulele. You might form a unique band in history!

These instrumentalists don't have to commit long-term. They can just agree to support you for this one event.

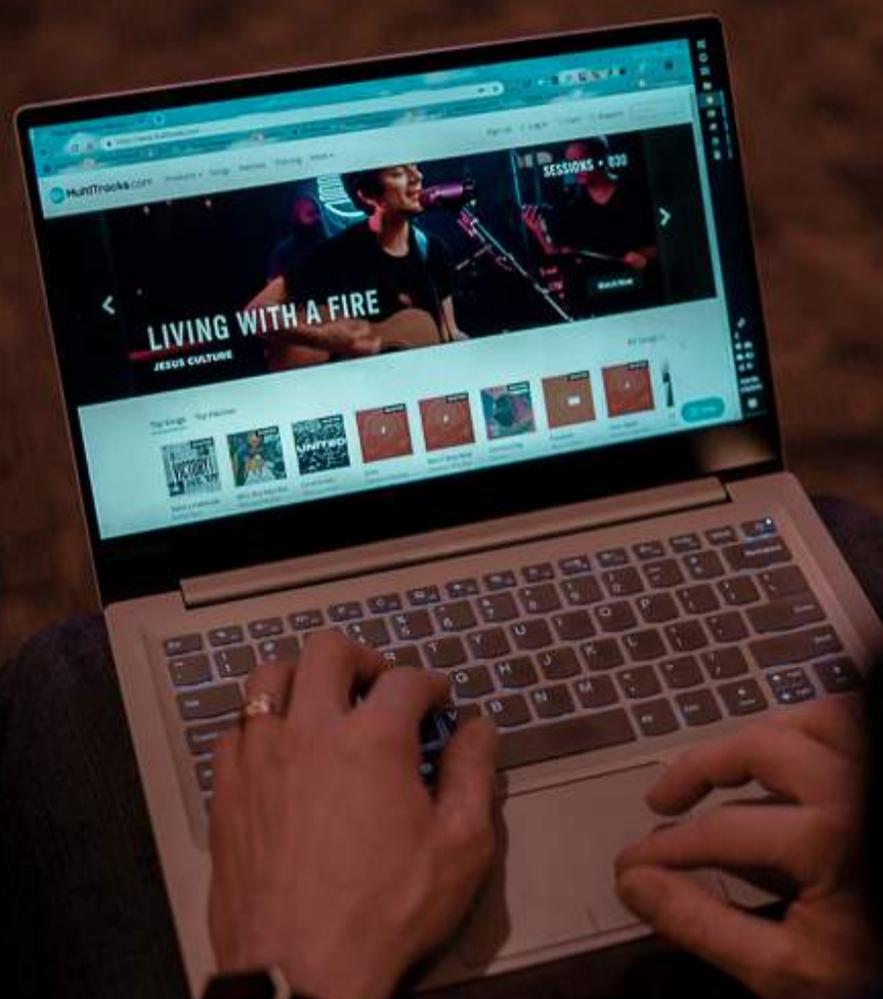
Don't be afraid to think outside the box here. Put an ad on Craigslist or search Facebook groups to find local musicians. You'd be surprised how many are out there who would love an opportunity to play. Be creative! (Just be safe. Always meet someone you don't know in a public setting.)

You might even find non-Christians who would love to help you out. You have to decide if that's okay with you. In my opinion, I think it's great when non-believers are backing musicians in a worship band. I've heard many stories of musicians coming to Christ because they were in a worship band. Be open to this possibility.

Later, you'll learn how to hold rehearsals with your chosen single accompanist or band.

SCENARIO 3: I DON'T PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AND CAN'T FIND A BAND

So you've asked around and can't find anyone to help. No problem. Humans are not required for accompaniment.



There are resources out there to provide backing music for your worship time. I'll list them from most expensive to least.

BACKING TRACKS: Sites like Multitracks.com and Loopcommunity.com provide multi-track recordings of all your favorite worship songs. You can find the song in many keys, and you can even mix the music (less guitar, more keys, etc.). These sites are absolutely wonderful but absolutely expensive. They will set you back \$20 - \$40 USD per song. Plus, you'll likely need to download and learn to use additional software to use them. Most worship leaders, especially beginning ones, don't have \$100 to throw down on their first worship leading venture and want more of a plug-and-play solution for accompaniment. Typically, backing tracks are meant to support bands and more established church productions. Perhaps your church already owns some that you could use. As your ministry expands, backing tracks are a good tool to learn about.

MIDI FILES: Worship-downloads.com lets you download and mix hundreds of songs in MIDI format for around \$2 USD each. It's not as technical as it sounds, since the site provides an online mixer that lets you control the MIDI file right on the site. You can balance the instrumentation and even create your own arrangement. The quality and depth of instrumentation aren't as good as you'll find on multi-track sites, but the cost is more reasonable.

YOUTUBE: The easiest and cheapest solution is YouTube. It's true that you can find anything on YouTube, and worship backing music is no exception. If you've ever looked up Karaoke songs on YouTube, this is pretty much the same thing. Many of these YouTube videos provide music for the song plus follow-along lyrics so you know where you are in the song. You can even find accompaniment in various keys. Hint: if your internet connection is spotty, you should download the YouTube video with a free online tool (Google search "YouTube downloader"). Then, play the video or MP3 rather than streaming directly from YouTube. You don't want annoying ads or faulty internet to ruin your worship session!

JUST KEEP GOING

If I could give one piece of musical advice to new worship leaders, it's JKG — Just Keep Going.

It's likely that those whom you are leading in worship won't notice a bad note or wrong lyric— that is, if you keep going. I've been leading worship for more than 20 years and I make about five mistakes per song. But no one notices because I cover them up or make them so brief that no one can tell. Mistakes become part of the music.

Those who are following you are more thrown off by the following:

- You acknowledge a mistake mid-song
- Starting a song over
- Missing the timing of the next line or phrase

If worse comes to worst, stop singing and let everyone else sing the rest of the line. Pick it up at the next lyric.

Minimizing “obviousness” of mistakes is a skill learned over time. For now, JKG and don't worry about making it perfect.

DAY 2 ACTION ITEMS

- In the companion journal, write down your plan for accompaniment, whether that's playing an instrument yourself, finding a single accompanist, or forming a band.
- Pray, pray, pray. God will give you ideas about who to ask or how to find accompaniment. He may even have an idea I haven't mentioned.
- Write down some names of musicians you can ask to help you.
- If you know you can't find human accompaniment, explore [MultiTracks.com](https://www.multitracks.com), [LoopCommunity.com](https://www.loopcommunity.com), or YouTube. Try singing over them when you're by yourself. It's good to start practicing the skills even though you haven't yet chosen songs for your worship time.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

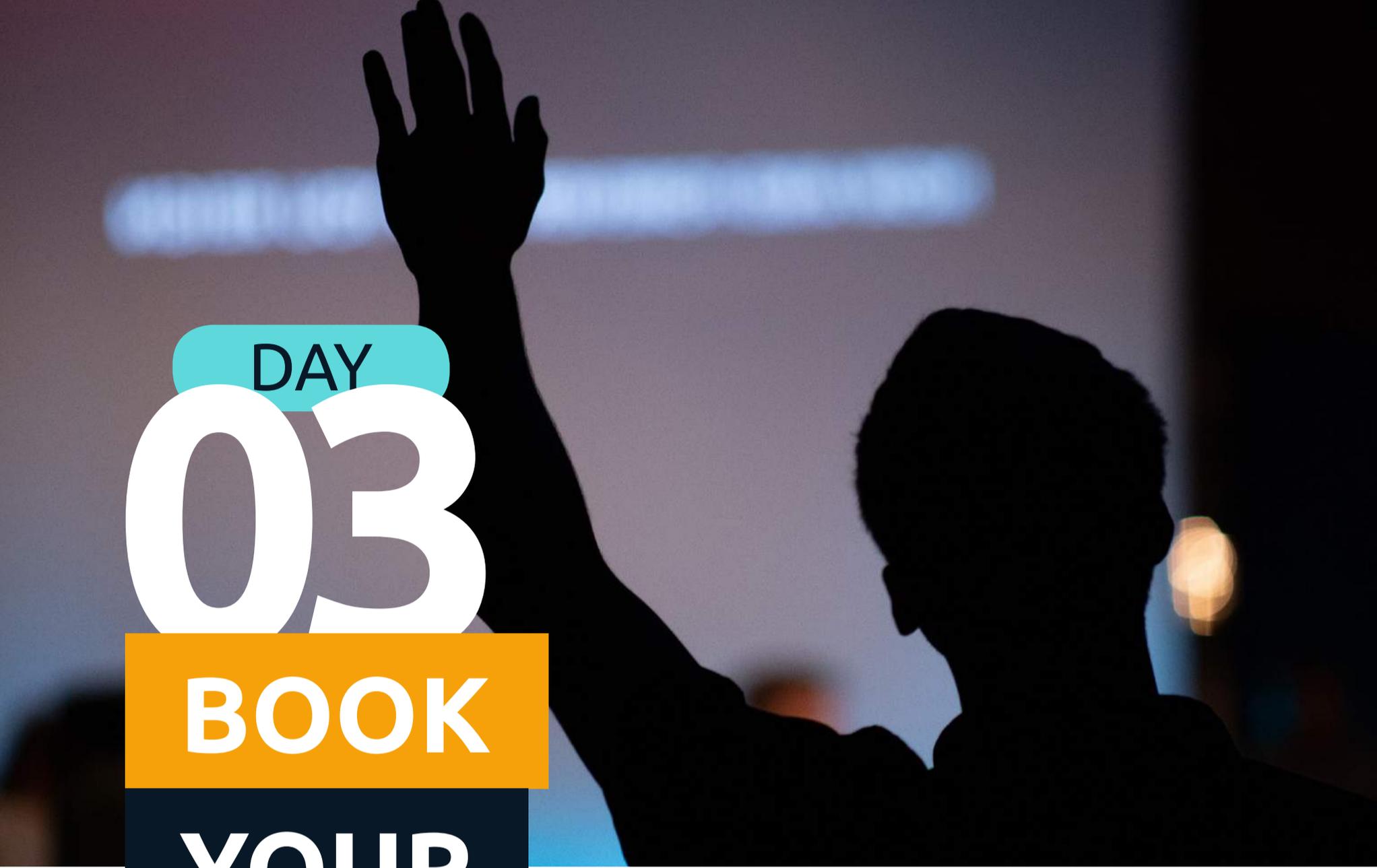
“When I started leading worship, I wish I would have known the importance of preparing at home in advance.”

--BRAD MAY, FOUNDER OF ACOUSTICWORSHIPPER.COM

Speaking of team building, here's advice for when you have your own worship ministry some day:

“I would encourage worship leaders to have a written policy that covers the expectations of being a part of this kind of ministry, especially attendance for rehearsal. That way when issues arrive, it is a matter of policy and not a “personal” judgment. A policy can spare hurt feelings.”

--Rhonda, Aiken, South Carolina, USA



DAY
03
**BOOK
YOUR
WORSHIP TIME**

There's nothing like a deadline to motivate you.

That's why Day 3 is so important. It's the day you choose a time and place for your first worship leading experience. Once it's scheduled, there's no going back.

Accountability is a powerful force. When you say you will lead worship for a group at a specific time, it forces you to commit. You practice like crazy and take the necessary steps to follow through.

Without a deadline, most people sit and play in their room their entire lives, and never live out their calling. That's a tragic reality.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

WHERE WILL I LEAD WORSHIP?

This is how God made things. King David had to take on a bear and a lion before he fought the Philistines' most powerful warrior. Zechariah 4:10a says, “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” (NLT) God must build you up through bigger and bigger opportunities as time goes on.

So that begs the question: where should you start?

YOUTH GROUP: A junior high or high school group is the perfect place to start leading worship. You get the experience of leading a worship team, creating worship lists, dealing with sound issues, learning about equipment, and so on. It's just like a big church, but on a smaller scale. Most accomplished adult worship leaders started when they were 15 or 16 in their youth group. That was my story.

Even if it's just you and a YouTube backing track, ask the youth pastor or leader if you can start leading every few weeks. Then, pick a date for your first worship time.

KID'S CHURCH: Children are incredible worshipers, but their Sunday and mid-week programs are terribly underserved by worship leaders. I can't tell you how excited a children's pastor or leader would be if you offered to lead worship for little ones in your church.

RETIREMENT HOMES: You'd probably be the highlight of the residents' year if you went and sang old hymns in a retirement home. I've played in a few, and believe me, the folks love it. You'd be the most popular attraction that they all look forward to, especially if you commit to regular appearances.

HOME GROUPS, SMALL GROUPS: Many churches have numerous small groups that meet throughout the week. You could volunteer to lead worship at one or many of these groups a single time or on an ongoing basis. Most groups meet in homes, so you could bring a maximum of one instrumentalist. Ask a few home group leaders in your church if you can lead worship at least once. Then set a date!



WHEN WILL I LEAD WORSHIP?

When you get permission to lead worship, don't leave it at "sometime". Set a specific date. This gives clarity to the group leader. And it forces you to get ready.

Setting the date depends on a few things. This book is about leading worship in 14 days, and we're on Day 3. So, schedule it for 11 days from now!

You may need more time to find accompaniment and get the songs ready, and that's okay. The important thing is to schedule a date, time, and place and stick to it. If that's 2 months from now, it's better than just "sometime."

If you need another musician or band, make sure they are available before you book a date. Get everyone's buy-in on the date and make sure they understand the seriousness of the commitment. If your musician(s) back out, you may have to break your commitment. Each time that happens, you lose credibility with the group leader. The chances of them agreeing to let you lead worship go down each time you back out.

It's much easier to book a date for an existing group. Don't schedule a special worship night on a Thursday if the youth group meets Wednesdays. Just kick off the regular Wednesday meeting with worship. Attendance will be better, and you don't even have to try to get people to come.

MAKE YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITY

You may think I've gone on too long about being specific about the scheduled venue and time. But it's a sad fact that most people who could have been great worship leaders still plan to lead worship "someday".

There's very little chance someone is going to walk up to you one day and ask you to lead worship.

For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

MATTHEW 7:8

Small opportunities lead to bigger ones. Before you know it, you could be leading worship for big churches and conferences all over the country. God can do big things. But He wants you to make the first step. Even Moses had to step into the Red Sea before it parted.

DAY 3 ACTION ITEMS

- Ask the leader of any group or meeting if you can lead worship for them. Agree on a date.
- Get a commitment from band members. Make sure they can commit to two rehearsals before the event.
- Ask a sound tech to help you set up for two rehearsals and the worship time if you will use a sound system. (We'll talk more about rehearsals later.)

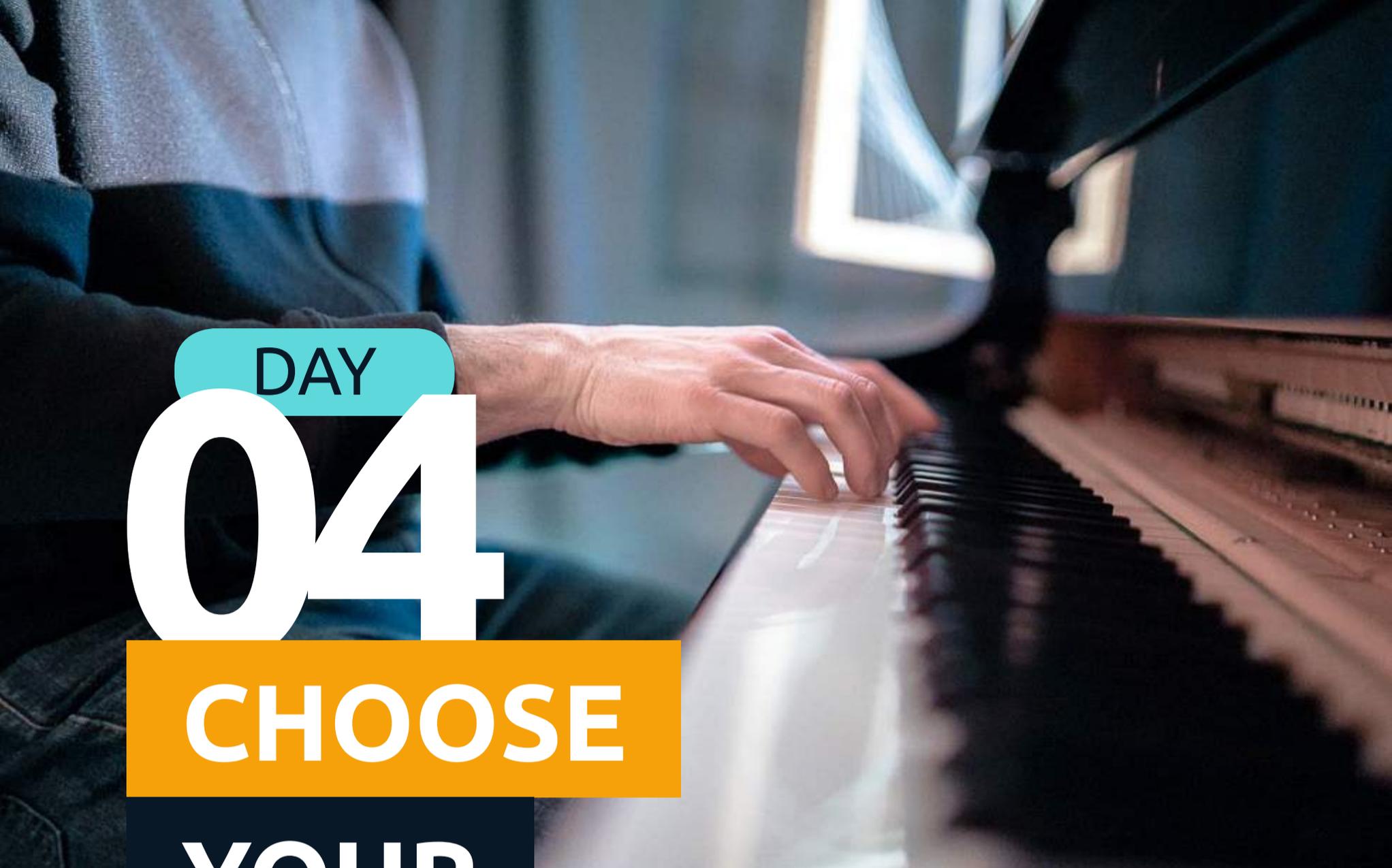
WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

“When I started leading worship, I wish I would have known the importance of preparing at home in advance.”

--BRAD MAY, FOUNDER OF ACOUSTICWORSHIPPER.COM

“The Lord doesn’t want a performance. He hates the ‘show.’ Yes, you need to give it your best. Yes, you need to practice, practice, practice (like it’s a performance). But once you are well practiced, it’s time to open your heart to Him. Let your hands, feet, and lungs do what they’ve learned so that you can worship freely – without having to worry about the music.

--Keith F., Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA



DAY

04

CHOOSE

YOUR

SONGS

One of the most obvious and important parts of being a worship leader is choosing the right songs. Worship is more than songs, but worship doesn't often happen without them.

But just choosing songs may be more involved than you first think. You have to consider keys, transitions, themes, and more. Ready to choose your set? Let's go.

WHY CHOOSE SONGS SO EARLY?

First of all, why are we choosing songs on Day 4? Isn't there plenty of time? Sure, but you need to be familiar with these songs. So familiar that you don't even need to think about them. When you're leading worship, you're thinking about so many things. You want the actual singing and/or playing to be automatic. That doesn't happen without a lot of practice. Every moment you have over the next 10 days, you should be practicing your songs.

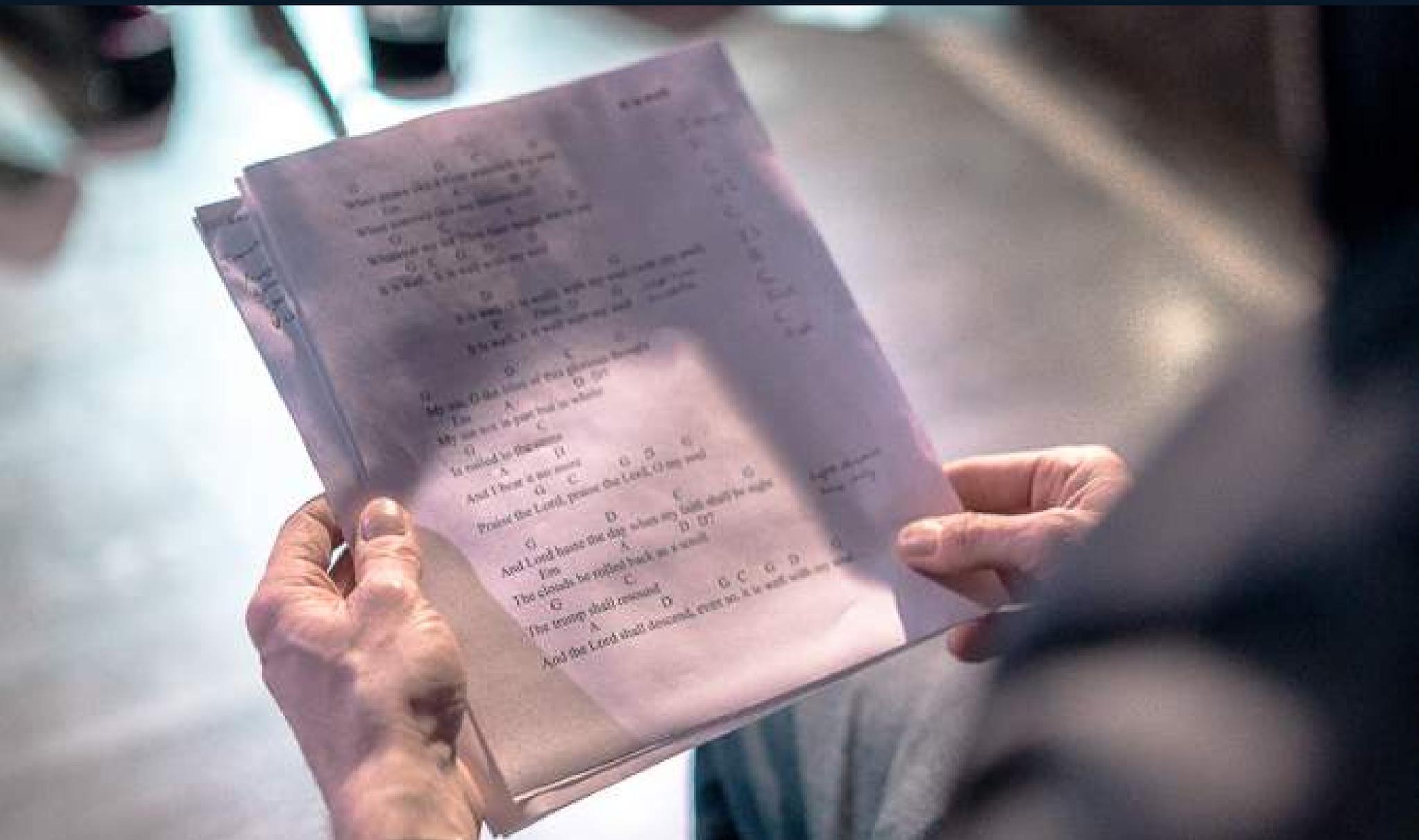
MAKE SURE THEY'RE EASY

You don't get extra points for playing hard songs. In fact, it's quite a distraction to mess up a part of the song because it's too hard to play or sing. It's okay to choose a song with just a verse and chorus, and in an easy key and vocal range. Save complex songs for when you're more experienced. Avoid the temptation to imagine yourself jumping around on stage to a song you or your band can't play yet. Make it easy on yourself.

MAKE SURE THEY ARE "YOU"

Most of the time, you can tell when a worship leader is being inauthentic. They are trying to be the hottest worship star at the time. But it's difficult to do someone else's style well. Even famous artists would look foolish if they tried to be someone else.

Find out who you are. You may not fully know in this short two-week time period. But I think even beginning worship leaders know which songs are best suited for them. Pick those.



PICK SONGS THAT EVERYONE WILL KNOW

Choosing songs everyone knows is key to increasing participation. This is important because people who are singing aren't staring you down, making you nervous.

There are times to teach a new song, but your first time as a worship leader isn't one of them. You'll probably get a deer-in-headlights look from the crowd, and that makes your job harder.

The same goes for a song you've written. It's great that you've written a song, but you'll have opportunity to teach it later.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT LEARNING A HUGE LIBRARY OF SONGS YET

Choose 3-4 songs and only practice those. Your repertoire will be big soon enough, if you continue to lead worship. Let's get these couple songs down well. If you want to know more about song selection, see a comprehensive article on the subject at [WorshipDeeper.com](#). Click [25 Ways to Pick Good Worship Songs for Your Church](#) or Google "Worship Deeper 25 ways to pick worship songs".

HOW TO CHOOSE A GOOD SET

There are a few things to consider when choosing a set:

1. Pray: God can give you insight on a song that you should choose, and to build your set around. I've felt strongly about a song, then found out it was the perfect one because of an event I knew nothing about. Ask God, and He'll do some amazing things through your song selection!
2. Theme: You can choose songs with the same theme. For instance, you might choose "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham and "Death Arrested" by North Point Inside-out at Easter. If you are leading worship for a church service, check with the pastor or speaker about his or her sermon/message topic. Try to find songs that match that theme, if possible. At the same time, don't get too hung up on a theme. It's more important that you choose songs that are comfortable for you.

3. Key: First, choose the key in which you'll do each song. Then make sure the keys mesh together well. A good guide is the circle of fifths. Make sure songs are "related" in this way. Another way to change the key is up one whole step, for instance, from G to A. Avoid going down a step or half step from one song to the next or weird transitions like C to Eb. Also, avoid staying in the same key for more than two songs. You need to change the key to keep people engaged.

Here's an example. Let's say I choose these four songs:

- "Look to the Son" – Hillsong. Key: F.
 - "Mighty to Save" – Hillsong. Key: G. This is one whole step up from F, which is a good transition.
 - "Beautiful Name" Key: D – Normally I would play this in E. But I drop it to D, which is after G in the circle of fifths. It will be an easier transition than E.
 - "Lay Me Down" Key: A – Again, this after D in the circle of fifths. It's also an upbeat song to end the set.
4. Tempo: Decide the flow of your set. Will you start with fast, high-energy songs, and end low? Imagine tempos as a line. Some worship sets start high, fall a bit, then end very low. My favorite format is starting upbeat, dropping the speed, then ending on a powerful mid-tempo song. But the choice is yours!

For more tips on how to build worship sets, see my article on [WorshipDeeper.com](https://www.worshipdeeper.com/7-worship-set-list-tips-for-powerful-worship-times/) "[7 Worship Set List Tips for Powerful Worship Times](https://www.worshipdeeper.com/7-worship-set-list-tips-for-powerful-worship-times/)" or Google "Worship Deeper 7 worship set list tips."

DAY 4 ACTION ITEMS

Here's your homework for Day 4

- Pray and select 3-4 songs that you're comfortable singing. Adhere to the guidelines mentioned.
- If possible, select a theme.
- Determine what key suits your voice best for each song.
- Create a song order, keeping key and tempo in mind.
- Mark your calendar to practice each song at least twice per day over the next 10 days.
- Your rehearsals will be on Day 11 and Day 13. Schedule a time and place for the rehearsal. If possible, find a sound tech to help you set up if you will use the sound system when you lead worship. Additionally, ask an experienced worship leader to help you run your first rehearsal on Day 11.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"Worship is not all about a song. Worship cuts across my entire life adoring and referencing my King who gave Himself up for me. My life is a song of His unconditional love, so I sing it by living it."

--Dennis B., Kaduna, Nigeria

"My advice for first-time worship leaders: Don't copy what other worshipers do. Just surrender to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead through you."

--Mercie W., Nairobi, Kenya



DAY

05

CREATE

YOUR

ARRANGEMENTS

A song arrangement is simply the order in which you play the parts of the song. For instance, you might play verse 1, chorus, verse 2, chorus, bridge, then end with one final chorus.

A good arrangement doesn't have to be unique or particularly creative. Ninety percent of the time, I copy the original recording's arrangement. The artist, producer, and others spend a lot of time figuring out the best way to play the song, so I don't think I can do better.

But do take your audience into account. If the recording is seven minutes long, you may want to shorten it to three or four minutes. Also consider your band. If there's no lead guitarist, cut out the guitar solo.

DYNAMICS

Dynamics are the intensity swings in the song. Many songs start soft, then build toward the bridge or last chorus. Some songs begin with heavy instrumentation in the intro, then instruments drop out for verse 1. Again, I largely copy the recording for how “big” I play a certain section.

But feel free to be creative. The most important thing is that your songs don't stay the same intensity the whole way through. If nothing else, make the verses low and the chorus big. Some ideas to add dynamics to a song are:

- Add an acapella section
- Let one instrument play out for 4-8 bars
- Repeat a bridge with just the drum beat
- Add a full stop for 4 beats after a verse, the band all coming back in at the chorus

There are no “rules” to dynamics. It's something you'll get a feel for as you arrange songs more and more.

MAKE NOTES

Arrangements are easy to forget. But as the worship leader, you're the band leader, too. That means the band will look to you for musical direction. Don't expect the band to remember how you did the verse or chorus if you forget. That's happened to me more than a few times.

That's why I make notes on printed chord sheets, at least for new songs until I have the arrangements memorized. Many arrangements are quite complicated, and it's helpful to refer to notes. You can simply write in the margins of your charts. No one sees your sheet music except you, so there's no reason not to write on it!

Don't worry about making it neat for now. On day 8, we'll make clean notes on new chord charts.

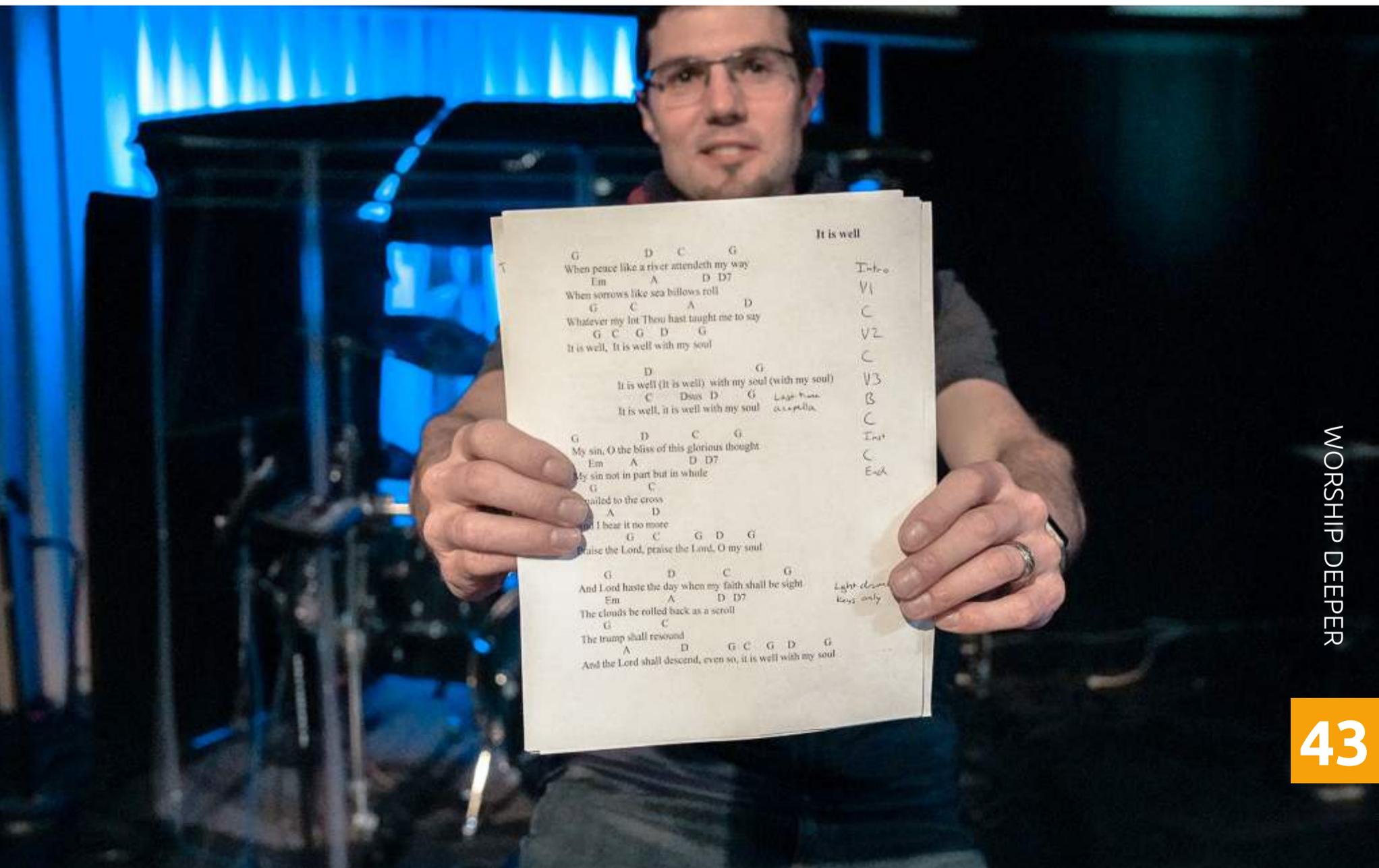
An example arrangement shorthand is as follows:

- Verse 1: V1
- Chorus: C
- Verse 2: V2
- Bridge: B
- Instrumental: Inst
- Ending: End
- Intro: Intro
- Tag: Tag

So the note on your page might look like this:

V1, C, V2, C, B, Inst, C, Tag, End

This simple reference can make a big difference in your confidence level when you lead rehearsal and the worship time.



DAY 5 ACTION ITEMS

- Print out the chord charts for songs you selected on Day 4.
- Listen to your favorite version of the song.
- Note the arrangement you hear on the song sheet or separate piece of paper.
- Decide if you want to use this arrangement or change it in any way. Sing or play through each song and see what feels right.
- Pray about your arrangement. God might give you great ideas.
- Note your final arrangement on each song sheet.
- If you plan to lead worship with a band, send your song MP3s, chord charts, and arrangement notes to them today. Let them know your first rehearsal is in six days, so they should practice the songs on their own and know their parts by then.
- Continue practicing your worship set, but this time, practice your arrangements, too.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

“New worship leaders should know that it’s all about the Holy Spirit. It’s not about what songs people prefer, but what songs God wants.”

Mercie W., Nairobi, Kenya



DAY

06

WORK OUT

YOUR

TRANSITIONS

One of your main jobs as a worship leader is to eliminate distractions. We usually think of distractions as things that happen, but they can also be things that don't happen.

For instance, transitions between songs.

You come to the end of a song, hit the final note, then nothing. No one starts the song. The band is looking around at each other. No one knows what to do. The worship leader looks uncomfortable. So, the people are uncomfortable. Now the worshipful atmosphere is disrupted all because of something that didn't happen.

Good transitions between songs are always intentional. You need a plan to get from one song to the next. I would go so far as to say that a worship set is only as good as its transitions.

MUSICAL TRANSITIONS

There are musical and non-musical transitions. Let's talk about musical transitions first.

Musical transitions use some scheme to get from one song to the next. Some examples are:

- A hard break, then a drum beat starting the next song
- The keyboardist plays a transition chord for the next song, which cues the rest of the band
- The lead guitarist starts the song's main riff
- And one that's too common: the acoustic guitarist starts strumming

Any of these will work. Don't use the same one every time, though.

You'll remember back on Day 4 we chose songs in "related" keys. Related keys are next to each other on the circle of fifths. When choosing songs, choose songs that are one position forward or one back on the circle of fifths. For instance, the keys in your set could go C, G, D, A, E. These are all consecutive keys in the circle of fifths going clockwise.

Other winning transitions would involve staying in the same key or moving up one whole step, for instance from C to D. Try not to go down a step, though. That's a real downer.

This works because western music is based on these musical tones, so the ear doesn't have to work very hard to get from one key to the next. Not many people will know why the two songs sound good next to each other, but they will somehow sense that the key change is natural.

You can also get help with transitions via worship pads. Worship pads are continuous instrumental tracks that play behind the rest of your music. Whatever your accompaniment, pads make it sound fuller. Pads are simply mp3 files that you can play through your sound system with a smartphone or computer. See my complete guide to using pads in worship [here](#), or by Googling "worshipdeeper.com worship pads."

NONMUSICAL TRANSITIONS

Don't think you always have to transition to the next song via music. You could also transition with prayer, a Scripture reading, reading a poem or a short encouraging word.

Remember, though, that your job is to eliminate distractions. Any verbal transition should be polished. Don't think that you'll give a great 1-minute talk without preparing. Some people can do it, but not many.

Use these times to practice being a worship pastor, not just a worship leader.

A worship leader directs the band and the people on how to worship. However, the worship leader can sometimes almost be mistaken as only a song leader. He leads songs, walks off the stage, and never interacts with the people he has just led in worship.

Then there's the worship pastor. She uses her position to shepherd the worshipers. She teaches about worship and guides people spiritually. You might see her talking and praying with people between services or just catching up on their lives.

Being a worship pastor is what worship leaders should seek to become.

That being said, let's not cross that bridge yet. You'll have plenty to think about when you lead worship the first time. But keep the pastor/shepherd idea in mind as you grow in your calling.

DAY 6 ACTION ITEMS

- Make sure your songs are in the appropriate keys for transitions. If not, consider changing the keys up or down on any given song to make the transitions easier. Just make sure you can still sing all the songs.
- Make notes on which instruments will transition the song. If it will be just you and a guitar or piano, figure out creative ways the guitar can transition. Or start a song with vocals only. Don't worry about making it neat yet. We'll work up final chord charts with transitions and arrangements on Day 8.
- Prepare to practice transitions at your rehearsal (which is coming up on Day 11). You may end up putting almost as much time into practicing transitions as the songs themselves.
- Pull up on YouTube a few concerts by bands like Hillsong and Elevation Worship. Find the transitions specifically. How are they getting from one song to the next? These groups have invested many hours into their transitions. Feel free to borrow their techniques.
- Continue practicing your songs. This time, practice the songs, arrangements, and transitions in front of a mirror.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"When I started leading worship, I wish I would have known how simple but foundational it is to spend time in the presence of God. When you do that, wisdom about how to build the worship set will come, and the anointing to lead others to that place."

--China V., River Church, Clinton, Iowa, USA

DAY 07

PRAY

AND

READ PSALMS

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

REVELATION 4:11

This is an important thing to do. Often, we get ultra-focused on ourselves. But that's a bad position to be in when you get up in front of people. Most of us have stage fright. You know what makes stage fright worse? Focusing on yourself.

When you shift your attention to God, you become less concerned about messing up or doing something foolish on stage. The funny thing is, though, that you perform better when you're not worried about messing up. Somehow focusing on God makes your singing and playing more natural.

When you shift your attention to God, you become less concerned about messing up or doing something foolish on stage. The funny thing is, though, that you perform better when you're not worried about messing up. Somehow focusing on God makes your singing and playing more natural.

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER

So today, take some time to run through these prayers and some of your own.

- That the people you lead will truly worship
- That this experience will bring you closer to God
- That God will open the next door after you've led worship the first time
- That you would worship in spirit and truth

READ PSALMS

Once you've prayed, dive into the Psalms.

You might know Psalms as a book in the Bible. But before they were a book, they were individual songs.

The Psalms are unique in that they are the only songs ever written that are directly God-inspired and accepted as Scripture. Yep, Psalms are the only songs in the universe penned by God Himself. Not even Amazing Grace can make that claim.

Because of this, we should pay special attention to these songs as worship leaders. Dig into them and read them on a regular basis. The spirit and language of the Psalms will

make their way into your worship as you lead. You'll understand worship better as you immerse yourself in these ancient songs.

From this day until the end of the 14 days, choose two Psalms per day to read over and meditate on.

DAY 7 ACTION ITEMS

- Read two Psalms today, and each of the remaining days of this course.
- Open each remaining day with a prayer that you could focus on God, not yourself, as you lead.
- Practice your songs, in order, with the arrangements and transitions you created. Following today's theme, make this practice a time of worship. Focus on God and what He's saying to you through these songs.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"Pray. Always pray."

--June P., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Portage, Wisconsin, USA



DAY

08

PREPARE

YOUR

CHORD CHARTS

Many worship leaders memorize their music. For everyone else, there are chord sheets.

There's nothing wrong with using music when you lead. You've got enough to do already without having to memorize your worship set, too.

Later, when you are more experienced, you can try leading worship from memory. Leading worship without chord charts and lyrics in front of you is the best way. But I admit I'm still hooked on chord sheets after 20 years of leading worship.

One advantage to have written music is that you can write notes on the sheet itself. Arrangements, transitions, alternate chords — they can all go on the sheet. Don't try to keep that information on a separate piece of paper. It's too hard to refer to it when you're leading worship.

You may have “marked up” your chord charts on Days 3, 4, and 5. By this time, they might look a bit messy. Now is the time to print fresh sheets and make organized notes. I like to write the arrangement down the side margin of the paper. For instance:

V1
C
V2
C
B
Inst
C
End

Here are more tips to make managing chord charts easier:

Get a 3-ring binder with clear sleeves. Use a black binder that’s 1 inch wide. Get 10-15 clear sheet sleeves for it. Place your chord sheets in the sleeves and place the songs in order in the binder. Put 2 pieces of paper in each sleeve, front to back. That way there’s less flipping during the worship time.





This helps you flip to the next song sheet easily while you lead worship. You don't want to be fumbling with individual sheets. They tend to stick together and fall off your music stand. That can be distracting to worship.

Another option is an iPad or Android tablet. Recently, we've transitioned to use an iPad for chord charts at my church.

The app Music Stand is created by Planning Center. It syncs with your song set. The chord charts display on your iPad. You can turn pages by swiping. Or you can use a foot pedal to change pages. This is handy when you have a 2-page song and want to go back and forth between pages with no hands.

However, this solution is expensive and won't work unless your church uses Planning Center or you find another app. You can reduce the cost a bit while still using Music Stand by using an Android tablet. These are typically cheaper than iPads. For beginning worship leaders, though, you're fine using paper chord charts.

WHERE DO I FIND WORSHIP CHORD CHARTS?

Let's back up a bit and discuss where you can find accurate chord charts.

If you're just singing, you can print off lyrics from the internet easily. If you play an instrument, finding accurate chord charts is a bit more difficult.

One of the best solutions is CCLI, which stands for Christian Copyright Licensing International. The company maintains a massive database of worship songs. If you need the song in a different key, no problem. Just select the key you want, and the system will transpose the chord chart for you. You can also get lead sheets which show you the melody and chords. The problem, though, is that your church needs a subscription to use it. If your church doesn't have one, there are other options.

PraiseCharts.com allows you to download chord charts individually. The charts are quite good, and this source does a better job at keeping songs to one page. Most CCLI songs are two or even three pages! PraiseCharts will cost about \$10 USD for a 4-song set.

Worshiptogether.com is also another good resource. You can download some free chord sheets. They'll need some formatting to be useful during worship, but they provide an accurate if not raw chord sheet.

Another option for those on a budget is to Google the songs. However, these online versions can contain incorrect lyrics and chords. They are simply someone's interpretation. Another drawback is that it's not technically legal to print or use non-licensed copies of music. Sure, everyone does it, but it's not the most ethical way.

Lastly, you can figure the song out yourself. But you'll need a really good ear, know your instrument well, and be familiar with music theory. Again, this is not the most ethical way to do it, either because it's against copyright law to possess unsanctioned copies of sheet music.

DAY 8 ACTION ITEMS

- Ask your worship leader or pastor if your church has a CCLI subscription. If so, ask if you can be added to the account so you can pull legal, licensed music sheets from the system.
- If you don't have access to CCLI, ask your worship leader how he or she usually finds sheet music.
- Explore PraiseCharts.com and Worshiptogether.com.
- Look at all your notes from Days 3, 4, and 5. Print new chord charts and organize the following:
 - Arrangement
 - List the sequence of verses, choruses, etc. down the side margin.
 - Transitions
 - Think about which instrument will start the song and how you will get there from the previous song.
 - Any special instrumentation or dynamics you would like to have in the song, such as a musical break, a certain piano part behind the chorus, etc.
- Type into Amazon "black 1 inch binder 3 ring" and "clear sheet protectors 3 ring binder." Buy these items here or at a local office products store.
- Or, if you have an iPad or Android tablet, experiment with using the Music Stand app or other similar apps.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"One of the hardest things to do while leading worship is not to get distracted by what you're doing. I can easily get so focused on the words or the chords that I find my heart is no longer in the music."

--Caroline L., Colorado Springs



DAY

09

START

VOCAL

WARMUPS

Most people don't think of the voice as a muscle. It's just something that "works" when you need it. That may be true for talking, but singing is a whole different thing.

The voice is just like any other muscle or system in the body. You must exercise it to keep it in shape — and to keep it from getting hurt.

You probably wouldn't try to deadlift 400 pounds without training for it. You shouldn't start a long singing session without warming up in the days leading up to it, either.

Fortunately, it doesn't take very much time to keep your voice in top shape. In 10-15 minutes per day, you can have a strong voice. The more consecutive days you do it, the more endurance you build. And you can find a number of resources to help.

I personally use a training CD from a company called Vocal Artistry. But you can find lots of streaming resources on Spotify or YouTube. Just search for “vocal warmup” and try a few different albums or videos.

Doing vocal warmups every day will increase your range, stamina and improve your tone. It will also prevent you from hurting your voice by overuse. It is possible to damage your voice by singing too loudly or high without building up to that level.

A word of warning: vocal warmups are often boring, non-creative, and repetitious. It takes discipline to stay consistent with it. But my personal experience is that you become free in worship when you’ve done the work days and weeks before your worship leading time.

DAY 9 ACTION ITEMS

- Experiment with a few vocal warmup resources. Find one that suits your range and, that is produced by a professional vocalist.
- Spend 10-20 minutes learning and doing the exercises.
- Mark a time on your calendar each day to do warmups, all the way up until the day you lead worship.
- Make a commitment to warm up your voice daily, even if you don't plan to sing in front of anyone for a while.
- Check out my full article about warming up your voice at [this link](#), or Google "worsipdeeper.com warm up your voice."
- Keep a track of each day you did vocal exercises in a journal or calendar. Continue practicing your set. Contact your band — if you have one — and remind them that rehearsal is in two days.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"Stay humble and stay hungry! Realize and admit every day that you cannot lead a ministry without the work of the Lord in you. It's not about us, but to further the Kingdom of God. Enjoy every minute of being a part of leading such a beautiful ministry. It doesn't get any better than to make music for the Lord!"

--Charlotte B., Worship Director, Redemption Church, Carson City, Nevada, USA



DAY

10

GET

COUNSEL

Here's where we get a little less practical and a little more spiritual.

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 SAMUEL 16:7

There are probably a lot of worship leaders who aren't particularly gifted singers or musicians. But they have an incredible pastor's heart, so they are successful.

So, part of entering your calling is being under authority and getting “prayed in” to your role.

There's plenty of Biblical bases for this.

One of the most famous examples is when Samuel anoints David as Israel's next king (1 Samuel 16). Samuel passes by much taller and better-looking candidates. Then he dumps oil on David's head signifying that he is the chosen one. It would be years before David fully stepped into his role, but this anointing officially started David down the path.

This is a good model to follow. You'll be a bit more proactive than David was, though. Seek out a spiritual leader who can play the role of Samuel. This doesn't need to be a formal process, and you don't even need real oil. But you'll ask this person to do a couple of things:

- Ask them to pray about whether this call is right for you. If it's not, they are honest with you.
- Ask if they have any advice for this calling. How should you prepare?
- If they are willing, figuratively anoint you into the process of the calling. Just as David didn't become king the next day, you're not becoming a full-time worship leader tomorrow. This anointing is just to launch the process.

Again, there's nothing magical about this procedure. It could be a short conversation and a prayer. The point is to bring others alongside you.

This process does a couple of things.

- It puts you under authority. Ministries and callings thrive under authority but can go off track without it.
- It lets someone higher up know that you want to become a worship leader and that you're seeking an opportunity.
- It opens the door for future counsel and accountability in your role.

Most spiritual authorities in your life will really appreciate that you're taking this step. It shows a lot of maturity and drive.

Some folks you can ask are:

- Your pastor or youth pastor
- A youth group leader
- A worship leader or member of the church worship team
- An elder in the church

Make sure the person is at a higher level spiritually, though, if possible. Seeking out a peer won't be effective. Don't worry, this is supposed to be a little scary. That's okay. Just go for it.

While you're at it, get advice on stewarding this calling. The ministry is no easy road. If you've sought out a pastor or worship leader, find out what mistakes they wish they could've avoided. Also, ask what's the best advice or tip for the successful ministry. These questions can open up conversations for valuable nuggets of wisdom you'll hold onto for your entire life.

DAY 10 ACTION ITEMS

- You guessed it: decide who you will ask to seek counsel from. Write a few names down in your journal.
- Pray about who you should ask. God may direct you to someone you don't expect. Don't look for the most prominent person in your church. The person doesn't even have to be a worship leader. Any spiritual leader will work.
- Prepare the request in writing. This will help you define your request, so it comes out smoothly.
- Prepare questions to ask the potential mentor.
- Send an email, text, or ask for a meeting. Let them know it will only take 30 minutes and offer a few suggested times to meet. Don't end the conversation without the next steps, like a solid day and time to meet. Don't leave it at "sometime."
- Pray as you get ready to receive the counsel and anointing.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"When you lead worship for a church service, ask the pastor if there is a certain song or hymn they want included either before or after their sermon."

--June P., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Portage, Wisconsin, USA



DAY

11

HOLD

YOUR

FIRST REHEARSAL

You and your band have been practicing the songs separately for about a week, so now it's time to bring it all together.

Hopefully, you sent the songs and arrangements out on Day 5 and everyone has been practicing since then. I can't emphasize enough how much better rehearsal will go if everyone has prepared on their own.

Following are a few steps to make the rehearsal run smoothly.

GET THERE EARLY. It will take you much longer than you think to set up your own equipment, print music for the team, and gather equipment. Hopefully, you asked a sound tech to help set up if you plan to use the sound system. If not, hopefully, you have enough know-how to set up sound well enough so that the band can hear itself. For now, it doesn't matter what "the house" (the seating area) sounds like.

PRAY BEFORE STARTING. I've had rehearsals where we were so concentrated on the music that no one could do anything right. Then we prayed and refocused on our ultimate purpose, and everything magically came together. It's a strange experience to say the least. Try it before rehearsal, and everything will go much more smoothly.

PROVIDE CHORD CHARTS. Don't depend on each musician to bring chord charts. Have enough copies ready for each band member. If you use electronic chord charts, prepare the iPads or other tablets ahead of time.

RESPECT THE BAND'S TIME. It shows respect to your bandmates when you have everything ready to go when they arrive. Sure, they have to set up their instruments. But mics, mic stands, cables, direct boxes, and other sound equipment should be ready for them. They should just have to plug in and play.

INVITE AN EXPERIENCED WORSHIP LEADER OR BAND MEMBER. I won't lie: running a rehearsal is draining. You have to direct the band and think about your own worship leading, too. There's no shame in inviting an experienced worship leader or band member to help you direct rehearsal. Often, it's hard to communicate your ideas to the band. Another musician can help you.



GO OVER EACH SONG MULTIPLE TIME. Only experienced bands who have played together before can play a song nearly perfectly the first time. You'll likely have to go through each song 3-5 times, and then you still may not feel very comfortable with it. That's totally normal, especially if you are playing with inexperienced musicians. You are all growing, so go over the songs as many times as possible. The rehearsal could be two hours or longer.

REHEARSE ALL TRANSITIONS. Once you've rehearsed the songs themselves, rehearse how you will get from one song to the next. Luckily you figured this out on Day 6. Now, communicate your ideas to your band. Practice each transition from about the last 30 seconds of one song to the first 30 seconds of the new song. Each instrumentalist should write down their transition part on their music sheet, so they don't forget. Nothing is worse than one band member forgetting that he or she was supposed to start a song. Rehearse any spoken words. You might want to open worship with a spoken word. You might read a Scripture between songs. Rehearse all of this as if you were in front of people. That way, it will feel natural when you do.

PUT EQUIPMENT AWAY. A sure-fire way to never get to use a facility again is to leave a mess. The next group that comes in doesn't want to clean up the stage before they set up theirs. (I've been the unhappy recipient of many inconsiderate groups' messes.)

THANK THE SOUND TECH AND ASSISTING WORSHIP LEADER. If you had a sound tech or worship leader helping, thank them. Ask if they can help you again on Day 13 when you rehearse again.

COMMUNICATE THE NEXT STEPS WITH THE BAND. Point out areas to work on. Let the band know you will rehearse again in two days.



DAY 11 ACTION ITEMS

- Write below what went well in rehearsal, and what could be improved.
- Note a few things you will do differently — either before or during your next rehearsal — to make it run more smoothly.
- Rest! You'll need it after a worship rehearsal!

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

“Know your team’s spiritual struggles as much as you know their musical gifts. Teams that understand and embrace their family identity worship better together. They are in sync. They have less in the way as they stand and worship the King together.”

-- Rob G., Pastor, Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, North Dakota, USA



DAY

12

SERVE

ANOTHER

WORSHIP LEADER

Part of your worship leading journey should be to back up other worship leaders vocally or instrumentally. You learn a lot by watching other leaders conduct rehearsals and lead worship.

It may not fit into your schedule to be on another worship team on Day 12, and that's okay.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:10 (NIV)

YOU GET USED TO THE STAGE. You can get a feel for being in front of people in a low-pressure situation. You don't have to carry the service when you are a background singer or instrumentalist, but you still desensitize yourself to being in front. Desensitization is good because it makes you less nervous about being on stage.

YOU BUILD YOUR SKILLS. Whether you're a vocalist, instrumentalist or both you'll get experience by serving on a team. One of the greatest things about volunteering on a worship team is building your ability to just keep going. In live music, there are no do-overs. This trains you to think on your feet musically. You learn improvisation, speed, and fluency with your voice or instrument.

YOU GET USED TO DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT. Every band uses a slightly different setup for monitors, mics, music, and other equipment. Volunteering on several teams exposes you to all this equipment and more. Eventually, you'll find your favorite setup for when you regularly lead a band.

YOU LEARN NEW PROCESSES. Learn how other leaders choose worship sets, communicate with the band, and set up for service. You can learn more by watching a worship leader during one set than in a month of reading online articles about worship leading.



Don't have another worship team to volunteer on? That's okay for now. You might live in a small town with one church, and you're the only musician. But for most people, there could be another worship team in a church nearby. Seek out and learn from more experienced leaders around you.

VOLUNTEERING OPENS DOORS FOR YOU

Another benefit of volunteering is that you get to know people who are doing what you want to do. Eventually, showing up as a volunteer will lead to greater roles.

You won't start off as the main worship leader in a church most of the time.

Pastors and worship leaders are turned off by individuals who only want to be the leader. Prove that you can be a leader by coming underneath another ministry to serve in a lower position. Don't rule out tech support. Show up and set up mics or run lyric slides. You'd be surprised at how these "lower roles" can turn into big opportunities to lead worship. Be committed and available. As they say in show business, 90% of success is simply showing up.

You might be surprised at the number of aspiring worship leaders and band members I've encountered who made a commitment then didn't show up for rehearsal, or worse, the service. As a leader, I remember that for a long time. Typically, I won't ask them to do anything important on my team, such as lead a song or fill in as worship leader.

When I was younger, I was intrigued by Proverbs 22:1, NIV. It says, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." I always thought it was weird that someone would rather be respected than have a pile of cash. I mean, if you have enough cash, you can pay your own way without anyone's help.

But as I got older, I realized the importance of a good name, which is another way of saying a good reputation. When you're respected, doors open for you — in the ministry, at work, and everywhere you go.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true, too. If you prove yourself unfaithful over and over, you couldn't pay someone enough to give you another opportunity.

Be very careful with any and every opportunity you're given. Show up, even if you're not feeling well (as long as you're not contagious). Don't be frail. I've worked with a lot of talented musicians who had potential, but they always had a headache, stayed up too late the night before, or accidentally double booked themselves. Rise above simply not wanting to go to rehearsal. If you're a tough soul, always available, and show up rain or shine, doors you didn't even know existed will open, and those doors will lead to new doors. If you keep your name "golden," there's no limit to what you can do.

DAY 12 ACTION ITEMS

- Write down some people you can ask to help them in their ministry.
- Commit to helping in any capacity, even running lights or lyric slides.
- List some ways you will try to have a “golden” name. Be available and don’t back out of commitments.
- Continue to practice your worship set. Your worship time is just two days away! It’s a good time to again pray for your upcoming worship service and remind your band that you’re rehearsing and playing in the next two days.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

“I wish I had known more of the Word and not just a love for music in the beginning. I believe the best worship leaders should have a deep passion to share what’s in their hearts because when it touches us, it will touch those listening.”

--Judy R., Georgia, USA



DAY

13

DRESS

REHEARSAL

Today is your final rehearsal before the big day. Think of it as a dress rehearsal.

In a stage production, the cast rehearses countless times in many formats, from reading lines to acting out the play complete with blocking. Finally, very close to the big show, the cast dons full costumes and puts on the entire play from start to finish— for no one.

Why the extra effort? Can't the director skip this final step and do all that on opening night?

He or she could, but that would be a really bad idea.

Countless things could go wrong, from costume changes to lighting to microphones. It's hard to know what is amiss unless you've rehearsed exactly as you will do it "for real." The same is true for worship.

In my church, we typically have a mid-week rehearsal where we work on the songs, transitions, and other nuts and bolts. Then, Sunday morning before service is basically our dress rehearsal. We run through the whole set without stopping (unless there's something to fix or smooth out). The tech team dials in sound at the same time. You'll want to have your dress rehearsal in the same location as the actual worship service.

And you should actually worship, too. If you "practice" worshiping in a specific location, it will feel more natural when you do it in front of people.

Play exactly how you will be leading: standing, singing into the mic, and including prayers and words between songs. Use the monitor system you will be using and any other equipment.

HOW DOES THE "DRESS REHEARSAL" HELP?

This final rehearsal helps everyone involved.

THE LEADER: It helps you as the leader to get comfortable with the stage, the sound system, microphone, and more. It reveals flaws in your plan, all the way down to problems flipping your sheet music.

THE BAND: You'll find out if a band member forgot that he or she was starting a song. You'll know if someone has a short in their guitar that's making a crackling sound. It's better to find and fix problems at the dress rehearsal than during the service.



THE TECH TEAM: This is a great time for the tech team to get set up exactly as they will for the actual set. A bonus is that you can probably leave everything as-is once the rehearsal is over. This will save setup time.

The only thing you haven't replicated is the audience. Maybe you could even invite a few folks who would like to come and watch and worship during your dress rehearsal. That way, you even have a little pressure to lead worship as you will "for real."

DAY 13 ACTION ITEMS

- Set up a time for your dress rehearsal with your band, tech team, and whoever oversees the service location.
- Make sure the band is still practicing the songs at home.
- Get there earlier than anyone else to pray, practice, and set up.
- Set expectations. Everyone should play as if at the service. Only stop playing if something fell apart. Feel free to review parts later that you need to smooth out.
- If possible, leave sound equipment up after rehearsal to reduce setup for tomorrow's service.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

"Worship teams worship. As soon as the performance outweighs the worship — as soon as I'm more concerned or concentrating more on nailing it than I am with worshipping our God and King — then the people don't get the worship. Leading people in worship means I'm worshipping. When I don't, they don't."

--Rob G., Pastor, Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, North Dakota, USA



DAY

14

NOW IS

THE TIME

TO WORSHIP

**You are my strength. I sing praise to you;
you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom
I can rely.**

PSALM 59:17 (NIV)

It's finally here.

You may have been worried about this day for a long time. All that self-doubt saying you could never get up and lead worship. You aren't outgoing or musically gifted enough. You aren't anything like this famous worship leader or that famous band. All those thoughts don't matter now because you're about to prove that you can lead worship despite supposed shortcomings.

Doubts happen because most people think they fail because they aren't good at something. That's a lie.

You see, most people fail due to lack of preparation. There are countless examples through history of someone becoming the best in the world at something even though they were not particularly gifted at it. How did they do it? A lot of preparation and hard work.

Hopefully, at this point you've put in your hard work. You might even find leading worship fun— not scary or stressful at all. That's the work of preparation.

That being said, there's still a lot to do today, so let's get started!

BEFORE THE WORSHIP TIME

ARRIVE EARLY: Get your gear and music set up. Assume it will take you twice as long as you think it will. Don't leave anything to chance.

PRAY WITH YOUR TEAM: Set aside five to ten minutes to pray when everyone gets there. It's amazing how much more smoothly everything goes after you've prayed.

PLUG IN: If you have a sound system, plug in and get a sound check. Make sure everything is balanced, and you can hear yourself.

RUN THROUGH SONGS: you don't have to rehearse your full set again. You did that during the dress rehearsal. But play a loud part of a song and a soft part of a song to make sure everything sounds good at all volume levels.



WORSHIP

OPEN: As a worship leader, you are a thermostat, not a thermometer. That means you set the tone and temperature of the room. You don't respond to it. Many worship leaders say they "couldn't get into worship because everyone was dead." Well, maybe everyone was dead because they were following your lead. Set the tone early and open with an encouraging word and prayer. Be enthusiastic! Crack a joke, even. Break the ice in almost any way possible. You have the freedom to set the tone, so use it!

LEAD IN WORSHIP: Lead the songs just like you've practiced. But don't stop there. Be a worship leader, not just a song leader. That entails adding prayers, words, and encouragement during worship. For example, you might read a Psalm between songs or ask people to lift their hands and sing. You might have a time of free worship in the middle of a song. One caveat, though: don't add anything you didn't already rehearse!



CONNECT: Don't close your eyes the whole time. Engage with the audience. As a worship leader, notice how people are reacting to a song. Move onto another song early if you need to. Extend a song if people are worshipping. I know I just said don't do anything you haven't rehearsed, but on the other hand, worship leading is all about improvising. You're new, so don't go overboard. But feel free to repeat a chorus spontaneously if it feels right.

KEEP GOING: Whatever happens, don't stop. Up until now, you've had the luxury of stopping and restarting if you need to. Now it would be disruptive to worship. This is your first time leading, and there will probably be mistakes. But people probably won't notice them if you keep going. I've been in some pretty rough worship times over the years, but I don't think I've stopped an entire song more than once or twice in more than two decades of leading worship. If someone totally blanks on their instrumental part, proceed with a strong strum on your guitar or solid chords on keys. Or just keep singing the part you want to be on. Eventually, everyone will follow you and get back on track.

ENDING THE SONG SET

KNOW HOW YOU WILL END THE SET: Have a plan. This is a part you should practice in rehearsal. What happens at the end? Praying is an easy and natural way to end a worship time. Or has another leader come up and transition to the next part of the service?

PLAN A MUSICAL ENDING: Will you keep playing the chord progression of the last song? What instruments will play at the end? Most likely, you'll want background music for the transition to the next part of the service.

EXIT THE STAGE: Quietly put down your instruments and mics. Exit the stage on tiptoes. This is an artform that takes practice. It's pretty hard to leave the stage without making a lot of noise, but it's important not to distract from the next part of the service.

BE READY TO COME BACK UP: You never know when the pastor will want a time of prayer at the end or just a closing song. Often, it's unexpected. Be ready to quietly step onto the stage and play another song. It's okay to repeat one you've already done.



✔ DAY 14 ACTION ITEMS

You did it! Just a couple of weeks ago, you probably thought you could never lead worship, and now you've launched your worship leading journey. With this book, your church, your pastor, tech team, and band, God brought everything together for you. This is because He is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). But He's also looking for people who can make things happen for themselves.

I'm reminded of Joshua 18. Many tribes of Israel had already taken possession of various lands. But seven tribes hadn't yet. Joshua basically said to them, "What are you waiting for? Go claim your land and move in." Evidently, those seven tribes were waiting for permission to take what God had already given them. Joshua and God were waiting for them to show some initiative.

The same is true for us. We can sit around for decades waiting for someone to come to ask us to lead worship. But it will likely never happen. We must volunteer, be available,

stay committed, and lead worship when we get the chance.

He will open opportunities for you if you keep pursuing this calling to lead others in true worship.

You've just completed your first musical worship service, but you're not done yet. Reflect on your worship time by writing down your thoughts while they are fresh.

- Write down:
 - What went well?
 - What you could improve?
 - Could you have prepared better? How?
 - What was the biggest surprise?
 - How did people respond to various elements like songs, transitions, and prayers?
- Next time you lead worship, refer to this journal.
- Incorporate improvements and work on things that went well to make them even better.

WORSHIP LEADER WISDOM

“One thing I wish I knew was that even famous people aren't perfect. I heard a raw recording of a well-known Christian band singing on YouTube and the entire song was off pitch. It reminded me that I don't have to be perfect in my craft, but real in my heart.”

Austin M., Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA

FINAL THOUGHTS

I hope this book has helped you take the first step in your worship journey, or helped you improve your craft.

I'd love to know what you thought about the book.

Email me if you have feedback that could help me improve future versions of the book. Or if this resource helped you, I'd love to hear about it. Go to worshipdeeper.com/contact to send me a message.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE RESOURCES THAT MIGHT HELP YOU:

THE WORSHIP LEADER 101 PODCAST: This is the only worship podcast that I know of that focuses on new and beginning worship leaders. I go over tips on how to get started and how to grow as a worship leader during the first few years. It's available on iTunes or any other podcast player. See WorshipDeeper.com/podcast

THE WEBSITE: Visit WorshipDeeper.com. There are some great resources there for learning about worship leading, finding songs, and some tech advice, too.

WORSHIP SONG OF THE WEEK: I send out an email with a weekly song suggestion for worship leaders. Go to <https://worshipdeeper.com/worship-song-of-the-week> to check out recent songs and subscribe. By subscribing, you'll also get notified about new resources and tools for worship.

INSTAGRAM: I post worship advice and more, plus it's a great place to connect with me. Go to <https://www.instagram.com/worshipdeeper/> or @worshipdeeper on the app.

FACEBOOK: I'll notify you when I come out with new resources and blog posts. Like my page at <https://www.facebook.com/worshipdeeper/> or @worshipdeeper on the app.

May God richly bless your worship leading journey!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Lucas has been leading worship for more than 20 years in churches across the Pacific Northwest, USA. In 2015, he started WorshipDeeper.com, which is now a valued resource for thousands of worship leaders every month. In 2019, he launched the Worship Leader 101 Podcast, which provides tips and advice for newer worship leaders.

LEARN TO LEAD WORSHIP IN 14 DAYS

Outline

**A POWERFUL, PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LEADING
WORSHIP – FAST – EVEN IF YOU’VE NEVER
DONE IT BEFORE.**

INTRO

- Yes, you can start leading worship in 14 days
 - Story of my first time leading worship
 - 2 years of piano, no worship leading experience, 1 hour of prep
 - That means you can learn in 14 days
- How to use this training

DAY 1:

FIND OUT IF YOU'RE CALLED, PLUS, WHAT IS WORSHIP ANYWAY?

- Motives can be deceiving
 - You might feel you selfishly want to be in front of people or look cool
 - That could be God getting you to start toward your calling
- The fact that you're taking this training is a good indication that God is calling you
- What is worship?
 - Overview of worship as described by Scripture
 - What was it used for?
 - Why does God want us to worship him?
- Even with all this scriptural training, don't feel like you have to be a worship expert to lead worship
 - If your heart's in the right place, God will continue to push you down the right path
- Day 1 worship study and action items

DAY 2:

NUTS AND BOLTS: DETERMINE YOUR ACCOMPANIMENT

- You will need instrumentation of some kind
- Which types of instruments are best for worship leaders
- Assuming you play an instrument, at least a little:
- If you don't have one, get a guitar
- Learn G, C, D, Em, Am. Capo everything at first
 - How to learn keys fast, if you have experience there
 - Or, partner up with someone who already plays and start rehearsing

Type your

- Playing by ear: your greatest friend
- Tips on playing and singing at the same time
 - Tasks that seem impossible to you now are attainable.
 - The brain is super flexible and adapts quickly if you push it toward a skill
- You don't play an instrument
 - Find a friend who plays
 - Use your church's or youth group's band (this is ideal)
 - Find an inexpensive backing track
 - Backing track options

DAY 3:

SCHEDULE YOUR FIRST WORSHIP TIME

- Now that you have chosen your instrument, band, or accompaniment, choose a date that works with everyone involved
 - Also schedule rehearsals if you are playing with a band or accompanist.
- This deadline will force you to put serious effort into getting ready
- You won't have time to put off getting ready
- Where to look for an opportunity
 - Youth groups
 - Kids church
 - Small group
 - Retirement homes
 - Don't ask to lead worship for the main church yet
- Make your own opportunity.
 - Current worship leaders and pastors love it when new leaders show initiative
 - Leaders shouldn't have to pave the way for you.

DAY 4:

CHOOSE YOUR SONGS

- Why choose songs so early? To get good at just those songs
- Make sure they're easy
- Pick songs that everyone will know. This isn't a time to teach a new song
- Don't worry about learning a huge library of songs yet
- How to choose a good set
- Know your vocal range
- Day 4 action items

DAY 5:

CREATE THE ARRANGEMENTS

- Arrangements
 - Determine the order in which you'll play and sing the song.
 - e.g. verse, chorus, verse, bridge, etc. Make sure the band knows the plan
- Make notes in your music.
 - Does this part get bigger?
 - Do we sing a capella during this chorus?
- Day 5 action items

DAY 6:

WORK OUT YOUR TRANSITIONS

- A worship set is only as good as the transitions
- Know what you're going to do between each song
 - That could be a musical transition, prayer, scripture reading, or short word.
- Transitions are a great time to practice being a "worship pastor" not just a "worship leader"
 - A worship leader leads songs and makes sure the worshipers know where you're going musically
 - A pastor "shepherds" the worshipers, teaches about worship, and guides people spiritually
- Pastoring may be a bit much to handle your first time leading worship. But keep that

in mind as you grow.

- Day 6 action items

DAY 7:

PRAY AND READ PSALMS

- Psalms are ancient songs that people used to worship God
- Studying these somehow centers you on God
 - Getting centered in God takes your focus off yourself
 - The less self-conscious you are, the better you'll sound
 - Pick one or two Psalms. Read through them each day
- Knowing the Psalms will help you give words of encouragement during your worship set. These scriptures will roll off your tongue naturally as you lead
- Day 7 action items

DAY 8:

GET YOUR MUSIC READY

- Make notes
- Get a binder with clear holders to flip easily
- Another option is an iPad that runs Music Stand.
 - This may be out of budget for you or your church, though
- Worship music resources
 - CCLI
 - Internet chord charts
- Day 8 action items
 - Find and print off your music sheets
 - Make notes about dynamics, arrangement, transitions

DAY 9:

START VOCAL WARMUPS

- Voice is like any muscle
- You need to work it out to make it perform when you need it
 - Resources include CDs, Spotify playlists, and YouTube
- Day 9 action items
 - Find 1-2 vocal warmup resources.
 - Do the warmups
 - Keep a journal or calendar of how long you worked out your voice each day

DAY 10:

GET COUNSEL

- Meet with your pastor, spiritual leader, or worship leader
- Ask them to pray you into your role
 - There's nothing magical about this
 - The Bible is full of stories of spiritual authorities anointing individuals for service
- Ask for advice
- Day 10 action items

DAY 11:

REHEARSAL #1

- Hold your first rehearsal
- Rehearsal tips
- After rehearsal, practice in front of a friend and in front of a mirror
- For some, it's actually worse to play in front of one person than many. That's me
- Playing in front of anyone – even one person – will force you to keep going even if you mess up.
- Getting in front of a mirror will let you know if you are doing anything weird when you play or sing.
- Day 11 action items

DAY 12:

SING BACKUP VOCALS FOR ANOTHER WORSHIP LEADER

- You can get the feel of being on stage without leading
- Get used to singing into a mic, projecting
- Get used to the equipment, like monitors, confidence screens, music stands, in-ear monitors or headphones, etc.
- Day 12 action items

DAY 13:

ONE MORE REHEARSAL. PRACTICE IN THE LOCATION YOU WILL BE LEADING, BUT WITHOUT ANYONE THERE

Type your te

- For instance, stand at the front of the room where the youth group meets and sing to an empty room
- This will give help you get used to the room and atmosphere
- Actually worship there. If you practice worshiping in a location, it will feel more natural when you do it in front of people
- Play exactly how you will be leading: standing, into the mic, etc., with any monitor system you will be using.
- Day 13 action items

DAY 14:

IT'S WORSHIP DAY

- Before the worship time
 - Arrive early to get your gear and music set up
 - Pray with your team
 - If you have a sound system, plug in and get a sound check. Make sure everything is balanced and you can hear yourself
 - If possible, run through your songs before people arrive. Run it as though it's the real set with transitions, prayers, etc.
- Worship time:
 - Open the time up in prayer and give a call to worship
 - Lead the songs just like you've practiced. Don't get fancy with anything you hav-

en't already practiced

- Don't close your eyes the whole time. Engage with the audience

- Watch the crowd. Part of being a worship leader is being able to end a song early or extend it depending on how people are engaging

- Ending the song set

- Know how you will end the set

- Pray, or have another leader come up and transition to the next part of service

- Be sensitive to what's going on. Be ready to repeat a song, or have an extra song ready if people still want to worship

CONCLUSION:

REVIEW YOUR WORSHIP TIME

- Keep a journal of what went well, what could improve

- Next time you lead worship, refer to this journal

LEARN TO LEAD WORSHIP IN 14 DAYS

Companion Journal

**PRINT OUT THIS JOURNAL AND WRITE DOWN
YOUR NOTES, PRAYERS, PROGRESS, AND
PLANS EACH DAY.**

Day 6 Action Items

Here's your homework for today:

- Make sure your songs are in the appropriate keys for transitions. If not, consider changing the keys up or down on any given song to make the transitions easier. Just make sure you can still sing all the songs.
- Make notes on which instruments will transition the song. If it will be just you and a guitar or piano, figure out creative ways the guitar can transition. Or, start a song with vocals only. Don't worry about making it neat yet. We'll work up final chord charts with transitions and arrangements on Day 8.
- Prepare to practice transitions at your rehearsal (which is coming up on Day 11). You may end up putting almost as much time into practicing transitions as the songs themselves.
- Pull up on YouTube a few concerts by bands like Hillsong and Elevation Worship. Find the transitions specifically. How are they getting from one song to the next? These groups have invested many hours into their transitions. Feel free to borrow their techniques.
- Continue practicing your songs. This time, practice the songs, arrangements, and transitions in front of a mirror.

Day 8 Action Items

- Ask your worship leader or pastor if your church has a CCLI subscription. If so, ask if you can be added to the account so you can pull legal, licensed music sheets from the system.
- If you don't have access to CCLI, ask your worship leader how he or she usually finds sheet music.
- Explore [PraiseCharts.com](https://www.praisecharts.com) and [Worshiptogether.com](https://www.worshiptogether.com).
- Look at all your notes from Days 3, 4, and 5. Print new chord charts and organize the following:
 - o Arrangement
 - List the sequence of verses, choruses, etc. down the side margin.
 - o Transitions
 - Think about which instrument will start the song, and how you will get there from the previous song.
 - o Any special instrumentation or dynamics you would like to have in the song, such as a musical break, a certain piano part behind the chorus, etc.
- Type into Amazon "black 1 inch binder 3 ring" and "clear sheet protectors 3 ring binder". Buy these items here or at a local office products store.
- Or, if you have an iPad or Android tablet, experiment with using the Music Stand app or other similar apps.

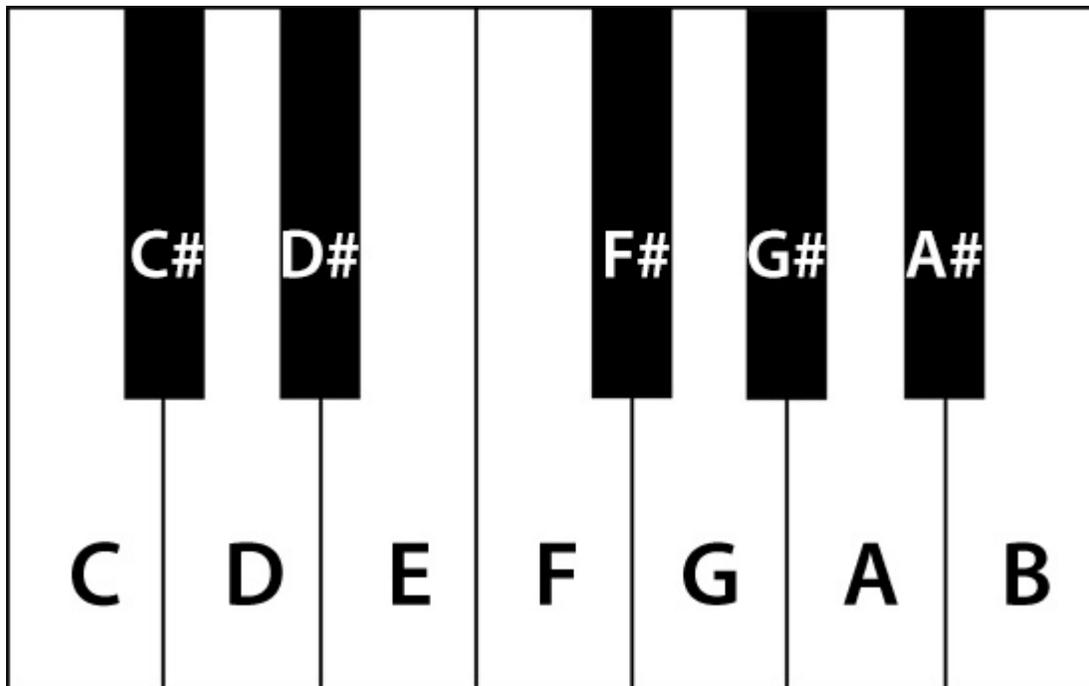
5-Minute Music Theory Cheat Sheet

WorshipDeeper.com

Most western music is based on the major scale. That scale consists of seven notes.

Let's look at the key of C as an example.

The key of C happens to be all white keys on a piano keyboard.



Each note in the scale can also be thought of as a number.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	D	E	F	G	A	B

Most worship music uses the 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 chords in any given key.

You may have seen them written like this: I, ii, IV, V, vi

(The major chords use upper case Roman numerals and the minor chords use lower case.)

Some chords in the key are major, some are minor. For example, in C:

1	2	4	5	6
C major	D minor	F major	G major	A minor

Adding in less common chords (iii and vii) you will see chords in the key of C as follows. Note that the 3 (iii) is minor and the 7 (vii) is diminished. A diminished chord is built like this: 1, flat 3, flat 5, flat flat 7 (the 7 is brought a whole step lower). So a C diminished would be a C, Eb, Gb, A.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	D m	E m	F	G	A m	B dim

Cheat Sheet

Now you know why you always see the same chords in songs in a certain key. Here are common chords in all the keys – your cheat sheet!

KEY OF C

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C major	D minor	E minor	F major	G major	A minor	B dim

KEY OF D

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D major	E minor	F# minor	G major	A major	B minor	C# dim

KEY OF E

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
E major	F# minor	G# minor	A major	B major	C# minor	D# dim

KEY OF F

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
F major	G minor	A minor	B \flat major	C major	D minor	E dim

KEY OF G

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G major	A minor	B minor	C major	D major	E minor	F \sharp dim

KEY OF A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A major	B minor	C \sharp minor	D major	E major	F \sharp minor	G \sharp dim

KEY OF B

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B major	C \sharp minor	D \sharp minor	E major	F \sharp major	G \sharp minor	A \sharp dim

KEY OF C#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C# major	D# minor	E# (F) minor	F# major	G# major	A# minor	B# dim

KEY OF D#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D# major	E# minor	F## (G) minor	G# major	A# major	B# (C) minor	C## (D)dim

KEY OF F#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
F# major	G# minor	A# minor	B major	C# major	D# minor	E# (F) dim

KEY OF G#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G# major	A# minor	B# (C) minor	C# major	D# major	E# (F) minor	F## (G)dim

KEY OF A#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A# major	B# (C) minor	C## (D) minor	D# major	E# (F) major	F## (G) minor	G## (A)dim

Key of Db

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Db major	Eb minor	F minor	Gb major	Ab major	Bb minor	C dim

Key of Eb

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Eb major	F minor	G minor	Ab major	Bb major	C minor	D dim

Key of Gb

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gb major	Ab minor	Bb minor	Cb major	Db major	Eb minor	F dim

Key of Ab

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ab major	Bb minor	C minor	Db major	Eb major	F minor	G dim

Key of Bb

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bb major	C minor	D minor	Eb major	F major	G minor	A dim