

# nibbles

## short songs to welcome the word:

### AIM

To learn some short songs written to be used to sing before a Bible reading.

### INTRODUCTION

This habit of singing a song to 'Welcome the Word' has a long tradition in Christian worship. The short songs offered here go to well-known tunes that can be found in most hymn books by looking up the metre of each song or the name of one of the suggested tunes.

If using these in worship you could either

1. practice them before hand with a small group
2. learn them before the service starts but when most people are gathered
3. learn them during the worship itself, just before the point where they fit into the service.

But you could also use them during a meeting when the Bible is going to be read, or have a session of Songs and Hymns from the Bible at a shared meal or other activity. Once you've got the idea why not try writing some yourself?

### What you need:

1. The tune from a hymn book or personal memory
2. Someone confident enough to get you started (this person does not have to be a brilliant musician).

### SONG ONE:

Tune: 8 7 8 7 D - Scarlet Ribbons, or Abbots Leigh or What a friend (Converse).

Speak, Dear God, through all the strangeness  
of the texts we'll share today -  
as we host and entertain them,  
let them breathe and let them stay.  
May they linger with their challenge  
till we're changed by what they say,  
till we find it's You who welcomes,  
walking with us on Your way.

John M. Campbell, 31/3/07, based on an idea from Lance Stone

### SONG TWO:

Tune: 65 65 - Bemerton (Lamb of God unblemished)

Word of God encountered  
on the road of life,  
walk in step beside us,  
share each hope and grief.

Meet us as a stranger,  
linger, speak, intrigue,  
'till, by Your renewal,  
we respond in deed.

John M. Campbell, 5/4/07, based on Luke 24:13-35

**SONG THREE :**

Tune: 10 10 10 10 - Woodlands (Tell out my soul)

Familiar Word, our long-time friend and guide,  
disarm that sense we've heard it all before;  
speak with fresh strangeness through the words we know  
to dazzle, touch, amaze us more and more.

John M. Campbell, 5/4/07, based on an idea from Lance Stone

**SONG FOUR:**

Tune: 76 76 D - Aurelia (The Church's one foundation)

Grant us the wit and wisdom  
to grapple with your word -  
with eager, playful list'ning  
to hear what can be heard -  
that hosting what You offer  
we may ourselves receive,  
then share by word and action  
the God whom we believe.

John M. Campbell, 5/4/07, based on an idea from Lance Stone

**SONG FIVE:**

Tune: 66 11 D - Down Ampney (Come down, O Love Divine)

Spirit of Pentecost,  
surely Your cause is lost  
if we assume we know what you might bring us?  
Through the cacophony  
of our diversity  
surprise us all with words that re-inspire us!

John M. Campbell, 15/4/07, based on Acts 2:1-13

**SONG SIX:**

Tune: 87 87 Iambic - St. Columba (Put peace into each others hands)

God, present in your written word,  
be present now, we pray,  
be welcomed, honoured, given room  
to say what You would say.

And should our readings be well-known,  
words often heard before,  
surprise, intrigue with further gifts,  
bring challenge to our door.

John M. Campbell, 15/4/07, based on an idea from Lance Stone

**SONG SEVEN:**

Tune: CM 86 86 - Crimond or Brother James' Air – (The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want)

Speak now, Great Shepherd, to your sheep;  
give true refreshment here,  
that we may follow where You lead,  
face dangers, yet not fear.

John M. Campbell, 15/4/07, based on Psalm 23

**SONG EIGHT:**

Tune: 8 7 8 7 D - What a friend (Converse), or Abbots Leigh, or Hyfrydol.

Bring your questions, bring your feelings,  
bring the things you think you've learned.  
Here, with God, let's search for meaning,  
in encounter with God's Word.  
By these texts and their re-telling,  
heard through all we bring today,  
resurrect our understanding  
of the role we're called to play.

John M. Campbell, 21/4/07

**SONG NINE:**

Tune: 76 76 D - Penlan (In heavenly love abiding...)

Like clambering Zacchaeus,  
perched shameless in his tree,  
we come as eager searchers  
to see what we might see –  
So, Saviour, bring fresh challenge,  
come stay, and teach and bless,  
enliven with salvation –  
surprise, disturb, impress.

John M. Campbell, 22/4/07, based on Luke 19:1-10

**SONG TEN:**

Tune: 12 10 12 11 - The Bard of Armagh (The Streets of Laredo)

Begin, as we listen, to tell us the Gospel;  
show us God's Kingdom is now close at hand.  
Break into our lives with Your summons to follow,  
disrupt and disturb us till we understand.

John M. Campbell, 21/10/07, based on Mark 1:1 & 14-18

**EVALUATION**

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

**THE NEXT STEP**

This material comes from the Starter section of the menu.

You could choose something else from that section, or go on to something from another section.

If you have written some songs yourself, why not send them in?