The Messenger

Improvisation techniques by Dr. Michael Kearns

Song can be heard at http://www.last.fm/music/Linkin+Park/_/The+Messenger


Key: G

Time: 1/2 time rock feel

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Combining rhythmic motif, melody, and guide tones (3rds or 7ths of chord)

Pick D (preferable) and/or B and focus on rhythm, dynamics, and tone (example provided)

Starting improv on 3rd and 5th and adjusting for next chord with same rhythmic motif
Playing parts of the melody, and even adding a note here and there

Pentatonic scale
Pentatonic scale provides "safe" notes over all chords

Since same 8 bars of chords repeat, you can take melody from another part of song and use it anywhere. Likewise, if two songs use same chords - interchange melodies in improv
This song emphasizes a lot of 2 (9th) to 1 resolutions, so utilize that idea on each chord.