

W o r s h i p M u s i c M i n i s t r y

T R A I N I N G C O U R S E

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Leading a Set

Guide lines

- ◇ Regardless of how busy you've been before leading, always take time to humble yourself before the Lord.
 - ◇ Admit your need for Him
 - ◇ Have faith that even though you are weak, God WILL use you, and He WILL meet with His people.
- ◇ Don't let yourself feel rushed
 - ◇ It's better to take a little extra time during or after a song in order to hear God's leading, than to have really smooth transitions, but miss something God was prompting you to do, say, play, or sing.
 - ◇ It's the leading of the Spirit that makes the set significant.
- ◇ Always be listening for what God wants you to do. Don't assume he wants you to do it just the way you planned it.
 - ◇ Be willing to change what songs you do even during the set
 - ◇ I always tell my team that the set list is just the starting place. It's what I have sensed up until now that God wants to do, but I will continue following Him through the whole set.
 - ◇ Be willing to change arrangements
 - ◇ The same song can be led many ways
 - ◇ Use your communication skills to change the way it's played in 'real time' (see 'Communicating with a Worship Team')
 - ◇ Try starting with a different section of the song
 - ◇ Try singing it with very light musical accompaniment instead of the full band.
 - ◇ Try repeating a line that seems to stand out to you as it's sung.
 - ◇ I refer to this as the 'Holy Spirit highlighter'. It's like God highlighted or emphasized certain words as we sang them so that I could understand that they are extra important or helpful to the congregation this time. So I will sometimes sing those words again, or pray a prayer based upon that idea.
- ◇ Discern what God wants accomplished with the song or set at that current time – it could change from what you originally thought it would be..
 - ◇ The same songs could accomplish different things at different times depending on how we sing & play them.
 - ◇ Examples of things that may be accomplished:
 - ◇ Exalting God, expressing humility, asking for help, intercession/spiritual warfare, etc.
 - ◇ Example of how the same song could accomplish two different things based upon how we lead it.
 - ◇ A song that says 'May we see You in the fullness of Your glory':
 - ◇ Could be done with an open, majestic feel and really accomplish the purpose of exalting God.

- ◇ You might speak or sing extra words like, “You are incredible God.”
- ◇ OR could be done with an intense, driving feel and accomplish spiritual warfare.
- ◇ You might speak or sing extra words like, “Break through into our lives, God.”
- ◇ Regarding spiritual warfare during corporate worship:
 - ◇ Musical praise is a part of several scriptural battles:
 - ◇ Jericho (Joshua 6); Gideon and the Midianites (Judges 7:16-22); Abijah and Jeroboam (2 Chron. 13:14,15) and Jehoshaphat fighting a large combined army (2 Chron. 20:18-21).
- ◇ It is better to play simple chords that you know you can be accurate with, than to be fancy, but make distracting mistakes.
 - ◇ Experiment with new chords or licks and stretching your ability at home. Once you have it down, use it live. Know your current parameters, and stay 'in bounds'.
 - ◇ Always be practicing and improving your skills. This is being a good steward of what the Lord has given us. (Matt 25:14-30)
- ◇ Model Worship
 - ◇ Your job is not just to lead the music, but to lead WORSHIP. The best way to lead is by example. YOU must be visibly worshiping if you expect others to enter in also.
 - ◇ Find a balance between looking out at the congregation, and closing your eyes.
- ◇ Connect with the congregation
 - ◇ Look at the people w/ bright eyes and a smiling face.
 - ◇ People connect w/ those on stage through their eyes & facial expression.
 - ◇ Be ware of looking too contemplative or serious.
- ◇ Create a smooth flow
 - ◇ This does not mean that you must have no pauses or silence. But it DOES mean that you should not have a pause or silence that is not supposed to be there.
 - ◇ If, for instance, you sense the Lord leading you to wait a moment for His leading, that pause will have a very different effect on the people than a nervous pause while you turn pages or cue the band.
 - ◇ Know what song you are heading to before you end the current one.
 - ◇ Try to get ready for the next song by turning pages or getting adjusted before you end the current song.
 - ◇ Try to memorize your music
 - ◇ This gives you much more freedom to be flexible during a set.
 - ◇ It makes transitions more seamless.
 - ◇ If you are playing an extended worship set where you may be doing songs 'off the cuff' then consider having a notebook nearby that you could flip through in case you need a reminder – maybe on a music stand next to you. We all have memory lapses; even on songs we used to know very well. Be prepared.
 - ◇ Sometimes it's good to use music on a new song that is not quite solid in your mind yet; those are the ones you're most likely to mess up on.
 - ◇ Know how you are going to transition before cutting off.
 - ◇ A prayer that transitions our focus to the next topic can be helpful either in the previous song, during the intro of the new song, or in a break between songs.
 - ◇ If there are other musicians playing, you might ask one of them to cover a particular transition for you. You can also have a sign to ask them to do this 'on the fly'.