

HOW TO CHOOSE AND FIND MUSIC FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

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HOW TO CHOOSE AND FIND MUSIC FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION

You need something to help you make decisions that is not dependent on personal preferences or popularity.



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FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION

Non-negotiable element

Is there anything in the text that contradicts the Scripture?

How well do the lyrics communicate the truth?

Are there lyrics that are questionable?

Can you adapt a lyric if you need to do so?

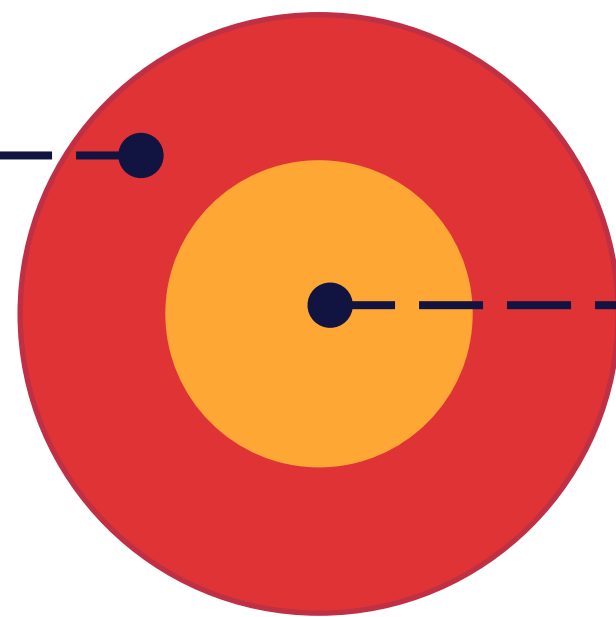


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FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION

**Objective/
Subjective**

Is the song communicating information or expressing feelings?

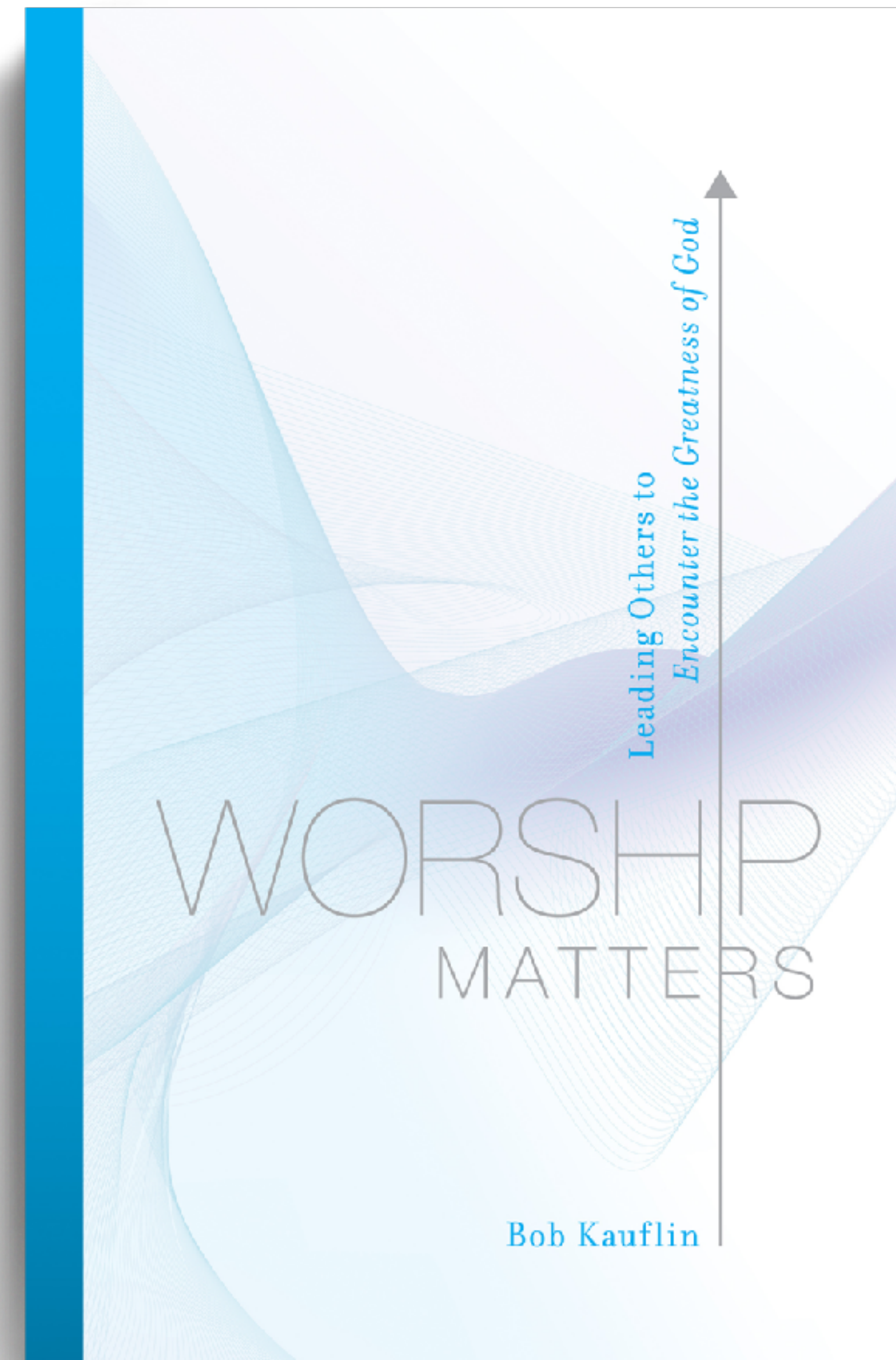


Is it True?

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LYRICAL CATEGORIES

- **Objective lyrics** - tell us something true about God that helps us know him better
- **Subjective lyrics** - express responses to God such as love, longing, conviction, or adoration
- Both are modeled in Scripture. (Psalm 86)



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WORSHIPING GOD WITH OUR MINDS

- Theology - study of God
 - “Every Christian, musical or otherwise, is already a theologian. The question is, am I a good theologian or a bad one?” - Bob Kauflin
- Doctrine - what is taught
 - 1 Timothy 4:6, 13
 - Titus 1:9
- Worship must correspond with the truth. Our minds understand and comprehend this truth. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

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WORSHIPING GOD WITH OUR HEARTS

- What is the difference between emotions and affections?
- Affections spring from beliefs and relationships.
- Emotions are responses to stimuli.
- Neither are bad. They must be put into the proper perspective.

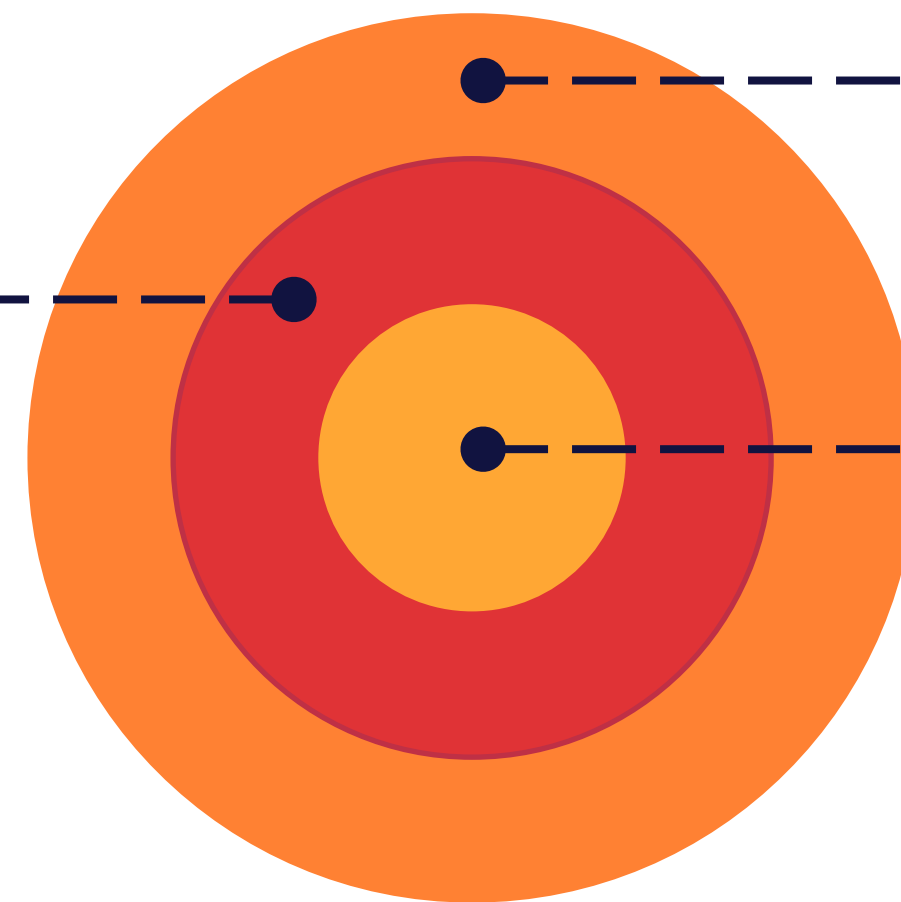


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FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION

What is the song “doing” in the worship service?

**Objective/
Subjective**



Function

Is it True?

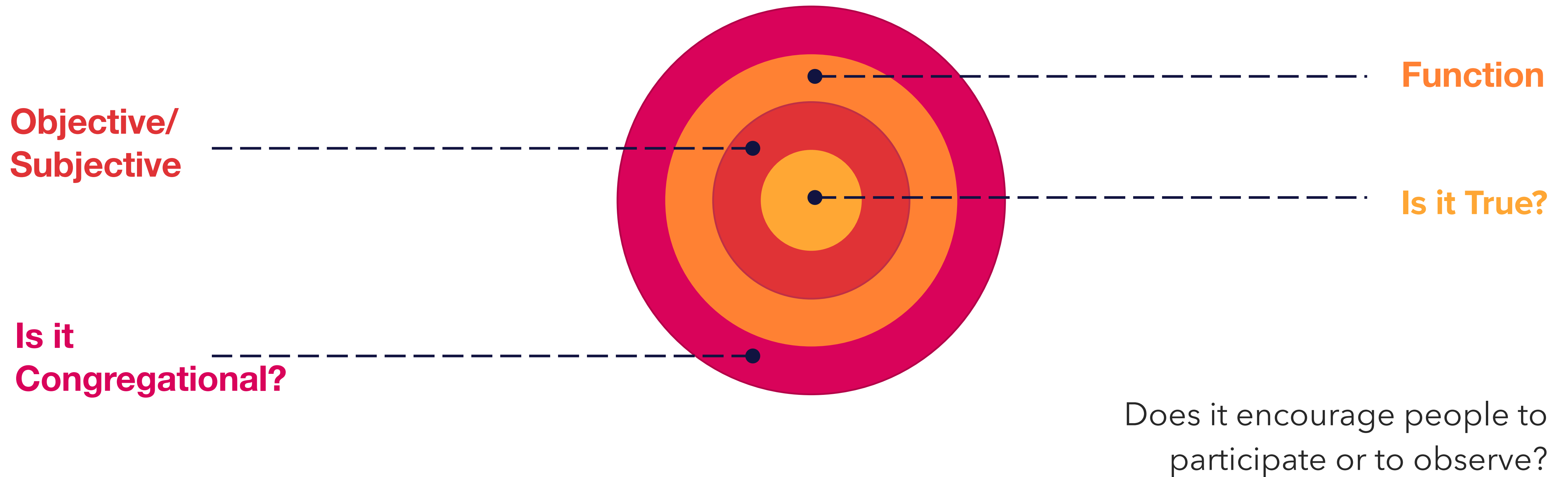
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FUNCTIONS OF WORSHIP ELEMENTS

- ◆ Gathering
- ◆ Proclamation
- ◆ Adoration
- ◆ Confession of Sin
- ◆ Expiation
- ◆ Confessions of Faith
- ◆ Instruction
- ◆ Dedication
- ◆ Commission
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Accompanying the Ordinances

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FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION



WORSHIP IS CORPORATE IN NATURE

Corporate worship is not just a collection of individuals who happen to be worshiping God in the same room.

We gather together as the Body to celebrate what God has done in our lives throughout the week and to glorify Christ who is the Head of the Body.

This is patterned in the Old and New Testaments.

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FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION

Is this the right song
for **your church?**

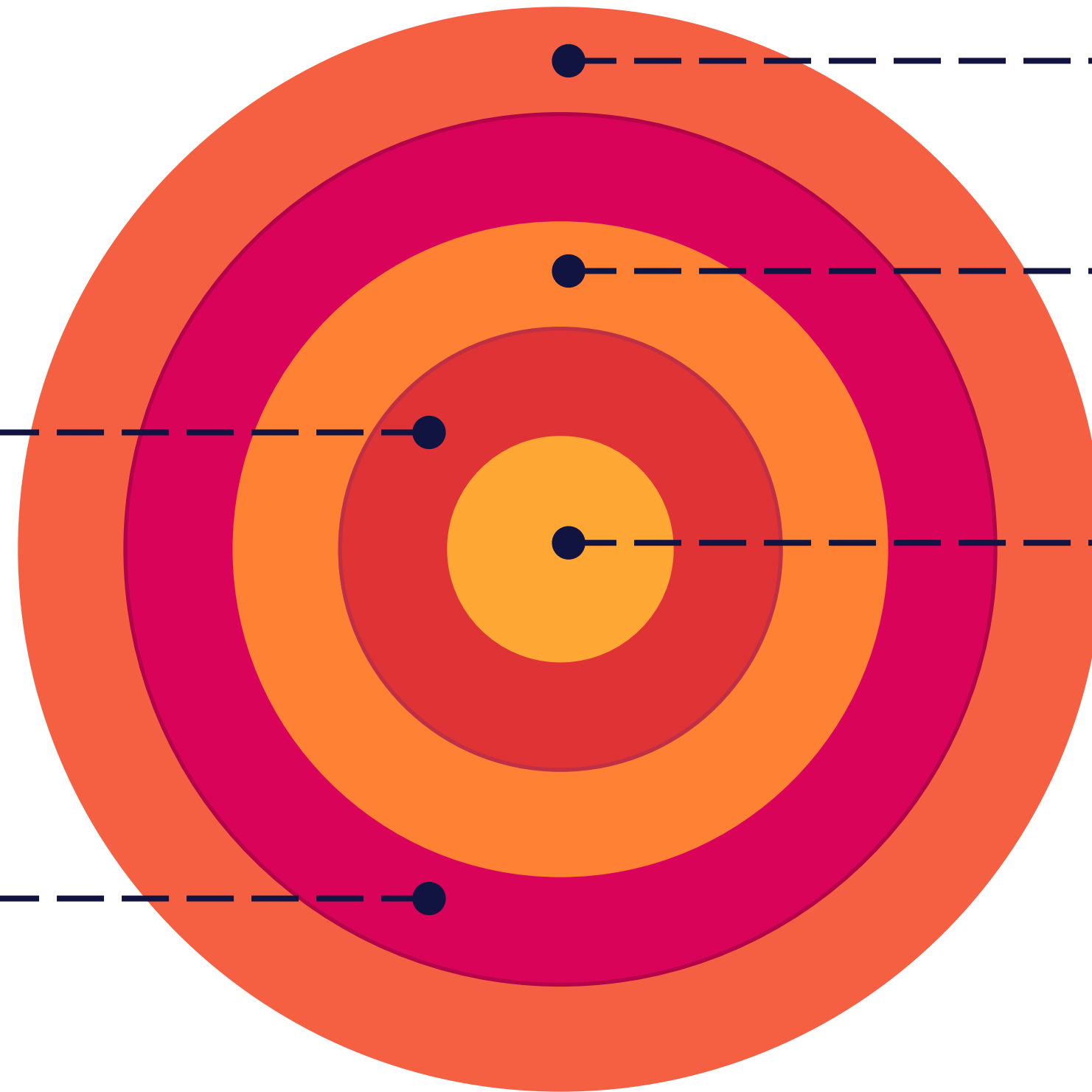
Is it a
Fit?

**Objective/
Subjective**

Function

Is it
Congregational?

Is it True?



THINK LIKE A MUTUAL FUND

Allocation of resources across different types of investments to minimize risk and maximize return

You need to become an expert in your congregation. Who are they? Where have they come from?

The music you sing should reflect who the people are.

On a regular basis, you should take some time to examine if the makeup of the congregation has changed over time.

If so, time to rebalance.



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FRAMEWORK FOR MUSIC SELECTION

Pick the
Arrangement

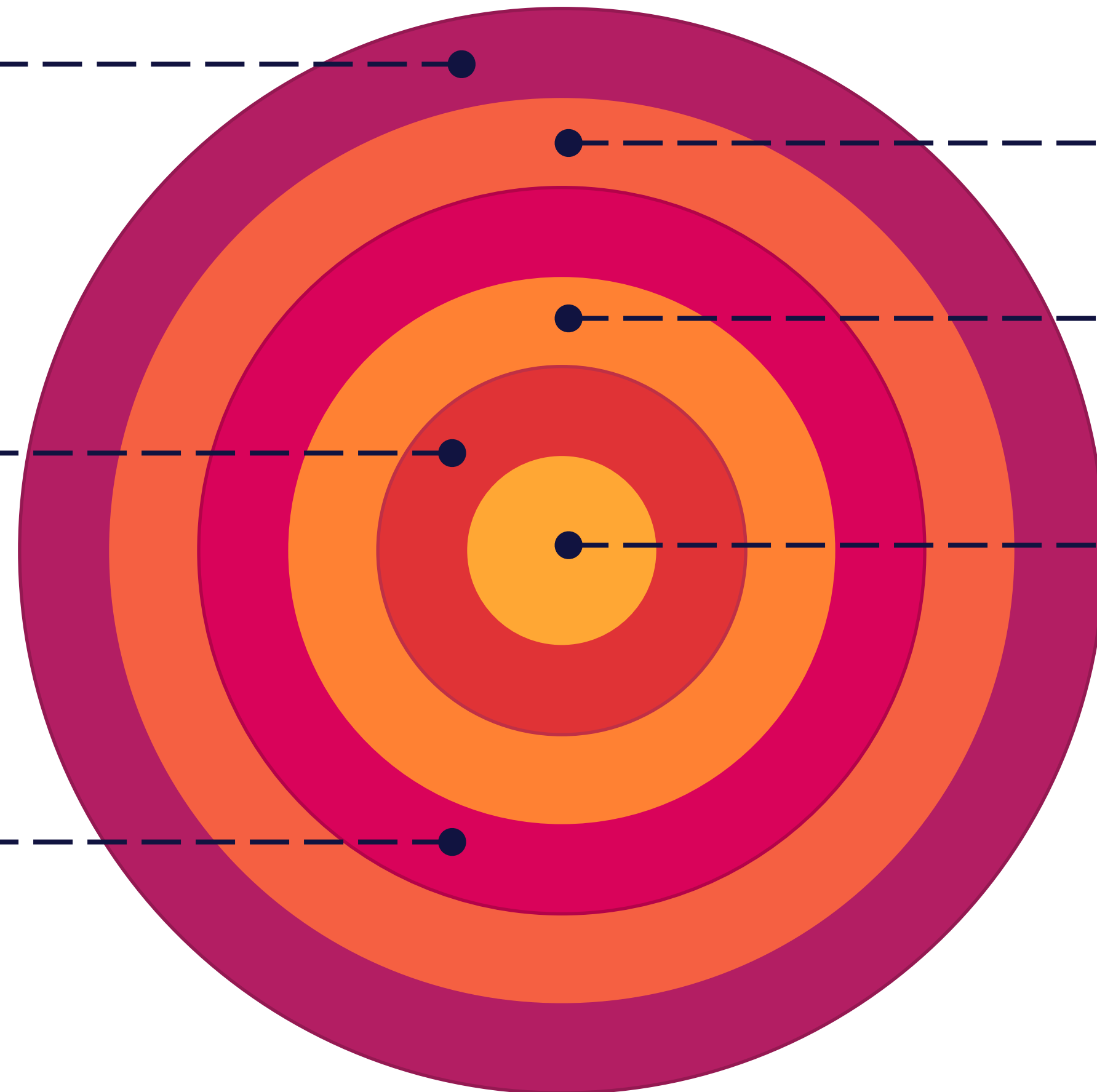
Is it a
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Is it True?



Find the **best** arrangement
for your context.

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ARRANGEMENT ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- Vocal range for the congregation
- Key for the instrumentalists
- Rhythmic integrity and challenge
- How close to the original?
- What is the quality of the arrangement? Does it enhance the original song or is it diminished?
- Does it facilitate congregational participation or does it highlight the skills of the leader/band/vocal team?
- What resources are provided? (Vocal and Instrumental parts, tracks, rehearsal guides, etc.)



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USE MORE CRAYONS!

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FINDING MUSIC FOR WORSHIP



lifewayworship



Sovereign Grace®



WORSHIP CIRCLE

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BUILD MY LIFE

Chorus

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you
Oh, we live for you

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you
Oh, we live for you

Verse

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who You are and fill me
With Your heart and lead me
In your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

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RAISE A HALLELUJAH

Verse

I raise a hallelujah,
in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me

Chorus

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder,
you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Verse

I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!

Bridge

Sing a little louder (In the presence of my
enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for
me)

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IN THE GARDEN

Verse

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Chorus

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Verse

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

Verse

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

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WHO YOU SAY I AM

Verse

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost, but He brought me in
Oh His love for me

Chorus

Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes, I am
Free at last, He has ransomed me

Verse

His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin,
Jesus died for me
Yes, He died for me

Bridge

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am

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O WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

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BATTLE BELONGS

Verse

When all I see is the battle, You see my victory
When all I see is the mountain,
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow,
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
for I am safe with You

Chorus

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
Oh God, the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet

I'll sing through the night
Oh God, the battle belongs to You

Verse

And if You are for me, who can be against me?
For Jesus, there's nothing impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes, You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross,
God, You see the empty tomb

Bridge

Almighty fortress, You go before us
Nothing can stand against the power of our God
You shine in the shadow, You win every battle