

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS



SESSION THREE

EXECUTING A WORSHIP SET

LESTER ONG



EVALUATING A WORSHIP SET

The spiritual side of worship can only be accessed and experienced by faith.

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

EVALUATING A WORSHIP SET

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

“If you can’t take the credit for the worship, you also shouldn’t take the blame either!”



RECAP – THE 6 BUILDING BLOCKS

1. The songs
2. Exhortation/call to worship
3. Scripture reading
4. Spontaneous singing
5. Prophecy and words of encouragement
6. Prayer and intercession

RECAP – THE 6 BUILDING BLOCKS

The common element of the building blocks is the word of God.

Two observations:

1. The sermon does not have a monopoly on the Word of God.
2. As worship leaders, we need to be full of the Word of God.

Col 3:16:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

BUILDING BLOCK 2: THE EXHORTATION/ CALL TO WORSHIP

John Wimber

The underlying thought of the call to worship is “Let’s do it; lets worship now!”

Examples of a call to worship

1. Prayer
2. Instrumental overture
3. An encouragement or Scripture reading

BUILDING BLOCK 2: THE EXHORTATION/ CALL TO WORSHIP

Matt Redman

Every authentic response in worship comes from revelation. Something happens on the inside and we express something on the outside. You don't find any outside-in worship. That's not how it works. It is always inside out.



BUILDING BLOCK 2: THE EXHORTATION/ CALL TO WORSHIP

All worship is a response to a revelation – it's only as we breathe in more of the wonders of God that we can breathe out a fuller response to Him... The key to a life of passionate and powerful worship comes from seeing God.



BUILDING BLOCK 3: SCRIPTURE READING

Rom 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the word of Christ.



BUILDING BLOCK 4: SPONTANEOUS SINGING

The new song is the song God desires the most.

Ps 22:3 (NKJV)

But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

Praise = tehillah = laudations or hymns of the spirit



BUILDING BLOCK 4: SPONTANEOUS SINGING

Practical tips for spontaneous singing

- a. Let the Word of God inspire your song.
- b. Don't lead off with free worship.
- c. Give focus to free worship.
- d. Use a uniform chord progression.
- e. Allow for ebb and flow.
- f. Conclude by bringing people back to structured singing.

DELIVERING A WORSHIP SET

Which style is appropriate?

The Cheerleader

Methodologies	Personality
Hearty welcome followed by uplifting “thought for the day”	Chirpy and optimistic
Starts with bone-jarring praise song	Not concerned about musical finesse
Much encouragement to “Give God the glory” followed by frequent clap offerings	Leads worship to prove capability, to find his identity
Plays slow songs too fast	Heart of gold, genuine and enthusiastic
Works up a sweat when leading and is very fond of bouncing	Needs to be more sensitive when people die or get seriously ill
Goes for an hour before allowing the pastor to get on stage for the notices.	Fears losing his job

DELIVERING A WORSHIP SET

The DJ

Methodologies

Loves to talk especially between songs, but any pause in the program will do.

Starts by explaining in detail why worship is really important

Before starting each song, outlines why the particular song is significant

Eyes closed most of the time, but frequently opened to check that the congregation are paying attention

At the end of the song, reminds congregation why they have just finished singing the last song

Personality

Likes the sound of their own voices.

Nervous of silence

Not comfortable with the concept of intimacy

Genuine desire to serve

DELIVERING A WORSHIP SET

The Dictator

Methodologies

Cold, cerebral approach

Breathtaking use of scripture

Likes hymns with challenging lyrics rather than musical beauty

Puts on a great show of having a direct line to God

Instead of gently leading people into worship with him, he will march boldly ahead expecting them to follow

Personality

A control freak

Cheerleader with all the compassion squeezed out of him

Serious, domineering priest-like figure

Seldom smiles; piercing eyes

Wears the mask of super-spirituality – retreating behind a veil of mystical communion yet making it very clear who is in charge

Hardened hard; finds it hard to show true feelings.

DELIVERING A WORSHIP SET

The Transcendental Meditator

Methodologies

Closes eyes most of the time, fails to make eye contact

Voice is not loud, but good at the acoustic guitar

Songs go on forever as he gently sways

Shuns 'shallow' praise songs, preferring repetitive dirges that lead him towards Nirvana

Personality

Loves working in a team

Likes the phrase "deep calls unto deep" but hasn't a clue what it means

Up and down emotionally: on a good day he smiles gently at people and writes songs; on a bad day, he is wracked with guilt and writes songs about the cross.

Genuineness, but lacks leadership skills

DELIVERING A WORSHIP SET

The Small Animal in Bright Lights

Methodologies

Fixed stare at the back of the auditorium, like a rabbit caught in headlights

Nice voice but quiet – no one can hear her sing.

Personality

Usually a pretty girl

When she relaxes a little, she has the ability to draw people into the presence of God

Doesn't consider herself a worship leader, but God does

Frustrating person to work with (the cheerleader feels like throttling her during rehearsals).

PRACTICAL TIPS

Working with Musicians

1. Where possible, have a musician to support you.
2. The more you work with a musician, the better the flow.
3. Let the musician know the songs a couple of days in advance.
4. Supply the musician with chords.
5. Share the vision and direction of the worship session.
6. Work out flow between songs and how many times you intend to repeat songs.
7. Work out the signals you are going to use with your musician.

PRACTICAL TIPS

During the Session

1. Check your worship space.
2. Lead confidently.
3. Use vocal cues where possible
4. Prepare the prayers, scriptures and words you are going to use
5. Keep your eyes open.
6. Don't worry about making mistakes.
7. Be gentle.

EXERCISE
ARRANGING SONGS



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NEXT

SESSION FOUR

EXECUTING A WORSHIP SET AND SPECIAL TOPICS

