

Revitalizing Worship in Your Church

No More Excuses

We are too small to grow: Mark 4:30-32

We are too old to change: Statistics show that adult baptisms are happening in congregations up to 270 year old. (Martha Reese, Unbinding the Gospel, 31)

We don't have enough money in the worship budget: Matthew 15:32-38

We don't know exactly how: Mark 4:26-29

Story of the two farmers

"It will take a miracle to turn things around"

"Isn't that what God has promised to do through us? Doesn't Jesus tell the disciples that they will do greater things than John the Baptist? (Lk. 7:28) Doesn't Jesus tell the disciples that what they agreed on together in prayer God would do for them? (Mt. 18:19) We're the disciples." (Unbinding the Gospel , Martha Grace Reese p. 41)

The Purpose of Worship: A Holy Encounter which inspires praise, transformation and service.

John 4:4-24: The woman at the well

"Your worship must engage the spirit in the pursuit of truth." The Message

Worship is God's gift to us and our gift to God.

Our work as worship leaders is to work with God to create an opportunity for God's people to connect with God so that worshipers are reached, transformed, and equipped by the Spirit.

Reach: To know Christ

Transform: To become like Christ

Equip: To praise and serve Christ

Essential Actions for Revitalizing Worship: Pray & Plan

Pray for God's movement:

Ask your church council and leadership teams to pray for worship.

Pray at rehearsals for the service and worshipers.

Pray before worship planning & sermon preparation.

Conduct a prayer relay to invite the Spirit to create Holy Ground.

Pray with leaders before every service.

Pray early Sunday morning for God to gather the people.

Include an invitation to the Holy Spirit early in every service.

Plan for transforming worship:

Develop a worship design team (more than a worship committee).

Plan each service to be a unique sacred journey.

Develop a strong music team and select music your church can do well.

Discern the gifts of your worshipers and how they can each be used to glorify God.

Establish beautiful sacred space that reinforces the theme.

Invest in sermon preparation and preach to transform.

Plan a season a month in advance and plan each service 2 wks ahead.

Technology? What can you do really well?

Reaching New People: Invite them to the well!

- Focus on “Reach moments”**
1. Christmas Eve –Reach campaign begins 1st week of December
 2. Back to School- reach campaign begins three weeks before school
 3. Easter- reach campaign begins 2nd week of LENT
 4. Baptism service or other outdoor service.

Create a spectacle. Jesus did!

5. Services connecting your community with worship.

Preschool, mission teams, those using your building, boy scouts

Seeds to plant, hang, and hand out!

Personal Invitations which your worshipers give to friends- One in 4 will be received (Luke 8:4-8)

Use decorative paper from Staples or Office Depot to print your own

Order from Outreach.com

Make sure you clearly invite the person to attend worship or a special event.

Give address, dates, times, etc. If possible include your web address.

Banners- Keep them fresh and change them often.

Make sure words are big enough to see.

Always have web address & worship times!

BannersontheCheap.com (banners for \$30-\$50).

Be ready- expect God to answer your prayers.

Have welcomers at each door & ushers in the worship space.

Follow up: Get addresses!!!! Welcomers w/clip board, pew pads, or tear off slips.

Personalized notes or gifts to the home with in 42hrs.

Add all visitors to mailing list.



Welcoming Campaign: 3 weeks to spirit filled reaching:

First Sunday:

Preach on our call to welcome new persons into relationship with Christ and the Church. Ask worshipers to consider who helped bring them into the church and how their life would be different if they did not have a faith community. Have a new person share a testimony of how their life has been changed as they have become a part of the worshiping community.

Scriptures: Mark 2:1-12 Friends carry the paralyzed man to Jesus.

Pray-invite worshipers to pray about who God would call them to invite into relationship with Christ and the church.

Practice: During worship unveil the new welcome banner, invite worshipers to pray over the banner, At the end of the service hang the banner with a cheer of excitement.

Second Sunday:

Preach on Jesus' way of invitation. Jesus went into the community himself, met people at their work places and homes and invited them to follow him. Christ like inviting requires our willingness to go out and invite our friends to "come and see" with us.

John 1:35-51: The disciples are gathered to Jesus by personal invitations.

Pray- invite the congregation to pray over the list of persons they feel called to invite. If the congregation is ready for another stretch ask them to divide into groups of two or three and pray for each other's lists during worship or to copy the names of their neighbors onto their list and pray for them during the week.

Practice: Give each worshiper 4 invite cards. Challenge them to hand deliver each of them to a friend or neighbor who could use an invitation to church or the special event. Challenge them to follow up with that person and see if they need a ride or have any questions.

Third Sunday:

Preach - This week you are, Lord willing, beginning to welcome newcomers into worship. Consider what they need to hear. Welcome them, keep the message relevant to un-churched persons.

Pray- This is a good week to have silent prayers of repentance, thanksgiving, and intercession.

Practice: Have extra welcomers and ushers this week. Encourage members to welcome newcomers. Be ready for follow up visits!

Worship Design Teams

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The Purpose of a Worship Team is to utilize the full giftedness of the leaders and people so that worship accomplishes its purpose.

Mark 2:1-12 The friends carry the man to Jesus. He is healed because "of their faith" and the community praises God.

Why Plan and Lead Worship as a Team?

Because Matthew 18:20 "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them"

Romans 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

Because what is impossible for me is possible for us.

Because people support what they are apart of.

When have you experienced the power of working in a team?

Who makes up your team: Creative, Flexible, "we can" people

Pastor, lead musicians, creative folk, spiritual leaders, lay leaders or readers, technology folks, representatives from different generations...

Where to look for team members: Bible study group, Disciple Bible study graduates, choir & music teams, music leaders, art teachers & students, members of each service and demographic.

Types of Teams:

Worship Design Team: Seasonal, Monthly, Weekly Design

Music Teams: choirs, praise bands

Visuals Team

Service Team

Technology Team

Strengthening Your Team for Maximum Potential

Pray together, build community, play, stretch creatively at every gathering.

Purpose of the Worship Design Team: (not a worship committee)

The Design team prays and plans for the design of each season and service.

Review: Season you have completed.

Vision: Consider the spiritual needs of the congregation and discuss sermon series or focuses for upcoming seasons.

Plan: Design the services for upcoming weeks.

“Service Planning Worksheet”

Purpose of Music, Technology, and Service Teams:

Receive Worship Plans from Design team or Pastor, review worship plan and offer feedback.

Adjust worship plan according to changing needs and abilities of leaders for the week.

Prepare or rehearse particular elements of the services.

Work out details of transitions.

Pray with teams for the worship service and the worshipers.

Communicate with all worship leaders changes and details with impact others.

Bringing the teams together in worship:

Function as a team with each part of the body sharing their part.

Utilize the gifts of as many team members and congregation members as you can to enhance the worship experience and reveal the theme.

Work seamlessly on transitions.

Watch and listened to each other.

Follow the spirit.

Designing Worship Encounters:

A. Developing the theme and essential elements.

Worship Design Team Seasonal Meeting

Who are your travelers and where are they coming from this week?

What are your **scriptures**?

What does the **Lord** have to **say** through the weeks scriptures to **these travelers**?

What do you hope they will **learn or experience**?

What is the unifying **theme** of this weeks journey? (One phrase or sentence)

What **music** supports this theme?

What **prayers** or liturgies support this theme?

How will the people **respond** to the word?

Communion, anointing, response card, take home item, prayer, movement, discussion

Where in the service will people **connect** with each other?

Passing the peace, prayers of the people, music exchanges, laughter, sermon interaction

Where in the service is there space to **encounter** the Holy?

Prayer, silence, song of reflection, communion, anointing, scripture reading

What **visual elements** support the theme?

Where will the people **praise** God?

What is the **movement** of the service?

Gathering tone:

Receiving the WORD:

Responding to the WORD:

Preparing for the World:

