

VERBAL TRANSITIONS

The **QUALITY** and **QUANTITY** of what you say in worship is important.

A time of worship will often require you to lead verbally, outside the confines of a song. What and how much you say in these times can have a significant impact on the hearts of those who hear.

Here are some tools for verbal transitions:

Memorize Scripture - Using Bible verses that songs are based on, or Scripture that reflects the theme of the service, can make for effective transitions between songs.

Pray - Worship songs are often prayers. The breaks in the music provide an opportunity for spoken prayer.

Personal Testimony - If a song speaks to a particular experience in your life, share that testimony as an affirmation of what the song expresses. Being open and honest with your congregation makes you more genuine and approachable.

Videos - Using a video that tells a story, or displaying Scripture that relates to the songs, can provide a different transition. Be sure you've worked this out with your technical support team. A smooth transition is important to keep the flow and avoid distractions.

Leading a congregation can be daunting. If you are not yet comfortable speaking in front of your congregation, or you tend to wander from the point, write out what you will say. Avoid rambling or making your spoken introductions only about yourself.

Just as you practice the music, you should also practice and review what you are going to say. This can be done by audio or video recording yourself and reviewing it after. Practicing your verbal transitions in rehearsal can also help your team be sensitive and aware of what you are doing.

It is important to engage with the congregation. Even if you choose to write out what you will say, look up and make eye contact with them as much as possible. Be aware that they are there and make them feel a part of what is presently happening. They are not just a spectator to your worship.

If little things go wrong musically, or you feel unsure about something, avoid talking about that to the congregation. It draws attention to those things and away from our worship of God.