wildpear

DAN WILT

HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP

AN 8 WEEK STUDY

WITHOUT BEING A ROCK STAR



SESSION 6

PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS & MENTORING SKILLS OF THE WORSHIP LEADER

"I think the worship leader/pastor relationship is almost the most critical relationship in the Church, because the worship leader leads and holds out to the people this heart-theme of 'When can I go and meet with God,' and facilitates that heart connection corporately.

The pastor provides an umbrella of authority in teaching the Word of God. If there's any sort of strain or severing in that relationship, I believe it begins to affect the life of the entire church.

It really grieves me sometimes to have worship leaders pour out their heart to me, groaning 'I can't believe it, my pastor wants to have input into what songs we sing at church!'

I look at them and ask, 'Why wouldn't they?' If they're the shepherd, and they have a concern that you're singing a song that is out there in left field

theologically, why wouldn't they want to come to you?

It's not like they're coming and saying, 'I'm going to tell you everything to do, and how to be creative,' because that is not their gift. They'd be foolish to do that. But I think the pastor's job is to impart their values and their heart, and then it's up to the worship person to interpret that, and to serve that.

When those two things come together, I think you have not only a healthy church, but a growing, vibrant church leadership."[20]

Brian Doerksen

Relating To Your Pastor & Leaders

Biblically, we are challenged to "…Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you" (1Thess. 5:12 NIV). That means that when it's easy to respect and honor those who lead in our community, we do it. It also means that when it's hard to respect and honor those who lead in our community, we still do it.

Being a worship leader means you are part of a team that is discipling a community – we're not mavericks, on our own, getting our musical jollies while we court the crowd. Pastors have a tough job. We must embrace them, support them, encourage them, and serve them as worship leaders.

Always honor your pastor, in public and private.

In both public and private, speak well of your leaders. In private prayer, pray for them in areas that you believe are blind spots. God may change them. He may also change you. He may change an entire congregation. Pray more than you say, and take your role as a servant to your pastor. Your humility will inspire them to greater heights.

Put yourself in their shoes.

Every day, a pastor or leader carries a responsibility and calling to nurture the whole of the church they lead. They are aware of all the issues going on in the community, from the illnesses, to the fears, to the marriages, to the struggles, to the dreams of individuals. As worship leaders, we only see a part of the church, and usually we affirm the people that are most like us. Put yourself in your pastor's shoes, and help care for the whole community you share.

Serve the vision that your pastor has for the community.

Spend time building a co-ministry relationship with your pastor. Listen and ask questions about the vision for the community, and how you can lay down your life to serve that vision. The more the vision that God has spoken to your pastor for the community becomes your own, the greater the strength you will have ministering together to the church you serve.

Keep short accounts, and share honestly and humbly with one another.

Don't let the sun go down on your anger. Build your friendship with your pastor. Your ability to lead is based on your ability to keep relationships that are loving, honest and mutually submitted. Keep humility without apology, and confidence without arrogance, ever before you.

Love the church you lead.

If you don't love the community you lead, then either get out of the

worship leading role or get on your face before God until you do love your church. When we are caught up in "us/them" language, we don't represent the heart of the Groom toward His Bride – the heart that sees all the wrinkles and blemishes, but lavishly loves anyway.

Again, over time people will intuitively know if your worship leading is "taking" from them as an audience, or "giving" to them as a community. Most pastors have had to come to grips with this concept, and the sooner you do, the better for the whole church.

How To Mentor Other Worship Leaders

Raising up worship leaders is both a relational and functional task. The following are just a few quick tips on how to facilitate the growth of a new worship leader:[21]

Co-Lead with Them

This gives them credibility before the congregation, and enables you to prepare, lead and de-brief together. Give them familiar songs to lead for six months to a year, so the congregation learns to trust them.

Spend Time with Them

If the leader is of the same sex, spend time with them doing spiritually important activities like watching a movie, eating food, laughing hard and listening well. If they are of the opposite sex, involve others in these same kinds of activities.

Take Your Time with Them

There is no rush. Give them a little bit of leading room over a long period of time. The issues of pride and identity are dealt with as you take the slow and steady route with a new worship leader.

Share Input with Them

When you lead together, help them choose songs, and show them how you organize the set. Assume that you actually know something about worship leading, and give confident guidance to their unique style. Everyone has something to teach.

Share Friends with Them

Expose them to your mentors via meals, meetings, seminars, DVDs, CDs, or other media. Set up times for others, like the pastor, to comment on their heart, style and skill growth.

Give Gifts to Them

Take a year, and put generosity into your budget. When you have it in your power, buy them gear or music items that remind them of their personal importance to you, and the investment you're willing to make.

A simple pack of strings can go a long way in building your worship leader, and your friendship.

Give Hope to Them

Celebrate the hard process of growth and maturation with the new worship leader. Honestly, but lovingly, point them toward faithfulness above today's vision of "success." Have regular meetings to encourage and to guide them.

Mentoring can be one of the most satisfying and fulfilling parts of your leadership journey. Focusing solely on our own development will not only limit us, but won't serve the Body of Christ of which we are a part for the long haul.

The Mentoring Cycle

Here is something called "The Mentoring Cycle" that can help you think through how to come alongside another worship leader in his/her development. Each of these steps can take many months; even years.

I do it.

You watch me do it.

I teach you to do it.

You do it with me.

I do it with you.

You do it.

You teach others.

Session 6
Reflection Questions

First, if you are doing this with a group, take some time to write in your answers to the following questions before you gather. Highlight page numbers, key quotes and ideas that moved you. Make sure you write in the margins, circle words, or anything that will help you interact with the material and remember core ideas.

1. What ideas moved you the most from this section?

> Talk about the ideas related to worship that particularly moved you during your reading.
>
> How might the ideas that moved you help all of us to understand what worship is really all about?

2. How do you believe you could become more effective at mentoring other leaders?

> What areas from the mentoring list do you think you could invest yourself in as you develop other worship leaders?

3. Why is it so important that there be a good and trusting connection between the worship leader and the pastor/small group leader?

> Relationships between leaders are a vital element in making sure a community will engage in rich, life-giving gathered worship experiences in a church. What can you do to strengthen that relationship?