

Leading a Christian Worship Service

1. INTRODUCTION

There is no “one-size-fits all” approach to leading a worship service. We can’t come up with a definitive “how to” list of instructions because what we do in our services depends on many different factors.

- What the congregation is used to and what they believe
- Where God is leading
- Age profile of the congregation
- Any practical limitations (musicians, technology etc)
- Personality, preferences and giftings of the service leader
- Relationship between the service leader and God

2. OBJECTIVES

- Worth-ship 1 Chronicles 16:25 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise
- Host the presence of God
- Facilitate communication and ministry between God and the congregation
- Facilitate communication and ministry amongst the congregation
- Encourage and enable participation and exercising of spiritual giftings

3. ROLE OF SERVICE LEADER

- Listen to God – be continually asking the Holy Spirit for guidance
- Watching the congregation to see what God is doing or if they are engaging
- Timekeeping
- Prepare service in liaison with church leadership
- Lead
- Spiritual authority
- Reflecting God’s love and compassion
- Joyful
- Clear speech
- Include everyone
- Dress appropriately

4. BUILDING BLOCKS

- Scripture
- Prayer from the front
- Open prayer for congregational participation
- Intercessory prayers
- Liturgy
- Children’s talk
- Sung worship
- Silence
- Communion
- Sermon
- Offering
- Intimations
- Prayer ministry
- Poetry or other reading (people usually remember creative expressions of worship more than the sermon!!)

- Dance
- Drama
- Benediction or Grace

5. CHOICE OF SONGS

- Praise, thanksgiving, intimacy
- Scriptural and Christ-centred
- Journey into the Holy of holies
- Fit with theme v what the congregation knows

6. ORDER OF SERVICE

- Many models in use e.g. Ps 100, “enter His gates with thanksgiving....and His courts with praise.....and worship before Him”but usually about taking people on a journey
- Partly depends on what the church is used to but have courage to do things a bit differently according to what you sense from God. Bear in mind that change has to be introduced gradually.
- Call to worship Scripture reading, prayer, songs (how many?), offering, intimations, children’s talk?, more songs (how many?), prayer? sermon, prayer?, song? communion? Final song, blessing and/or grace, prayer ministry, fellowship

7. TECHNOLOGY

- Check what is available
- Consider use of Powerpoint
- Consider use of inclusion of video clips
- Consider use of visual aids

8. QUESTIONS TO ASK

9. REMEMBER JESUS IS THE STAR OF THE SHOW AND EVERYTHING SHOULD POINT TO HIM!!

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