

# WORSHIP TEAM

*Worship Night Philosophy of Ministry*



## 1 Introduction

Worship nights are a great opportunity in many ways. First and foremost, they are an opportunity for the body of Christ to come together for a time of extended worship to exalt the name of Jesus and bless God for who He is and what He does. Secondly, it is a great creative outlet for musicians and creative types to serve the local church in this capacity. Blending the two together is where things get really fun!

## 2 What is worship night “philosophy of ministry”?

Philosophy of ministry is just a fancy way of describing a model of how something is done in ministry. For worship nights, there are many different ways that things can be done. What we have found most helpful is to keep in mind two primary things:

- 1) What is the theme your leadership team believes God wants people to respond to in the service?
- 2) What is the journey you will take people on to help them access that theme?

As you explore these ideas further, you'll find that they are the anchoring points of your set and all other elements can be built around them.

## 3 Building Themes

Let's say that you have been praying with your leadership team about the theme of the night and you all settle on a theme of God's love... you now know where you want to end up in the journey -- you want those present to better know and experience God's love. Now you can look at your church's current core list of songs, then the larger pool of songs for your church (including hymns and classics) and finally, any new songs your church hopes to introduce in the near future. As you look at each category, which songs speak of God's love or have other related themes which “jump out” at you or catch your eye? Make a special note next to these songs but don't make any final decisions yet on which to include for the night.

## 4 Integrating Flow

Now you are ready to put your songs into a flow for the service. Look again at the songs that have been starred in your overall list of songs. Which seem to still stand out to you? Also remember the journey you believe God is wanting you to take others on. Do you want to start with a slower call to worship focusing on themes of repentance and then move into some powerful songs of God's love and how that frees us to live for him, and then end with a few songs which respond to God with a call to action and living lives of worship? As you think through the journey, the songs will fall into place. We recommend songs in sets of three under “sub-themes” which all fall under the main overarching theme of the night as listed below:

BIG THEME: God's Love

Sub-theme A: Call To Worship / Repentance [Songs 1, 2, 3]

Scripture Reading

Sub-theme B: God's overwhelming love and grace [Songs 3, 4, 5]

Special Song Element / Time of Reflection: Introduce new quarter worship song on God's love

Sub-theme C: Call to Action [Songs 6,7,8]

Send Out Song: Celebratory song that sums up the night. Can use one used earlier in the night.

## 5 Plan For Spontaneity

As you plan your worship night out, you are building in times for spontaneity in your service. In other words, if everything is spontaneous, then nothing is really spontaneous! You need to have a plan in order to have spaces where you can go off the beaten path where God's spirit leads. With this being said, it's still good to have in mind some ideas of what you might do in those “spaces.” (Your pastoral and media team will thank you!) Having some go-to spontaneous choruses or elements in your service is a good way to be prepared for when these things happen. Finally, don't over-pack your worship set too full. If you aim for your set to be about 50 - 55 minutes, it will end up just about right. You want people leaving wanting more. Also, if you have less songs, it frees you up to have more flexibility and spontaneity throughout your set, which ultimately contributes to the flow of the night which allows for a more distraction-free environment for people to experience God through worship.