

Targets and goals

We should all be looking to better ourselves as musicians and servants at church in our roles as part of the worship team. This is tricky if we're balancing being part of the worship team with our jobs, families and home life but there should be still room for us to grow and develop our skills in our role in church ministry.

All of you reading this are part of a worship team in a vibrant, energetic and evangelical church. That's amazing! There was once a time in your life when the idea of joining the worship team was just a pipe dream. The idea of standing on stage and playing in front of others was terrifying or, if you're on sound, the idea that you could actually understand all those faders and knobs was a crazy idea. Well guess what? You achieved that and it's something to reflect on and feel great about.

Targets and goals are great for improving what we are doing in all areas of our lives but knowing how to set meaningful ones is a tricky task. If they're too easy, we don't even really register that we've even achieved anything of note. If they're too hard then, we get down if we don't hit them or, even worse, can think of ourselves as a failure. This is all about how to set meaningful goals that will help us as musicians and, hopefully, make us feel really good when we achieve them.

The trick is to make sure your goals are well defined, realistic and that you're able to know when you've achieved them. Saying something like: *"I want to get better at drumming in church"* is not a very good target. In what way do you want to 'get better'? What do you need to have done for you to say that you've 'got better'? Where would you even start? A better target would be to say: *"I want to improve my left foot technique so that, in a live setting, I can keep my hi-hats going when I move to the ride with my right hand"*. I know this sentence means a lot more to drummers than the rest of us, but you can see it's a clear goal that you can work on in practice time and, when you've managed to achieve it on stage, you can say that you've met your goal and feel good about it.

Take a bit of time and use the following questions to set yourself some goals you want to achieve in your playing. Make them things that will make you feel better about getting up on stage and playing worship. What particular thing do you want to improve? Be specific and try to set yourself goals that realistic, achievable in the near future (no more than a year away but preferably the next few months) and that have clear parameters so you know when you've got there. Depending on your personality and mind set, you might also find it good to share some of your goals with someone you know and trust in the team too. Maybe they can help you in your journey with knowledge or expertise, or maybe they can offer you support practically or through prayer.

When you've finished filling out the next page, keep it somewhere safe and take a look in a few months. Did you achieve your targets? If you did, take a moment to reflect on the hard work that got you to where you want to be and feel good. If you're not quite there yet, don't worry, have a think about if you need to keep grafting or maybe even slightly revising your targets if you think they were a little too unrealistic for right now.

What three accomplishments would you like to achieve to make you a better musician in the worship band? *Make them specific, realistic and something you could achieve in the near future.*

1.

2.

3.

Why do you think these will make you a better musician? *Thinking about how your goals will make you happier when you achieve them is a good way to give yourself incentive to reach them.*

List three results that will let you know that you've achieved your mission.

1.

2.

3.