

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. – **Romans 12:10-13**

Band rehearsals are not usually super fun. Many times they are in the early hour or after a long day. Musicians and tech teams are all arriving with a variety of emotions, experiences and energy levels. Yes, your job as a worship leader is to get the band on track musically, but there is actually something more important that should PRECEDE music making.

"If u attend 2 the songs + congregation while ignoring your own team's needs u will grow a production > people culture"

Before your next rehearsal do this one thing and it will transform the culture of your volunteer worship ministry.

As the leader, arrive earlier than everyone else. Do everything administratively and technically possible to make the stage ready (print charts, check audio lines, etc.). Musicians will arrive and get set up. Once you and your bandmates have monitors solid and are ready to rehearse….

STOP EVERYTHING AND DO THIS…

Invite ALL the musicians into a circle. The drummer will have to come out of their cage and some might have to surrender their instruments. Invite the tech team down to the circle. Make sure everyone is looking at each other. (*NOTE: At this point, there will be a little voice inside you SCREAMING that you don't have time for this touchy-feely relational thing. Ignore that voice.)*

The next 7 minutes might go something like this:

WORSHIP LEADER: Hey thanks for being here. Let's spend the next couple minutes with each other before we attend to the music and the sound and the congregation. How are you? Is there one high or low point in your life you would like to share with the rest of the team? Just a sentence is fine. Everyone doesn't have to share.

Uncomfortable silence while you smile and look at the team.

BASS PLAYER: *"I just got a raise!"*

EVERYONE: *"Yay! Congrats."*

Uncomfortable silence while you smile and look at the team.

DRUMMER: *"My girlfriend texted and dumped me last night."*

WL: *"So sorry. We are here for you today."*

Uncomfortable silence while you smile and look at the team.

SOUND TECH: *"I've been having a ton of doubt about my faith. I'm struggling to just be here today."*

WL: "*Wow. That's heavy. Thank you for your vulnerability. Know that we are with you."*

Uncomfortable silence while you smile and look at the team.

WL: "*Anyone else? Joy? Sorrow?"*

Uncomfortable silence while you smile and look at the team.

WL: *"Thank you, let's pray together….."*

At this point, a quick prayer recognizing all joys and sorrows is good. Thank God for the opportunity to be together and make music. AMEN

Invite the team to pray for each other during the breaks as the day progresses.
Everyone go to their perspective music making station and…

"MUSICAL" REHEARSAL BEGINS

"A team that feels loved and cared for in community will produce better musical results than a scattered, isolated team."

PRO TIP: Before releasing everyone from the circle, take a moment to go over the set list verbally!

EXTRA TIP: Occasionally someone will confess something extraordinary (divorce, cancer etc.) that requires immediate prayer and attention. It's ok to give some special prayer time to this issue, but it can be quick and followed up on later.

EXTRA TIP: The fear is that this turns into a long counseling session and that is not what this is. Your job as the leader is to move it along and keep it what it is…a quick check in – not a deep counseling session. Really make clear that you only want a sentence or two. Over time, this will become the norm.



My name is Mike O'Brien and I am passionate about teaching and mentoring through music. My calling is to use my experience as a producer, worship leader, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist to come alongside musicians, helping them more fully worship God with their instrument and lives. Find out more how I can help your worship leaders and teams HERE.