

Creating Free Worship Moments

Definition: In a free worship moment, you and your team venture “beyond” the chart of the song. Here vocalists might sing out a prayer, a Scripture, or a fragment of the lyric of the song you’re presenting. The band might vamp over a progression from the song or create an entirely new progression to play. Since you will be singing spontaneous material, it’s probably a good idea to create a unique progression so that the congregation doesn’t think they should be singing along as usual.

From the Word: These moments give your band members a chance to create a “David/Saul” moment. You can read about this principle in **1 Samuel 16:14-23**, where it says “...David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better”. In **Psalms 32:7**, it says “You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance”.

To create your own material for a free worship moment:

- Evaluate the “harmonic rhythm” from previous section. How often did chords change?
 - Develop a section with a different harmonic rhythm.
 - How often were chords changing in the section you’ve just left?
 - Okay, so change chords more quickly.
 - Or, change chords less often.
- Were most of the chords in the previous section in root position?
 - Play some inversions
- Were most of the root movements leaps?
 - Let the bass move in stepwise motion.
- Were most of the root movements stepwise?
 - Let the bass move in leaps.
- Go to a different key.
- Create a “pedal tone”, and unmoving bass note.

An interlude that works: “Lord I Give You My Heart” Reuben Morgan

(1 chord per measure)

F#m7	E/G#	A	B7sus	Bm7	A	E	C#m7
Every moment I’m awake		Lord, have Your way in me					

Repeat this vamp

(1 chord per measure)

Bm7 A E C#m7

When you’re ready to return to the chorus again, let the last measure be:

/ / / /
C#m7 B7sus

Handwriting practice lines consisting of five rows of musical notation. Each row contains 16 measures, with a vertical bar line after every 4 measures. Each measure contains a single diagonal slash (/).

