

# The Songs We Sing

## The Twenty-Year Rule

"If someone grows up in our church for 20 years, how well will they know God from what we sing?

## Three Pastoral Roles of Worship Leaders

Shepherd (Eph 4:11-16) – Protect the flock through careful song selection

Servant (John 13:12-16) – Lay down preferences to serve the congregation

Farmer (1 Cor 3:5-9) – Plant seeds of truth that grow over time

## Framework for Song Selection

Criterion	Key Questions
<b>1. Is it True?</b>	Does it contradict Scripture? Is the theology accurate? (Non-negotiable)
<b>2. Objective or Subjective?</b>	Does it teach truth about God (objective) or express our response (subjective)? Balance both.
<b>3. What's the Function?</b>	Gathering? Adoration? Confession? Assurance? Instruction? Commission? Match song to moment.
<b>4. Is it Congregational?</b>	Does it encourage participation or observation? Can the average person sing this?
<b>5. Is it a Fit?</b>	Does it match your congregation's demographics, maturity, musical culture, and current teaching?
<b>6. Right Arrangement?</b>	Range, melody, rhythm, key—does it facilitate participation or highlight performers?

## Best Practices

- Build a core repertoire – Aim for 20-30 songs your church knows deeply
- Balance old and new – Honor hymns and embrace quality modern worship
- Repeat as needed – It takes 6-8 exposures for a song to become familiar
- Get feedback – Listen to your congregation and pastoral team regularly
- Discover new (and old) songs – Continuously explore and expand your repertoire

## Arrangement Elements Checklist

- Range: One-octave range is best
- Melody: Stepwise motion and predictable patterns
- Rhythm: Natural word stress, minimal syncopation
- Key: Works for both vocalists and instrumentalists
- Quality: Does it enhance or diminish the song?
- Resources: Parts, tracks, rehearsal guides available?

**"The songs we sing today become the theology our people carry tomorrow.  
 Choose wisely, sing deeply, and watch God's truth take root."**