

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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Team Dynamics

Working Together

It's a worship TEAM

- ◇ The term that we commonly use to refer to the musicians who play worship music is a 'worship team'; this is an appropriate term.
 - ◇ A team is something that functions as a unit rather than a bunch of individuals.
 - ◇ Many times this means laying down individual preference or identity in order to help the team function.
 - ◇ A team must have a leader and the members of the team must submit to their leadership.
- ◇ It is important for us as worship leaders and team members to understand how we can help the team function better.

Submitting to leadership

- ◇ Every effective sports team has a coach.
- ◇ There may be several people who are capable of coaching the team, but ONE person must be chosen and the others must choose to follow that person.
 - ◇ This means that they willingly lay aside their ability to lead and choose to follow.
- ◇ However, A good leader seeks the input of others.
 - ◇ It is still possible for one person to have ultimate leadership and for the group to discuss things.
 - ◇ It can help the sense of unity for various members in the group to have a place to give suggestions on song arrangements or other things.
- ◇ And a good leader chooses to have others leading him/her.
 - ◇ As worship leaders, we should desire the input of our senior pastors and elders.

A team that prays together stays together

- ◇ This phrase is normally applied to a family, but it is also true of a worship team.
- ◇ Take time in rehearsals and before services to pray.
 - ◇ This may be intercession for the worship time.
 - ◇ It may be prayer ministry to each other.
 - ◇ It helps us to feel connected when we know what is going on in each other's lives.

A team that PLAYS together stays together

- ◇ If it's all just about a function or job that we do, then it can become dry or impersonal.
- ◇ I find it helpful to have a quarterly party where we don't do anything except have fun.
 - ◇ We normally share a meal and just hang out. Sometimes we might play a game.
- ◇ Another good idea can be to deliberately sacrifice rehearsal time every once in a while to just chat with the team.
 - ◇ I'll do this at the beginning of rehearsal for 10 or 15 minutes instead of starting right into prayer or playing.
 - ◇ It communicates that I care more about relationship with the team than I do about getting the job done.

- ◇ However, you have to be careful that this doesn't become a normal fixture that only delays your start time and lets people show up late.

Sacrificing your own preferences

- ◇ Members of a worship team may have preferences that conflict with higher goals of the worship team at times and it is necessary to set these preferences aside in order for the higher goals of the team to be accomplished.
 - ◇ Style – A team members preference may be to play a certain style predominantly, but it may not be a style that suits the congregation the best.
 - ◇ Ex: The majority of people may not relate to hard rock music.
 - ◇ Feel – A team member may prefer a certain attitude or feeling to be in the music that may not fit with what the leadership is trying to accomplish.
 - ◇ Ex: A team member may really like energetic praise music, but the leadership is trying to minister peace that day, and energetic music may not fit very well.
 - ◇ Individual expression:
 - ◇ Soloing – A team member may be really good at soloing, and like to do it, but the leadership may not deem it to be appropriate in their services.
 - ◇ Stylization
 - ◇ Ex 1: A team member may be really good at singing classical music with a large vibrato, but the worship team may have a contemporary style and need that person to use straight tone when they sing.
 - ◇ Ex 2: A guitarist may be a great jazz player and love to use a chorus effect on his tone, but the group may play a rock & roll style and need him to use distortion instead.

Practical tips

- ◇ Play simply.
 - ◇ There may be times when it's appropriate to play something complex, but your normal mode of playing should be simple.
 - ◇ Many people concentrate on playing more notes in order to sound better.
 - ◇ Instead concentrate on playing fewer notes, exactly on beat (rhythmically accurate).
 - ◇ A professional musician sounds really good because they are so accurate and rarely play a lot of notes.
 - ◇ Then, when they do solo, it stands out even more.
- ◇ Listen to what others are playing and singing.
 - ◇ Be sure that you don't have yourself so loud in your monitors that you can't effectively hear what others in the mix are doing.
 - ◇ The thing that you think is really cool when you're listening to only the lead vocal and acoustic guitar could sound really bad with what the electric guitar, bass, and drums are doing.
 - ◇ Think of the whole picture.
 - ◇ Often all the song needs is something very simple, or nothing at all.
 - ◇ Are you willing to do that?
 - ◇ Could this be a pride issue?
 - ◇ Could Jesus use this to make us more like him?
- ◇ Give space for others.
 - Fills
 - ◇ Take turns with the other players putting fills in the open spaces.
 - ◇ The normal thing should be for only one person to play a fill at a time.