

## **Guidelines to Worship**

### **I. Preparation**

A. Pray and ask God for his guidance and wisdom.

B. Be humble.

C. What should the purpose of the worship leader be?

1. To glorify God - to lead the church in such a way that it brings glory to God. The goal of the leader is to corporately bring glory to God.

a) 1 Corinthians 10:31

b) 2 Thessalonians 1:12

c) Romans 15:6

2. Our aim should be to lift up the name of Jesus. Get our eyes off ourselves and onto Him.

a) Hebrews 12:2

b) Colossians 3:2

3. To allow maximum freedom to participate, to allow others to use their gifts, and share what God is doing in their lives, control, but orderly. Caution: Too much structure can stifle the people and grieve the Holy Spirit.

a) 1 Corinthians 14:40

b) Ephesians 4:16

c) 1 Peter 4:10, 11

D. What can the worship leader do to prepare the church for worship? (Use this as a time of meditation or participation, or both. It's always best to allow for interaction.)

1. Ask yourself what does the church need?

2. Have church look at His Word. If there is a teaching time, you might want to connect with the theme of the teaching.

3. Have the church look at a specific characteristic of who God is; His holiness, justice, love, wrath, etc.

4. Look at what God has done; His deeds, creation, salvation.

5. Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

6. Have church suggest songs, or come prepared with some.

7. Ask for answers to prayer.

8. Share testimonies of what God is doing, or ask specific question, such as "How have you seen God work this week?"

9. Prepare the church ahead of time on a specific topic reading schedule

a) 1 Corinthians 14:26

10. Look at a Psalm and praise God from it.

11. These are just some basic ideas to help the worship leader prepare and lead the church. You can use 1 or more of the suggestions, or do something totally different. Be creative!

## **II. Worship Format**

A. It is sometimes good to choose a theme around which you can center the worship part of the service.

B. This may or may not go along with the reading schedule teaching.

Caution: If the worship theme does go along with the teaching that it does not overlap with teaching, but rather draws out and directs worship on the part of the congregation. Be certain that it will include all ages.

Caution: Make sure that the worship does not become another teaching time.

C. After choosing a theme, you would want to select some of the following elements, which could be used to focus on worship.

1. Scripture reading (Use other people, not just yourself).

a) Look at attributes of God

b) Draw out testimonies of God

2. Prayers

a) Praise for who He is

b) Thanksgiving for what He has done

3. Testimonies:

a) Salvation, faithfulness, answers to prayer, etc.

b) Updates on recent prayers, sharing needs, struggles

4. Singing: (Try to use music in different ways) Caution: If you are not actually leading the singing, make sure that the song leader understands what the purpose of the singing is!

a) To generate a mood from which praise arises (e.g. a block of singing which would then lead into prayers of praise)

b) Songs of praise which arise out of a time of meditation, scripture reading, or prayers

c) a mixture of songs throughout worshipful prayer, scripture reading and praise time

5. Role playing (to go along with the scripture and make the word living)

a) Brief skit illuminating an attribute of God

b) Bible story from which praise can then arise

c) Biblical principle illuminated in contemporary context (probably used to prepare people for teaching time)

6. Giving: worship around the offerings

7. Meditation

8. Open exhortation, encouragement from scripture (reading schedule?) Maybe prepare them the previous week

9. Open time of worship where 1, 2, 4, 7 could all be interspersed as the Lord leads.