

HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP

WITHOUT BEING A ROCK STAR

AN ONLINE SEMINAR

WITH HOST, DAN WILT

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OUR 4 BIG IDEAS

1. The Difference: Pastoring
2. Values Go Viral
3. The Why = The Way
4. You Are There For Them



HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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WL OR ROCK STAR
THE CHART

The Worship Leader	The Rock Star
Leader/Community Focus	Star/Audience Focus
Experiencing God's Presence	Experiencing Moving Music
Pastoral Leadership & Disciple Care	Celebrity Leadership & Fan Care





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
WITHOUT BEING A ROCK STAR

1

THE DIFFERENCE: PASTORING

It is the call to pastor people through the vehicle of worship music, the worship arts, and the worship forms we choose that sets the worship leader apart from the rock star. Become the “pastoral leader” you were designed to be – and reorient your values.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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THE DIFFERENCE: PASTORING

1. The stage creates a strange dynamic.

Our age is full of stages, and they mean something to us. Know what the stage has meant to you in the past, and is meaning to you now. Get honest. What do you want others to notice about you on the stage, or to think about you when you're finished leading? Is your "stage set up" feeding all things good and right in your church?





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THE DIFFERENCE: PASTORING

2. “Us and them” must be replaced with “us”.

The rock star age we live in separates the artist from the crowd. Worship leaders resist this gap, and empower community as they lead in worship. They value being “accessible to their community,” not “available to their audience.”





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THE DIFFERENCE: PASTORING

3. Music is only one way we worship. Relax.

Our over-emphasis on the musical expression of worship pushes us to “produce” in ways in which we were never intended. Relax, you’re important – but not that important.





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THE DIFFERENCE: PASTORING

4. Be aware of your models in the music industry.

We all have different kinds of worship leaders and musicians that we emulate. Be aware of your role models as a worship leader, and ask if their pastoral call is what leads you to lead like them.





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THE DIFFERENCE: PASTORING

5. The “worship sandwich” will keep you centered.

When you’re making the “worship sandwich” for your congregation, you can’t rely on your own tastes and preferences. You must actually know your community.





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VALUES GO VIRAL

2

The values driving our worship leadership, over time, are imparted to the congregation. We have a responsibility to lead, build sets, and interact with the band in a way that you would want to see replicated in other leaders – and disciples.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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VALUES GO VIRAL

1. Before you build the set, nail your values.

Values are the big stones that go in the jar first, around which all the little stones and practical details fit. If your unspoken values are starting off wacky, or your small stones have too big a place in your reasons for leading, you'll find your whole worship leadership path off kilter.





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VALUES GO VIRAL

2. Focus on 5 values that restrain the rock attitude.

1) Intimacy, 2) Integrity, 3) Accessibility, 4) Cultural Connection, and 5) Kingdom Expectation are values that will stand the test of time, and will remedy the miscued values about music and stages we learned over the years.





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VALUES GO VIRAL

3. Your attitude is more contagious than your sound.

In the music world, the character of the person on stage is often either amplified to a caricature, or hidden from public site. We don't really get to know the people on the stage. Worship leaders choose the utter opposite path, and this requires growth from the congregation.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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VALUES GO VIRAL

4. Build your worship set according to your value set.

The sacrifice of the worship leader kicks in right here. You are not building the set primarily around performance needs, preferences of songs, or for any other motive. You are building the set for encounter and discipleship.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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VALUES GO VIRAL

5. Rehearse your band according to non-rock values.

The way we run rehearsals is as important as what we accomplish in those rehearsals. You can't just run a worship band like a rock band. While a task is before us, over time, the task must yield the development of people who have a heart to serve and resist the rock star attitude.





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3

THE WHY = THE WAY

The way we lead worship is dependent on having our value system straight, and continuing to keep it straight. If we lose ourselves in a rock value system, we distort the worship leadership stage.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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THE WHY = THE WAY

1. Style is the tip of the worship spearhead.

The style in which we lead can break through and make an entry point for the heart of worship to get into the souls of the congregation. Style is a means to an end; not our identity when we're leading worship. We can change it to serve a higher goal.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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THE WHY = THE WAY

2. A sharp razor blade and a dull axehead.

A dull axehead will chop a tree down faster than a sharp razor blade. Our music can be tight, but if its not connected to the weight, to the life of our church and the wider discipleship concerns of the community, it's just a sharp razor blade. It will do something, but not enough.





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THE WHY = THE WAY

3. Memorize the 3 reasons we lead worship.

1) God has invited us to worship, so we worship, 2) God has made a vow to us, and worship is a renewal of those vows, and 3) God has pursued us, so we're remembering that truth. If your worship leadership cuts against these, you operating out of a rock star value system. Go over these regularly and reorient pastorally.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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THE WHY = THE WAY

4. Keep God the Subject of the worship sentence.

Don't allow the set, your band, the service, the moment, or your "performance needs" to become the subject of the worship sentence. Worship leading goes toxic at this point. If God is the primary actor, and worship music is the response, we're good. See the whole set building process as keeping "good worship grammar" in your people.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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THE WHY = THE WAY

5. Do a monthly check on the wl qualities list.

There are 9 qualities that push a worship leader past a rock star mentality, and keep us in a good place in heart and mind. These are what many pastors (should) want more than a perfect musical skill set. The desirable qualities in a worship leader are these:

1) Passion for God, 2) loving the Scriptures, 3) seeking unity in the Church, 4) living with compassion and mercy toward all, 5) mentoring and equipping, 6) relationally caring, 7) living generously, 8) praying authentically and simply, and 9) taking risks.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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4

YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM

The nuts and bolts of worship leadership begin when we realize that we are there for the congregation; they are not there for us. The language of “audience” must be rooted out of the worship leader’s vocabulary. It will change everything.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM

1. Your church demographic may determine your style.

In other words, when you begin to build your next set, you are asking yourself “Who is here, and what do they need to sing to God?” If your question is any weaker than that, then they are there for you, and you are not there for them. Also, don’t attach your opinions about music to God. He has His own and they’re not always ours.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM

2. Use a pastoral set-building pattern.

This 3 phase pattern of building your set can keep your head in a pastoral mode, giving meaning to your set. 1) Gathering - songs that connect us to why we're here, 2) Celebration - God songs that focus us on God's character, not our feelings, and 3) Response - songs that give us words for prayer, repentance, and thanks.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM

3. Use the 3/3 approach when building your set.

Consider using this approach when thinking about building pastoral worship sets over a year rather than rock star sets for the moment. Make 1/3 of the songs contemporary songs your church knows and loves, 1/3 hymns and wider church expressions, and 1/3 original songs emerging from your community.





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YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM

4. Great song performance is great worship leading.

It is a falsehood that one of the values we share with the rock star world is a bad value in the church. “Performance” is a good word – it means we glorify God by making tight music that facilitates worship rather than bad music that hinders and confuses it. Learn to perform well, and keep submitting that performance to God.





HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP
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YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM

5. Start and end sets with good body and prayer lingo.

A few words spoken, or prayed, in a community atmosphere, can set the tone for the entire worship set. The band coming from the side of the stage, with smoke machines, and bright lights confuses the people of God. They think that spiritual stardom is the standard for Christian achievement. We must fight this power of the age with humility.





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THE BOOK:

"How To Lead Worship
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by Dan Wilt

is now available on the site,
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THANKS FOR COMING.

