

## **Best Worship Leader practices**

- 1. Be spiritual before pretending publicly! You cant lead if you cant follow!**
- 2. Pray daily, be specific about your calling. Pray about your heart.**
- 3. Research new songs, download youtube links. Songs must be user friendly to the congregation, not performance oriented like “show off” vocals or guitar solos on every song.**
- 4. Build relationships with your team. They are not there to serve you, they have a gift and calling also. Respect and honor what they bring to the table, expect the same from them. Don’t take anyone for granted.**
- 5. Read your Bible. Prepare verses for each song that week.**
- 6. Know your craft. Understand the basics of the sound board, lyrics on video, lighting, equipment, etc**
- 7. Be teachable, listen to people, be humble, take time to learn.**
- 8. Speak your heart in between songs to encourage people to sing and worship. Don’t reduce the experience to a “song service” by being mechanical.**
- 9. Communicate what you feel on every song to the band in practice, know what you expect the congregation to feel.**

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### ***Thoughts from a recent article:***

Know your purpose. Know what worship is and is not. Worship should be all about praising God, and as a worship leader, your main purpose is to encourage the entire congregation to praise God through song and prayer.

- Instead of modeling personal worship on stage, focus on leading community worship.
- Worship is *not* a time to show off your own talents or worry about making yourself look good. You may not mean to glorify yourself, but pride often finds its way in undetected, so keep a watchful eye out for it.

**Pray.** Give thanks to God for the opportunity to lead others in the act of worshiping Him, and ask for the guidance, humility, and courage to make the worship session a good one.

- A few things worth considering as you pray may include:
  - Understanding of the lyrics you sing and the ability to convey that understanding
  - Love for the people you lead
  - Wisdom in selecting the songs and verses used for worship
  - The ability to act on the truths you sing and speak
  - The humility to lead in a way that glorifies God instead of yourself or the congregation
  - The ability to guide the congregation to an improved relationship with God

**Pick songs that others can sing.** The idea is to get others to actively participate in worship by singing along. If the congregation doesn't feel comfortable singing that songs you've chosen, they probably won't sing.

- People generally don't sing songs that are unfamiliar to them. Stick primarily with songs you know the congregation will know. When you introduce a new song, plan on including it in multiple worship services so that people will have more opportunity to get used to it.
- Also note that some songs are meant for solo singers while others are more suited to group singing. Obviously, the songs you use for group worship should be songs that groups of people can sing together.
- You may have a superb vocal range, but know that most people do not share that same skill. The songs you pick need to fall within a shorter, more concentrated range so that more people can sing along.

**Memorize.** Know the lyrics to the songs you plan on singing. Memorize any verses you plan on saying. You can have an open Bible or sheet music in front of you during the service, but it's best not to rely on them.

- As you practice saying these readings, emphasize verbs instead of pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Verbs typically convey the greatest amount action and meaning, so emphasizing them can help draw out the truth of the text.
- Learning the words you'll be singing and saying beforehand will make you feel much more comfortable during public worship, which will allow you to lead worship in a more natural manner.

**Practice.** You might be the only one leading worship at church. Then again, you might have an entire worship team to work with. No matter how many people are involved, it is crucial that you practice the songs you plan on singing a few times before you have to perform them at church.

- Make sure that everyone on your worship team knows when each song will be sung. Try to keep everyone as informed as possible so that there are no surprises.
- Listen to the input of others on your worship team. If the general consensus goes against your initial opinion, rethink your ideas and consider altering them as needed.