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BAM! WORSHIP TEACHING BOMBS



(and how to use them.)

DAN WILT

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DEDICATION

The is book is dedicated to every worship leader who
leads worship,
models worship,
teaches worship,
inspires worship, and
lives worship – day in and day out.

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INTRODUCTION

BAM! WORSHIP TEACHING BOMBS – AND HOW TO USE THEM is a short book designed to serve you as a worship leader in a unique and useful way.

A little bit of time can go a long way on a Sunday morning, a Wednesday night, at a youth group gathering, or in a conference.

How many times have you said, "Boy, I wish our church had more teaching from the front about the topic of *Worship*. It would really help us learn about worship in its biggest sense, but it would also help our congregation to understand why it's good for them to engage in a Sunday morning worship set."

Maybe you've been asked to teach on worship, but you're not comfortable in that role. Maybe you are comfortable in that role, but it happens once every 2 years.

Here's the rub.

Even if your pastor does an *entire series* on worship, or one amazing message, or you host a class, the reality remains the same: not everyone will connect deeply with that teaching because they 1) weren't there, or 2) they forget.

My wife taught me, as we were raising our children, that *repetition* is the real way that learning happens. When small ideas are offered over a long period of time, and those ideas are repeated, they start to *sink in*.

An ancient proverb says that all learning is like water, dripping on stone. In other words, a few drops of water, falling on the same spot over a long period of time, will eventually cut a path in the hardest stone.

Worship Teaching Bombs are like this. A few phrases and ideas, offered sparingly but with regularity, can accomplish as much or more than one long worship teaching.

It's like tweeting during your worship set – you get in there, and you get out of there, with a poignant idea. People are impacted, and you move on.

What Is A Worship Teaching Bomb?

A few years ago, I began to drop what I started to call *Worship Teaching Bombs* in the midst of my sets. "Bam!" is a favorite expression of mine when something gets accomplished (Bam! You just learned to ride a bike!), so it seemed fitting.

Worship Teaching Bombs are two or three sentence "mini-teachings" about worship that are planned and written beforehand (at least until they become spontaneous).

Each is short and sweet (10-20 seconds maximum), and communicates one big idea about worship. These “bombs” are now always in my arsenal as I head into a worship set – with a desire to make every moment count.

When Do I Drop Worship Teaching Bombs?

During a worship set, there are usually moments at the beginning of the set, in between songs, and even during prayers when worship leaders have the opportunity to spontaneously speak.

In some cases, we use those unplanned moments well to nurture and encourage the worship life of our church. In other, weaker moments, we simply ramble aimlessly, praying "touchy-feely stuff," repeating our hobby-horse thoughts about worship, or even communicating theologically sloppy ideas.

True story. One set, in a mid-sized church being led by the youth band, I heard a teenage worship leader pray something close to the following:

“Lord, we thank you that You’re so awesome. You’re really, really, like, *awesome*. Like, you’re the awesome Trinity, and we’re a part of the Trinity. We’re in the Trinity. With You. That’s so cool. That’s so awesome. We really love You. We really love You a lot. You’re awesome.” Then, the music began. Egad.

Now, I’m not sure *exactly* what my young friend was trying to pray, but that is what came out (which is why I teach on worship theology for a living!). For a newcomer, who may not have had the same grace for the leader that the community had, or the filters to interpret that prayer, they might leave with some pretty funky ideas about God and us!

With just a little bit of forethought, we can powerfully leverage those little spaces, those unplanned moments in a set, to deepen our congregation in their awareness of what is happening as we worship – and what worship is truly all about.

20 WORSHIP TEACHING BOMBS YOU CAN USE

On the following pages are just a few of the Worship Teaching Bombs I drop on a regular basis. Drop these in sparingly, in your own words, using just one (or two, max) per set. Then, make up your own.

You may, in fact, not want to use one in every set. But if you do use one, repeat some version of it a few more times over the next year. After awhile, some of the catch-phrases and ideas will become a part of the worship culture of your church. You will even hear others repeating these ideas.

How To Use The Worship Teaching Bombs On The Next Pages

You can use the bombs here to stir up ideas for your own. You'll have some very particular needs to address in your church that a short bomb, given with regularity over time, will address.

Note that each of the 20 bombs on the following pages are in larger fonts so you can easily pull them up on a Kindle, iPad, or smart phone for reference when actually using them in a live setting.

On the last page, I'll give you some tips on how to start creating your own Worship Teaching Bombs.

Until then, try a few of these out, over time – then stand back and watch the fires of worship grow in your community!

1. SONGS ARE A PLACE WE GO

"As we enter into this next song, let's remember that songs are a place we go to meet with God. Songs are more than melodies and words; they are places where we speak to God, and God speaks to us."

(Teaching: Songs are a place we go to meet with God – they enhance our relationship with God.)

(Bam! Their minds are blown.)

2. WORSHIP IS THE OPPOSITE OF ESCAPE

"As we gather to worship, let's remember that we don't come to worship to escape reality, but rather to enter into God's greater reality – a reality that we are affirming in these songs."

(Teaching: Worship is the opposite of escape.)

(Bam! They just woke up.)

3. WORSHIP IS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

"As we sing this next song, we are remembering Who God is, and who we are in the light of His Love. God first loved us, 1 John 4:19 tells us, and our worship is simply our response. Let Love win your heart once again as we sing."

(Teaching: Gathered worship is a response to the Love of God, not primarily our initiative.)

(Bam! Love is everywhere. No more cheerleading in worship.)

4. MUSIC IS JUST ONE OF THE VITAL WAYS WE EXPRESS OUR WORSHIP

"Music is just one of the many beautiful ways we can express our love, devotion and allegiance to Christ. Let these songs we use in musical worship strengthen you for the Life Worship that you will give to God this week."

(Teaching: Music is just one, beautiful way we express our Life Worship.)

(Bam! The music matters more than ever; our lives depend on it.)

5. WE ALL COLLABORATE IN OFFERING OUR WORSHIP

"In these times of gathered worship, let's remember that we all have a part to play. We as a band will lead these songs, but it takes all of us together to sing them from the heart, to elevate Jesus in our midst, and to offer together a response that pleases the heart of God. Let's worship."

(Teaching: Gathered worship is a dynamic, collaborative effort – we all have something to contribute.)

(Bam! They are now a part of God's worship team.)

6. HOPE FILLS THE ROOM DURING WORSHIP

"As we begin worship, remember that who you are, and every detail of your life, matters to God. He is truly here, and because He is here, Hope has entered the room. Let's sing, and as we sing, let's remember that there is Hope for everyone – Hope for you – no matter your circumstance."

(Teaching: Musical worship helps us remember that Hope is present among us.)

(Bam! Hope is in reach.)

7. OUR PREFERENCES ARE SECONDARY TO A HIGHER GOAL

"Sometimes we come to worship, analyzing what songs have been selected and seeing if our favorites, our preferences, are in the list. We all have songs that we love – and they're often very different than one another. Let's each lay down our preferences as we gather as one, and let's take these songs – chosen specifically for this morning – and make them the foundation for our unified offering to God today."

(Teaching: Your preferences are important, but they are different from others and must be submitted to a higher goal.)

(Bam! Everything just got a little more humble in the room.)

8. LIFE WORSHIP IS WHAT GOD IS AFTER

"When we come together to sing, we are expressing what is called 'Gathered Worship.' These are the things we do together to strengthen our Life Worship – which is our total life surrender to Christ. Allow these songs to become anthems, soundtracks, for your Life Worship, and to prepare you to enter into the week ahead."

(Teaching: Music is an expression of Gathered Worship, meant to fuel our Life Worship.)

(Bam! We can't hide behind the music.)

9. SONGS ARE THE OVERFLOW OF A THANKFUL LIFE

"It is a privilege to sing our prayers, our thanks, our appreciation to God each week. These songs are the flower, the fragrance, of lives that are living in gratefulness to God in every moment. Let's offer that fragrance of thanks now to God, and allow these songs to strengthen us to lead thankful lives."

(Teaching: Giving thanks is a choice, and participation in worship is important.)

(Bam! Thankful Hearts come to life out of the Grumbling Grave.)

10. GOD IS THE ONE WHO FIRST PURSUES US IN WORSHIP

"As we continue in worship, let's remember that God is the One pursuing us, rather than us being the ones primarily pursuing Him. It is His Love that is pursuing you, chasing you, moving toward you – toward us – in this time of worship. Let's respond to that Love by singing these songs from the heart together."

(Teaching: Gathered worship is primarily a response to the Love of God, not first an initiative on our part.)

(Bam! No one needs to do any more religious gymnastics.)

11. GETTING BEYOND THE LYRICS TO THE HEART OF WORSHIP

"As we sing this next song, we want to get beyond the words to the very heart of what this song is all about. During one of the familiar choruses, we will turn off the lyrics so we can close our eyes and linger in the meaning of what we're singing."

(Teaching: We can take our eyes off the screen, and get beyond reading lyrics to making them our prayer.)

(Bam! The song is simply meant to help us worship.)

12. WHY WE REPEAT PHRASES IN WORSHIP

"In the worship tradition of the Church, many times simple, biblical words and phrases would be repeated over and over to allow their meaning to sink in. This is why we sometimes repeat songs and choruses a few times; we are allowing the meaning of the words to become a part of us, and to become a part of our conversation with God."

(Teaching: Repeating phrases and choruses is an important part of church history ((especially among the monks)), and an important part of engaging with God in worship.)

(Bam! Repetition is necessary in worship.)

13. GOD GIVES OLD SONGS AND NEW SONGS TO HIS CHURCH

"God is always giving a New Song to His Church. In our worship set, we're about to sing songs from the rich history of the Church, and also from our generation. Let each song, uniquely, give wings to your own prayers, thanks, and adoration."

(Teaching: There is a place for both old and new songs in gathered worship.)

(Bam! It's all one body of worship work, serving the Church.)

14. WORSHIP IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING

"As we worship together over the next few minutes, open yourself up to God's work within you. By His Holy Spirit He may want to heal something in your emotions, or something in your body. Turn your heart toward Jesus now, and welcome him to minister to you as we minister to him in worship."

(Teaching: Worship is an opportunity for healing)

(Bam! God heals in the midst of corporate worship. Lean in.)

15. THE SOUND VOLUME IS THE WAY WE LIKE IT

"When we worship together, you'll see a range of ages, places in life, and church backgrounds all around you. For some, they like their music quite and soft so they can hear everyone sing. For others, the younger ones, they like to feel the music, and be moved by a bigger sound up front.

All we ask is that you be gracious as we seek to serve the community to which God has called us, and enter in at the volume that we like to have here. Young people, bring your energy to worship even if it's quieter than you like, and older people, bring your hearts to worship and feel free to grab some earplugs from our ushers, move your seat, or do what it takes to make it work for you."

(Teaching: We appreciate your input on our sound volume, but we have made a philosophical decision to keep it a certain way.)

(Bam! We have a philosophy about worship that affects volume.)

16. WE AUDITION TEAM MEMBERS WITH PURPOSE

"When we gather for worship, we are being led by this amazing team of people who have brought their gifts and skills to the moment of worship we'll share. If you're interested in being involved in the worship ministry, we have auditions every _____, and are always looking for contemporary sounds that connect with those who listen to today's current worship music. Just connect with me if you want to know more."

(Teaching: We welcome new people to be involved in the worship ministry, but have an intentional process for integrating new members. We aim for those able to play and communicate contemporary sounds in their music.)

(Bam! We audition. We have a standard. We want to serve.)

17. FAMILY WORSHIP MATTERS TO US

"We've gathered to worship as a community this morning, and it's our prayer that what we do together enhances your own personal and family worship life."

(Teaching: What happens on a Sunday morning or at an event is meant to enhance the family worship life of those in our community – not replace it.)

(Bam! Sunday morning is to be icing on the family worship cake.)

18. WE HAVE A SET TIME FRAME FOR WORSHIP, AND PROVIDE LONGER OPPORTUNITIES IN OTHER SETTINGS

"Each morning we gather we come to worship for about 20 minutes or so. This is important to us because we have such a wide group of ages, backgrounds attending here, and we want have many things to do each Sunday we're all in one place. If you'd like longer times to encounter God in worship, connect with one of our extended worship nights every _____. We would love to have you there."

(Teaching: We are aware that the nature of a Sunday morning demands time limits to serve all the needs of a diverse community.)

(Bam! You now understand our reasoning and time constraints.)

19. WORSHIPPING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY IS VITAL TO OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

"It’s good to be together to worship. The Scripture reminds us that worshipping with others, in the gathering of those who have chosen to follow Christ, is vital to our spiritual health. When we worship with one another, we grow together into the Body of Christ. No one can be the Body of Christ alone.

We need each other, and these times that we worship as a community will make us stronger over a lifetime."

(Teaching: We are not designed to go-it-alone in our worship life; we are filled and fueled by worshipping together as a community.)

(Bam! Community worship is irreplaceable.)

20. WE EMBRACE DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP, AND WE WILL ACCOMMODATE STYLES TO SERVE OTHERS

"On any given Sunday morning this room is filled with young people, middle-aged people, older people – who have all gathered to worship. In our time of musical worship, we seek to honor that diversity and give us all opportunities to worship in ways that are meaningful to each generation. I encourage you to enter in to worship, and to meet with God in all our diverse expressions."

(Teaching: Different generations have different tastes, and there are many ways we can worship together if we all choose to lean in to both the familiar and the unfamiliar.)

(Bam! Diversity means both sacrifice, and joy.)

HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN WORSHIP TEACHING BOMBS

Use those teachable moments in a set to offer one idea about worship every week or so. You'll begin to see that you can teach about worship without preparing a big message or talking for a long time.

Simple paragraphs like those mentioned in the previous pages, lasting only 10-20 seconds and repeated a few times over the course of a year, can powerfully educate your community about what is happening when we gather to worship.

Create your own Worship Teaching Bombs, and call your community to a deeper life of worship.

Here's how:

1. **Identity** a felt need for worship teaching.

2. **Try** to write 2-3 sentences, maximum, that are clear and teach that concept using the fewest, most conversational words possible.

3. **Spin** those 2-3 sentences *positive* – in other words, don't focus on what you don't want people to think about worship, but on what you *do* want people to understand about worship. Be an encourager with your words. (This can sometimes be difficult if we feel negative about a certain way our church approaches worship – be pastoral and loving, and give them the ideas as if they owned them already.)

4. **Speak** and practice your worship teaching bomb as if you were saying it to your congregation. Speak it out loud, and say it as if both you and they already believe what you're saying, rather than communicating that you have a need to convince them of something.

5. **Re-write** the worship teaching bomb until it feels natural for you to say, is simple, is clear, and confidently expresses a truth.

6. **Share** your Worship Teaching Bombs with the other worship leaders in your church (youth, children, main session, women's, men's), so you're generally saying the same kinds of things.

7. **Ask** your pastor(s) if there are any ideas about worship that they would like to see communicated. Then, make more Worship Teaching Bombs that serve their heart for the congregation.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

It's been a gift to share with you, and I regard it as a privilege to remain in touch if you would like. Visit my blog at www.DanWilt.com to stay connected, and visit www.WorshipTraining.com for incredible resources for your worship team.

Also, would you be kind enough to leave a brief review and rating of this book on Amazon or iTunes for me? It helps let others know about the useful tool of this book, and I would be very grateful.

Again, and blessings on your as you teach God's people about the depths of worship.

With Joy,

Dan Wilt
Author, *Bam! Worship Teaching Bombs (and how to use them.)*

For more Worship resources from Dan, visit:

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