

Worship Workshop Notes

180 Student Ministries

2005

Worship Workshop I

Why do we have a worship team?

Why do we worship?

So why do we come to youth group, or church for that matter, sit around in a big group and sing songs to God? Is that really worship? Does God enjoy hearing us sing to Him?

Think about that for a second...Why do you worship? There are many reasons, I would just like to share a few:

- God is worthy of our worship and devotion. Revelation 4:10-11 gives us a picture of the wisest and top leaders saying that God is worthy of everything:

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

I am also reminded of His creation. Look around you and see the beauty and power that God made in His creation. He is certainly worthy!

- We are also commanded to because of God's mercy, to use our entire lives...the very way we live...as worship to him. We find this in Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

So why do we worship God with music?

If worship is all about living our very life for God, why do we come together and sing? Should we do more? Should we even sing? Lets look at some reasons why we worship God together through music.

- We are told to sing and make music to God.

Psalm 150:6 - Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord! Psalm 100:2 - Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalm 33:3 - Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

- When we worship, we should do so not only with our voice, but with our whole body. Our mind, our heart, our strength, and our soul. Music connects with our emotions...our heart...in a powerful way. In 2 Samuel 6, we find King David dancing with all his might for God.
- Singing is also a way for us as a community to get together and worship God together.

So why do we lead?

Because we have chosen music as one main way for us to worship God together, it needs some direction. Remember Psalm 150, and other Psalms, speak about using all of our musical gifting to sing praise to the Lord...cymbals, harps, electric guitars, and voices. I would include in that group things like those who run sound equipment, and Power Point shows. Everything that we do should help us worship God, and should be worship to God. We should be creative, and do things well...remember Psalm 33:3!

We have a hard job. We are supposed to lead people into a time of worshipping God through music as a team. That is not easy. Sometimes...maybe lots of times...we distract people from doing that. We are supposed to stay out of the way so that we are just helping people worship God.

Naturally, we want to do it our way, which sometimes means showing off, or doing cool things, just for the sake of being cool. Instead, we should play music and run sound and video skillfully, so that people will praise God.

This is a great opportunity for you to use the talents and gifts that God has given you to serve Him, serve His church, and the community of students that you belong to. And everything we do should be worship...even practice.

So how do we lead?

We have some responsibilities as leaders. Because you are up front, you *will*

be watched by those in the crowd. *What makes you special to be up front? What is your life like? What does your relationship with God look like? How do you live at home...at school?* You are an example. Check out 1 Timothy 4:12:

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

So set an example up front, or in the sound booth. What is your attitude like? Am I worshipping God, or just singing so that I can be up front? Set an example in youth group...in the way you show respect, in the way you encourage each other. Set an example in life...the way you live at home, the way you live at school, the way you play your sport, or your instrument.

Worship Workshop II

How can we do what we do better?

We know that we're supposed to play, sing, and Power Point skillfully and creatively...but how do we do that? Well, I'm not a good vocal coach, guitar teacher, or even a real drummer, but I do want to share some practical tips that will help us stay together as a team, and play together more skillfully! Hope it helps.

Notes for everybody

Stage presence - When you are up front, remember that people are watching you.

Don't talk to others on stage, or play your instrument between songs. Make sure that you are setting an example of respect for what is happening at youth group. Also, if you're happy to be worshipping God and singing to Him, feel free to show it! I don't want people to be fake, or have permanent smiles, but smile if that is what is going on in your heart.

Be on time - Okay, so the leader is finally doing better in this category. :) We like to pray for each other, and for the morning.

Dress - Just remember that you are an example in the way that you dress.

Food - If you're going to play the congas, you must have clean hands. If you're going to play an instrument, or use the sound booth, just make sure that your hands aren't sticky. Nobody likes Cheetos all over the bass or sound board!

Vocals

Mic stuff - Always hold your microphone about an inch away from your mouth. Go closer if you feel like it, but I know that you probably don't want to be kissing the mic. If you don't hold your mic that close, the sound person has no control over your volume, and usually, you can't be heard! Also, sing fully into the mic. If you're too loud through the monitors, we can turn you down, but sing fully into the mic.

Air support - Make sure that you take big breaths of air when you're singing. The more air you have to back up a note, the less chance it has of going off key or sounding dull. Also, when singing high notes, think high.

Listening - Listen to your own voice, the leader's voice, and the other singer's voices. Try to blend in. Don't sing louder than everybody, but don't sing quieter either. Ask yourself if you're in tune. If you can sing harmony, please do!

Instruments

Listening - Listen to your own instrument, the leader's instrument, and everyone else. Fit into what is being played. Make sure you're in tune. Make sure that you aren't playing too loud or too quiet.

Ready to go - If we practice at 8:45, make sure that your instrument is set up and tuned by then.

Drums - Hold a steady tempo. That is the most important thing a drummer can do. Everybody else in the band gets their feel of the song from the drummer.

Bass - Play strong! You add so much to the band. Follow the kick drum, it will usually give you the rhythm to play.

Guitar - Play a similar rhythm to the leader's guitar. If you are playing riffs, do so tastefully.

Technical stuff

Practice - Be there at practice! You are a big part of the team. Give the leader advice on how the music sounds out in the crowd.

Sound levels - The main speakers are all up to you. We can't really hear those on stage. The monitor speakers are up to the people on stage. We'll tell you what to turn up or down.

Vocals - Make sure that all vocalists can be heard. Turn the leader up just slightly higher than them.

Power point - Please ask if you would like to change a Power point slide. Please don't put up slides while someone is speaking unless we ask you to. It is usually a distraction. Make sure that you put the next Power point slide up before we start singing the words so that everybody in the crowd can sing too!

Well, thank you for reading these notes. If you have any questions, contact me:

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