

11. Spirit Led Worship / Authenticity in Worship

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Summary

Seek God in your lone-time

It is important to make sure you are worshipping alone with God and seeking him. The more you go deeper with him by yourself, the more able you will be to lead people deeper in worship. Jesus often withdrew to be alone with the Father. Often when our schedules get busy, the first thing we stop doing can be quite times with God, but they should be the foundation.

Things that help:

- Quiet times
- Songwriting
- Private worship times

Scriptures that can help

James 4:8

Matt 6:6

Spend time getting to know the Holy Spirit

Let God take you deeper, listen for the Holy Spirit, get to know when the HS is stirring and promoting you. Don't ignore the still small voice. Try to expect the unexpected, the HS won't always do the same thing, God loves to do a new thing.

Things that help:

- Waiting on the HS in quiet times
- Waiting on the HS in worship

Practice, by yourself and with your team

Spend time practicing singing out and practice ministering to your teams, prophesy to each other speak words over each other, wait for words of encouragement and pictures etc. It's like anything, the more you get used to doing it, the more able you will be to do it. Tim believes that God wants us to put in time, to be skilled in what we do, so we are able to effectively lead people and encourage them in worship. As long as it is encouraging, and builds people up, the chances are God is wanting to say it to someone. If you are seeking Him throughout the week, He will give you things to speak out. Often we get blessed just as much as the people receiving. When prophesying in worship it can be such a blessing to see people connecting with God and knowing He is using us as his hands and feet it is an incredible honor.

Be Authentic

People can tell if you aren't genuine. Tim always reminds his team why they're are doing what they're doing. When it becomes a performance and focussed on us, we've missed the point. Authenticity involves being vulnerable, but God is with you and He will fill the gap.

Have a genuine passion to see God move and a longing to be a part of it.

Find out what God is up to, and work out how to get on board with that! If you develop that passion for God, you will naturally start to be able to discern what He is doing, and want to do what He wants, not what you want. Always be willing to surrender your perfectly made plans to what the HS wants to do. It's all well and good having amazing transitions, a perfect blend of songs which you think are going to catapult people into the heavenly realms, but if the HS wants to do something slightly different, how willing are we to follow? 'Things can happen in worship that no clever message could ever do' - Joel Sales explain. We want to see people healed, chains broken, people set free, salvation etc in worship, it doesn't always have to be in a 'ministry time'.

Get to know the people you are leading in worship

If you know a part of their story, or even just their name, you are more likely to be able to minister to them. They will trust you more if you make the effort. It can be hard with the busyness of Sunday's and church ministry to take the time to build relationship, but it WILL help. This links back to authenticity. If you genuinely want people to connect with God, surely the authentic thing to do is to have a passion for God's people, your family. Obviously you can't get to know everyone in a 2000 person church, but being willing to speak to the people God puts in your path, even on the way to the toilet, can make all the difference. Maybe God is wanting to use you to minister to people even before the service starts. Empower your team to do the same, if everyone is doing this, then you'll connect with more people!

Young people can often be the best prophets!

Its great to empower young people to experience the Holy Spirit. Emma has been on groups before where young people have had pictures and each one has been confirmed by other youth.

Questions for discussion & reflection

1. Is there anything in specific in this session that stands out for you? What?
2. Thinking about the example Jesus gives, what practical things could you put in place to go deeper with God? For example quiet times alone.
2. How can you take your preparation to the next level in order to give your best?
3. What gifts has God given you that you could use in worship?
4. How open are you to changing your plans when prompted by God? What could we do to prepare for this?
5. Are there new people in your congregation who you could get to know?

Biblescriptures

- Luke 5:15-16
- Psalms 33:3
- Romans 12:6-8
- Isaiah 41:10
- James 4:8
- Matthews 6:6