

Keys to Creating Superb Sunday Services

Lesson 4: Service elements

Welcome to Lesson 4 in How to Create Superb Sunday Services.

This lesson we are going to jump into the key elements of the service. Service elements that I think need to be talked about and focussed on in preparing and creating superb Sunday services.

It's good to remind ourselves that the purpose of a Sunday service is to connect people to Christ. So even though a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and it seems like it's very task driven at times, remember we are after the higher purpose. The win, the outcome we're after is connecting people to Jesus Christ.

So a few things about this.

Preparation

Preparation is vital. Preparing yourself with personal prayer, rehearsing your role and making sure your attitude is faith filled and joyful, regardless of your personal circumstances.

Those four areas are crucial in preparation:

- Personal prayer;
- Preparing your heart;
- Rehearsing your role - knowing what you're going to do; and
- Making sure you put on a good attitude.

Lyrics on the screen

I travel around to a huge number of churches and one of the things I notice in churches that is done often quite poorly, is that the lyrics often lag behind the song. And especially for people like me, because I don't know every song I'm singing in a different church, and for visitors and for new songs, it can be hard working out what we're actually singing.

Train your media operators that as soon as the last word on the screen is sung, move immediately to the next screen. If you come in to late, people are going to lag and not be in the moment in the singing. It's really important to do that.

Sometimes you can use Click Tracks or backing tracks, with technology but that's a big topic! You can google that and check it out if you want. I know some churches do that.

Smooth transitions

Moving from landing the worship into announcements, offering, family news, praying for people, celebrating birthdays, whatever you're going to do.

Smooth transitions need to be rehearsed, well planned and thought out.

I think connected with this is the importance of backing music during transitions. When you're coming out of a time of people connecting with the Lord in worship and then everything goes flat. Use backing music on a guitar or keyboard, to fill in and fill behind the voice of the leader of the meeting, around the announcements, around the talks, communion, offering, baby dedications.

Whatever is going on, before all the preaching, I love to hear backing music just giving that fill and allowing that ambient atmosphere to be sustained post singing.

Drop meet and greet

Meet and greet - drop it! Get rid of it!

Thom Rainer's blog, I'll put a link to this in the notes under the video, lit up when he tackled this topic. I'll just let you read this blog post. I am not a fan of meet and greet. I think it's very difficult for introverts, I think it's not comfortable for visitors, I think it works well for extraverted people but for most people and for me personally, I'm an extravert, but I don't like it. I used to love it but don't like it anymore. Get rid of it!!

Well do what you like, but I'd get rid of it!

Welcome your guests

Whatever you do with your guests, at least welcome them and use a phrase that I'm going to talk about coming up in the next lesson, talking about people who are new here.

Welcome your guests. Make them feel important, make them feel significant. You don't have to stand them up or give them a gift. Work that out yourself and work out how you're going to do that but do do a welcome.

The offering

A key thing about the offering - one text, one story, one minute.

I think go for 5 minutes if you want, go for 10 minutes if you want but for me one story, one text is more than enough for what people need for an offering talk. If it goes for 5 minutes, one story and one text is plenty. If it goes for 1 minute you don't need any more anyway. You can go for 10 minutes on one story and one text. Limit that area.

Announcements

Get rid of announcements! Seriously, you don't need to do any announcements in church. Use Facebook, use texting, use email, use twitter, use snapchat, and use Instagram. Use any other means you can to get the word out. Phone calls, tap on the shoulder, reminder, bulletins, pamphlets.

Get rid of announcements, cull most of your announcements. I'm not a fan of announcements in church services. Cull them right back.

Finish on time

If you advertise your finish time, which I think is a good thing to do, finish on time or early. Or at least dismiss the meeting and then continue on with praying for people or worship for those who want to do that. But always finish on time. It's important for your children's leaders, so they know you're going to finish on time, and it's important for everyone else.

Do what you say you're going to do.

Huge checklist here:

- audit your preparation;
- train your media operators afresh in lyrics timing;
- plan your transitions - practice them; and
- discuss a few of the things I've mentioned about meet and greet, offering presentations, announcements, maybe even also about finishing on time.

Discuss all of them with your team.

We'll see you in the very next lesson. I've got a really good lesson coming up for you in creating superb Sunday services.