

# Worship music at Camp!

Worshipping together as a camp is a time when God's presence can be experienced in powerful and moving ways. Music can help prepare our hearts and minds to be open to the Spirit of God in the act of worship, and music can also emphasize or reinforce a camp message or theme.

## Flow of Worship

Worship needs a direction and a sense of flow towards the hearing and understanding of God's Word through prayer, a chosen scripture, or spoken message. Music can facilitate this direction and flow. Here two models of how music can do this:

- 1) Opening of worship: **Fast, fun song (1 or 2)**  
Transition: **Medium tempo song**  
Focus and Reflection: **Slow song- contemplative, prayerful**  
Message: Time of prayer, reading of scripture, or a spoken message  
Response: Small group sharing, personal testimony, or singing of **special song** that highlights the message or scripture (Many times this song can serve as closing of worship song, especially if is high energy.)  
Closing of worship: **Fast or Medium tempo song**
- 2) Same as above except for Closing of worship can feature a **slow song** to maintain the prayerful and reflective mood or energy. This model is appropriate for campfire worship at the end of the day.

Example: Opening: Grab Another Hand  
Praise Ye the Lord, Alleluia  
Transition: Awesome God  
Focus/Reflection: Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord  
Message:  
Response: I Have Decided (theme song)  
Closing of worship: They'll Know We Are Christians

## Choosing Music That Is Message/Theme Specific

Music can be chosen to support a daily message or an overall theme (like the theme song "I Have Decided" in the worship example above.) Using music in this way requires planning. The music you choose for worship should be:

- Directly related to your message and/or theme
- Simple (not too many words)
- Easy to sing.

Choosing a song that is simple and easy to sing is very important for any song in worship.

## Important Tips for Planning Worship Music

If you have a musician on your staff (someone who plays guitar or keyboard, or someone who is a strong singer), it is possible to bring these special songs to the worship experience through live performance. If you do not have such a person on staff, you could use a recording of the song on a stereo or laptop computer. Camp has a set of computer speakers.

If the special song you want to incorporate into worship is not well known (as may be the case if your campers are largely un-churched), then you should have a PowerPoint slide prepared or a printed song sheet with the lyrics. Camp has a large collection of worship songs already on PowerPoint loaded onto a flash drive ready for use with a computer and projector. And Camp also has a collection of the green (teale) worship books available for use. Those books have many songs in them.

Campers, with the help of a staff musician can create an original song based on a scripture or camp theme. This is a powerful way to enrich teaching of your scripture or theme.

When planning your worship, think through or visualize the experience. Imagine how a certain song will sound and how a certain song will work in context of worship time. When choosing a song for your worship, ask the following questions:

- 1) Easy the song simple and easy to sing?
- 2) Does the song have the right energy level?
- 3) Does the song have the right lyrical content for my purpose?

## Some Tried and True Worship Songs

All in All  
Amazing Grace  
Awesome God  
Be Glorified  
Come, Now Is the Time to Worship  
Father, I Adore You  
He Has Made Me Glad  
How Great Is Our God  
Humble Thyself  
I Will Call Upon the Lord  
I'll Fly Away  
In My Life, Lord  
I've Got a River of Life  
I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy  
Jesus Loves Me  
Kum Ba Yah  
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High  
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

More Love, More Power  
Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord  
Pass It On  
Seek Ye First  
Shout to the Lord  
Sing Alleluia to the Lord  
Softly and Tenderly  
Soon and Very Soon  
Take My Life  
10,000 Reasons (chorus)  
This Is the Day the Lord hath Made  
Thy Word  
Trading My Sorrows  
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus  
We Fall Down