



Guidelines for Worship Service Leadership

“Equipping Worship Leadership”

By Chris R. Hansen

1. Come with a servant heart

2. Know what you want to say Theme

- a. Write out what you want to say
 - b. Rehearse it out loud
3. Keep it short
4. If you aren't meeting God there is a good chance the audience also is not meeting God
5. Be confident – Be bold and sure of what you will sing and say
6. Memorize as much as possible
7. Don't come across as a “know-it-all” or “I know more than you” kind of person

1. Goals are:

- a. To engage the audience in worship of God
- b. Have the audience meet God in a fresh new way
- c. Teach the audience something new about God they may not have known before. Use the attributes of God
- d. Let the audience leave with a sense of having met with God.
- e. We are not out to prove anything or make people something they are not.

2. Clearly communicate to your audience

- a. When to sing and when to listen
- b. When to stand and sit
- c. When to pray
- d. Establish eye contact with audience members
- e. Speak to them and not at them – not down to them
- f. Engage them in rhetorical conversation

3. Create ideas

- a. Have congregation read scripture in various forms

- b. Use times of silence for reflection and prayer
- c. Use various forms of prayer
- d. Ask people to prayer together in small groups
- e. Share a testimony or personal story – keep it short
- f. Begin with something familiar
- g. End your set with prayer
- h. Balance reflective intimate worship with celebration

4. Planning tips

- a. Plan your set 2 weeks in advance
- b. Give yourself time to tweak and shape the service
- c. Plan on no more than 20mins in the set
- d. Have words for screens 1 week in advance

5. Music ideas

- a. Keep intros and interludes short
- b. Know when to start the song
- c. Know when the song is to end
- d. Create planned spontaneity. That is allowing for times in the set where you can repeat a chorus or verse; or sing a simple chorus or hymn that is not planned.
- e. Always be ready to interject prayer and scripture spontaneously.
- f. Keep music simple and easy for the audience to engage with
- g. Use simple and quiet music over vocal intros
- h. Less is best – “music busyness” is distracting
- i. Keep all music elements simple
- j. Be sure that all rhythm players are playing in the same groove (Swing vs. Straight grooves)
- k. Stay away from solos – line out unfamiliar songs as the congregation will sing it.
- l. Use a good mix of familiar hymns and choruses with few new songs.

