

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Night Guidelines



1 Introduction

Worship nights are great opportunities for the local church to gather in times of extended praise and worship to exalt the name of Jesus. While there are oftentimes a greater amount of flexibility in these worship services than weekly services, a clear plan should still be developed to help make the night flow well. Here are some guidelines we have developed to help you in this process.

2 Why have worship nights?

Worship nights allow for a greater amount of time in extended worship which can oftentimes allow for the development of a worship night "theme" or other creative elements. These thematic elements can have a synergistically powerful effect throughout the course of the night. It is a great way to glorify God and bless the body of Christ while simultaneously growing the creative expression and musicianship of your worship teams.

3 Worship night guidelines

- **Build a set theme from your church's main song pool.** Worship nights seem to be more impacting for those attending when they are familiar with the songs and they point toward a common theme. If your set list is primarily comprised of songs that you usually do at church, this will help to build momentum and have maximum impact on those present for the event.
- **Use 50% of the songs in your set from your church's current core list.** If your church does a certain quarterly pool of songs for about 3 months at a time before changing it up a bit, use half of the songs from that pool to create a strong base of familiarity for your worship night set. This is a great way to further increase participation and impact.
- **Use another 30% of the songs from your church from your church's main song pool not in your current core list.** There's a lot of flexibility here but avoid picking songs that haven't been done in the last year at your church to keep things more familiar. This time frame excludes well known hymns and worship "classics."
- **Use the remaining 20% for teaching new songs or highlighting a special service element.** If a set has 10 songs in it, we recommend not doing any more than two new songs or songs outside the church's song pool as a special song element, etc.
- **Use worship nights to introduce songs that you will soon be doing in church.** Instead of just doing some random new song off the latest greatest worship album think strategically about how you can maximize the "new song" slot in your worship night. Teaching your congregation a song you'll be doing soon at your church is oftentimes an effective way to go in the long run.

4 Final things to remember

- **Worship nights are first and foremost to glorify God and also to encourage the body of Christ.** Resist the urge as musicians to use the worship night as the place to lead all the songs you don't normally do at church or just the latest, coolest songs. It's not about you; it's about serving.
- **Less is more.** Worship Nights seem to work best when all of the collective parts fit cohesively and comprehensively together rather than each song "outdoing" the last and trying to make the night as huge as possible. When each element works together well in simplicity, it lends toward a powerful night collectively.
- **Plan in advance.** The early side is best for building your team, inviting band members, praying through and planning out the set, and communicating with all the leaders necessary to pull off the event. Give yourself ample time to make "last minute" changes that will not be, in fact, last minute.