

Keys to Creating Superb Sunday Services

Lesson 8: Worship

Hey hub members, welcome to Lesson 8 on Creating Superb Sunday Services. We're going to be talking about worshipping the Lord. About the singing aspect, the music aspect of a Sunday service, which is a crucial and vital element of the service.

So a few things about this, I won't be jumping into any theology or Bible about this. A few pragmatic areas because that's where we're focussed in on for this Roadmap.

Create a song list

Have a song list that your muso's and singers can work off. Update it, keep it relevant to your style, to your theology, to what you like to sing as a church. But work off a regular song list so people know they can practise those songs and get those songs working.

Update it as often as you want to. Some people love to sing songs that are never more than two years old and other people like to sing older songs. Whatever floats your boat!

Quality over quantity

When it comes to musicians and singers, aim for quality over quantity. It's better to have a few people who can hold a note, can play a note, can do well with their instrument or their voice, than have a whole range of people up there but the quality is severely diminished.

Go for quality over quantity every time.

Placement of singers and musicians

Remember that the placement of singers and musicians is important. They don't need to be spread out to far, they don't need to be too close. But they need to work off each other and get the vibe together.

Instruments

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Remember also that you don't need every instrument in every meeting. Sometimes it's good to just cut it back and go to an acoustic, unplugged style. Maybe a box sort of drum, just a different style. Change it up in terms of instruments and also placement.

And even who's leading each song. A great way to train worship leaders actually is to have worship leaders lead for one song as they're training and then back off and let a more experienced leader take it on.

Manage your drums

Really important issue, I think you know this already, manage your drums. Drums create a lot of feedback in church services, so manage them.

Sometimes a full drum kit is over the top. I don't mind electric drum kits, I know most drummers don't like them but they're really good in terms of controlling sound, especially if you're meeting in a hall that has hard surfaces and it's very hard to control the sound and there's a lot of noise. An electric drum kit is really good in that environment.

Sometimes you can try brushes that are not just your solid sticks, to tone the sound down. Remind the drummer's that it's not about being loud. It's about being there supporting harmony, melody, keeping the beat, impact and passion in their role.

Manage your drummer and manage your drum kit well.

Passion

Passion is crucial.

I led worship, singing in our church for maybe a dozen or more years and one of the key elements you bring as a worship leader, as a singer, as a musician onto the platform is life. Passionate worship.

It's not inspiring, it's not uplifting to look at someone on a platform who has a dead pan face, who doesn't look like they want to be there. Maybe they are overwhelmed with shyness or introversion or fear or whatever, people have to be trained and also rehearsed beyond that into a place of giving life, of giving strength, of being joyful in the presence of the Lord. Serve the Lord with joy. Rejoice always Paul says.

Get your musicians and singers to exhibit and to show that passion. Get them off the music sheets, off the word sheets, use screens if you need to, put iPad's up there if they really need that. Try to get your singers memorising and knowing all the songs so they can sing

with the help of the screen up the back. Get them to focus on bringing life and joy and encouragement into the meeting.

Use music directors

Have one of your musicians directing the other musicians so your worship song leader can focus on leading the congregation, leading into the next song or the next phase of the song and the music director can work with them and direct the musicians as well.

A great way to do that, inner ears with a mic really helps that. If you haven't got into that, have a look at it and I would say invest in inner ears. Microphone music director directing the musicians.

Worship leader engagement

The engagement of the worship leaders is crucial. So your singers and your primary worship leader need to have their eyes open. They need to have good segways, not talking, I don't like worship leaders talking. Maybe one reference to a scripture if you need it but not a whole passage. Not about well I had a bad week, are you having a bad week?

They need to be relaxed but bold. Kind of up but casual. Informal but alive. They need to get that balance right where they're not over the top but they're not so down. They need to find the middle ground.

It's helpful to train them in that expression. To actually watch DVD's of churches that do this really well and train them in how to engage and how to be passionate yet relaxed.

It's a bit of a deal to learn but it really helps.

Ok, here's your checklist. There's a few things to look at.

- Create a song list;
- Look at the placement of your singers and musicians;
- Audit and manage your drums in a fresh way;
- If you don't have music directors, use them, appoint them, get them rolling to direct the musicians;
- Look at inner ears if you don't have them. Little plugs in their ears so they can talk to each other at the time; and
- Conduct training on passion and informality for your worship leaders.

There you go! Next lesson we're going to look at preaching. A really important part of a superb Sunday service.