THE
ESSENTIALS
IN WORSHIP
TOOLKIT

4 WAYS
TO BRING YOUR CONGREGATION FORWARD IN WORSHIP

worshiptraining

INTRODUCTION

We all know the feeling.

On any given week, the worship leader has invested hours of work preparing for that 20 minutes, 30 minutes, or 45 minutes of musical worship expression on Sunday.

Themes have been chosen, songs have been selected, arrangements have been decided, and the band has been well-rehearsed.

Then, Sunday morning comes. The musicians are on time, the sound people are ready to roll, and the visuals – they are pristine in both aesthetic beauty and the spelling of the words.

Ready, set... congregation. Right. The congregation. They have come in from scattered worlds – relationally, economically, and spiritually – to that Sunday gathering. You count in the first song, hope the sound is good in the room, and watch for their response.

Ouch. Hours of hard work later, you remember that the congregation's participation, or lack thereof, has everything to do with the experience.

INTRODUCTION

1. Take your time.
2. Find the sweet spot.
3. Model, gather, teach.
4. Listen to their journey.

1ST WAY - TAKE YOUR TIME

Take your time.

First of all, we must define what “bringing our congregation forward in worship” means to us.

If our goal is simply to see more visible, outward expression in gathered worship – we may find ourselves on the wrong side of God. If, however, our goal is help the congregation experience a higher level of engagement in worship, then we have a worthy goal before us. Change takes time. Like an ocean liner, needing to alter its direction, the best changes occur incrementally, over a long distance, and long period of time. Little by little, unfamiliar ideas become familiar.

Over time, many little changes can yield big results. Be in this for the long haul, and for the good of your community. If you are in a rush – get off the stage. This may be more about you than it is about your community. God’s dream is for you to carry His heart as you patiently lead your group forward in worship. Don’t push too fast.

2ND WAY - FIND THE SWEET SPOT

Find the sweet spot.

Who is your congregation? Why did these people choose to come to your church in the first place?

Knowing the answers to these questions can help you understand what small changes you can make to increase your congregation's engagement in worship. For example, a church familiar with hymns will resist a quick change to a contemporary sound. A church familiar with a contemporary sound will resist the interjection of too many hymns, too fast. Change their worship experience, but honor their sweet spot along the way.

Know the sweet spot, and work with it. Do hymns with a contemporary style and chorus to lead that first congregation forward just a step. In the second case, use hymns sparingly in your contemporary set for a time, until they grow on people and become a part of their worship language set.

3RD WAY - MODEL, GATHER, TEACH

Model, gather, teach.

There is a three-step process that can help you inspire your congregation to greater engagement along your shared worship journey.

1. Model the approach, attitude and engagement level you want to see replicated in your worshiping community.

2. Choose people, even coach people, who will likewise represent that level of engagement in front of your church during worship.

3. Gather people to unique worship settings where you can experiment with fresh ideas and approaches to their worship experience.

Manage their expectations, and physically say “We’re going to try something new. Here is what we’ll do.” Teach about engagement with God through songs.

Instruct people how to approach the worship time, the songs that have been chosen, and the heart behind why we worship together.

4TH WAY - LISTEN TO THEIR JOURNEY

Listen to their journey.

Put your ear to the ground, and listen to the emotional noise that goes on before, during, and after each incremental change.

Ask people how they responded to that “new moment” that was unfamiliar to them in that worship set. When people come to you with complaints, listen closely to what they are saying. You will often hear, behind their pain, a love for the familiar, and a longing for their sweet spot to get some air time.

You are there to pastorally serve your church in worship. Serve their discipleship, rather than pushing them toward the style of another church. As you listen, and make incremental changes, your congregation will move forward in their engagement during worship.

ACTION STEPS

> Try at least one idea for the next time you meet.

The goal here is connection and communion with God. People are growing and changing, and this takes time. People are gathered for a specific purpose in your church, so find that sweet spot that brings your congregation into passionate engagement with God.

Use a cycle of model, gather, and teach over an extended period of time to encourage your community to worship freely as well.

Finally, listen to your community's journey. The congregation will reflect back to you how they're handling the shifts in worship. Listen well to their experiences, and adjust accordingly.

WAS THIS HELPFUL? GET THE ENTIRE ESSENTIALS IN WORSHIP COURSE.

Used by thousands of leaders and churches as their go-to training tool for worship leaders in their church (and for team members), The Essentials In Worship Video Training Course with Dan Wilt, M.Min. is built to work. Leaders read brief studies, watch short videos, and connect with game-changing worship leadership insights.



YOUR DOWNLOAD INCLUDES:

- 6 STUDIES in Worship Leading, Worship Ministry Skills, Worship Songwriting, Worship Values, Worship Theology, and Worship History
- A COMPLETE TRAINING MANUAL, broken up into 50-page, "quick study" segments
- 30+ DISCUSSION STARTER VIDEOS with Dan Wilt
- TOOLS for Songwriting, Evaluations, and more.
- BONUS Toolkit eBooks and Media for your team.

Less than the cost of sending one person to one conference this year, Essentials will train all your leaders for years! If Essentials In Worship isn't just the tool you need, then keep it – and get a full refund.

Check It Out

UNLIMITED WORSHIP TRAINING MEDIA IS A CLICK AWAY.

The Essentials In Worship Video Training Course is also part of the world's largest worship training media library, WorshipTraining.com. With a simple individual or church membership, you will never be without world-class training material for your next retreat, training night, or team email.



WorshipTraining.com has thousands of videos, ebook, articles and more that will upgrade the worship experience of your church. Hosting both contemporary and historic worship resources, WorshipTraining will be your go-to resource for years to come.

Become a member FREE just by clicking the link below, or visiting WorshipTraining.com.

Join Free

THE ESSENTIALS IN WORSHIP TOOLKIT

worshiptraining