

Songwriting Workshop

Aim:

To help the young people learn how to build creativity and write songs for the church.

Overview:

Today we are going to look at the art of writing songs. Hopefully the short time we have will help equip you to have a go at writing your own songs for your "church!" I will give you some tips, we will look at a few exercises to help get the creative juices flowing and more importantly we will have a go at writing some songs!

Introduction:

We really need songwriters for the church; people who are going to help us worship and sing truth about our Glorious God. The bible encourages and commands us to sing to God and to sing new songs. There is always more to say about God, He is limitless, He is all powerful, He has no beginning and no end, He is unshakable, unbeatable and is worthy of our worship.

In **Isaiah 42**, in psalms **66v1, 68v5, 96v1, 98v1** and loads more saying,
"Sing a new song to the Lord all the earth, praise the glory of His name"

Creative Exercises

Circle Story: Create a story on the topic of "God" one word per person

Other creative tips:

Walk to School or to your mates: A different route than usual, break out of normality.

Get out in the open look at God's awesome creation and be inspired.

See God in the ordinary: How do every items remind You of God; i.e phone charger - 3 pins trinity, need to plug into God for power..

Exercise...your brain weighs 2% of your body mass but takes 20% of the oxygen.... get the blood pumping that helps creativity.

Rest: is important we need to be firing on all cylinders to be the most creative

Eat the right stuff: again really important to enhance creativity.

Tips for writing songs for the Church.

- **Pray** - to the one who gives us the songs in the first place. Ask God to get involved and inspire you by His Spirit and to reveal things that He wants the church to know and declare.
- **Use the bible** - the greatest resource to us ever! The more you know God the more you will be able to write about! Also you can nick lyrics from there and no one can do you for it! ;)
- **Write** about what God is doing in your life/church or what you would love to see Him do.
- **Keep** a note pad with you to jot down lyrics or use our mobile if it has a recording feature to get any melodies you create on the go. Or if your really sad like me ring your house or mobile and let it go to answer phone then sing on to that. Just get the ideas down as you will probably forget them later on.
- **Make** the songs singable! These are not just “sing to” songs, these are songs that the church are going join as one to worship God with so we need singable songs that are easy to remember. Maybe try matching syllables (example “Praise is rising” or “Beautiful one”) Also watch the range are they to high or low to sing?
- **Write** “we” songs not just “me” songs. When we get together as the church body we want to sing inclusive not exclusive songs.
- **Try** not to be “lazy” with your lyrics - make sure that every sentence you use is as strong as possible. Also try and stay away from “Christian jargon”
- **There’s** no set way to write a song, sometimes the lyrics will come first, sometimes the melody, sometimes a verse or tag, sometimes a chorus... don’t worry just go with the flow.
- **Be creative** don’t just copy the current worship leaders trend, if you love dance write some kicking dance tunes for God. If your into drum and bass - drop some beats! Don’t feel worship songs are confined to an acoustic guitar or a pop/rock band!
- **Co-write** - two heads are better than one. Guard your heart from pride in wanting to do the whole song yourself.
- **Check** your lyrics over with someone with good bible knowledge to make sure what your trying to say is biblical!
- **Take your time** - don’t try and rush and get the song done in one hour, some songs take weeks, months or even years!
- **Find** someone you trust (who will be honest with you) and show them the song before you use it in church, you might find it needs a bit more work or certain areas could be strengthened.
- **Remember** when we sing we joining in the bigger picture; all creation and heaven offering praise to our glorious King!

Have a go!

Have a go in 2’s or 3’s

Either make up your own lyrics, or use some from the bible.

Re-write a psalm or maybe a rap a psalm or speak out a psalm underneath a beat.

Maybe make up your own lyrics to a popular “secular” song

Maybe just make a melody and hum it if your struggling for words.

Lets not be shy, lets go for it and lets be creative!

Pray together, split into groups and help facilitate the writing.

Chris Sayburn

www.chrissayburn.com