

# **WORSHIP LEADER - WORSHIP TEAM LEADING**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Worship Leader is to facilitate a space for their team to have fun while still being efficient. They help create a safe space for their team members to be creative while still ensuring there is unity among everybody. They plan a set that is cohesive while also leaving room for flow and moves of the Holy Spirit. The Worship Leader works alongside the Music Director in leading the team, communicating with the pastor(s), emcee(s) and production. The worship leader is always on time and prepared.

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

- Humility
  - The Worship Leader must walk in humility at all times. A humble leader is a good leader. If something goes wrong, the Worship Leader must take responsibility for their team. If the Worship Leader makes a mistake, they should be willing to admit it. This shows the team that it is okay not to be perfect and helps to facilitate a more welcoming environment. The Worship Leader should also be open to hearing ideas from other team members. While the Worship Leader has the final say when it comes to any decisions made about the set (under the vision and leadership of the ministry lead), they should also recognize that they are not the only one with good ideas.
- Positive attitude
  - The attitude of the team leader often dictates the attitude of the whole team. If the Worship Leader has a positive attitude, the rest of the team is more likely to as well. Positivity leads to creativity, calmness and ultimately unity. If stuff starts to go wrong (during a rehearsal or a service), which will probably happen, the Worship Leader must remain calm and positive so that the rest of the team doesn't take on the burden of that stress.
- Concise
  - The Worship Leader must be able to communicate clearly and concisely with their team. This leaves little room for miscommunication which could then lead to disunity, discouragement and confusion among team members.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WORSHIP LEADER?**

A Worship Leader is simply a leader of worship. This means being able to lead the congregation into a meaningful encounter with God through praise, thanksgiving, adoration, prayer, worship, and encouragement. A leader of worship must not only

worship on the platform, but in their daily life. The saying “You cannot lead people where you have not gone yourself.” is absolutely true when it comes to leading worship. You can only take the congregation as deep as you have gone and are willing to go. The Holy Spirit doesn’t change. He is always speaking and moving, and in leading worship it just depends on if we are willing to listen and follow. A worship leader comes prepared not only with the songs themselves, but also to follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit. They must be able to lead the room through verbal encouragement and singing while also feeling out where the room is at (whether they are following along or getting bored and tired). Being an effective worship leader requires a daily commitment to their walk with the Lord, and they must always be growing deeper in their relationship with Christ.

## **FLOWING**

Flowing is a vital part of our Next Generation Worship Ministries. Worship Leaders must be well-versed in how to flow during worship. Flowing is simply following the Holy Spirit to where He is leading the service/song to go, as well as being able to read the room and facilitate the Holy Spirit's leading. Flowing can include going between sections of the song, spontaneous lyrics, and even just times of instrumental worship. In order to pull this off, the worship leader must be familiar with hand signals and be comfortable with signaling to the MD. They should always signal where they feel led to go with enough time for the MD to clearly communicate this flow change to the band. If there is a time limit for the worship set, plan a few songs and leave time for flow. For example, if you have a 30 minute time limit, plan 3-4 songs that total to about 20-25 minutes at their base. This will then leave 5-10 minutes for flow.

## **TRAINING**

As Worship Leaders, it is important to make sure we are helping to raise up other leaders. This could mean giving other people opportunities, helping coach song leaders in specific things or helping to teach newer team members what it means to be a leader of worship. If this means the Worship Leader doesn’t lead a song every time, then so be it! The best way we can help train up other people is to lead by example and give opportunities to others. An effective leader leads their team with open hands, not clenched fists. Giving opportunities to others is of utmost importance when it comes to training up other leaders.

## **TEAM VALUES**

- We strive for excellence, not perfection.
- Humility is key.
- There is power in unity.
- Come prepared (to both rehearsals and services).
- Lead with open hands and a willing heart.

- Be on time.
- Forgiveness is huge amongst team members.
- Let your yes be yes and your no be no.

## **FLOW OF REHEARSAL**

1. **Arrival** - The worship leader should arrive early with ample time to help other team members set up if necessary and greet their team. Team members should arrive early as well so that they can set up their instruments before line check starts. The worship leader must clearly communicate start time with their team in order for the rehearsal to stay on schedule.
2. **Line Check** - This is where FOH will go through each instrument/vocalist to get a proper gain and EQ on them.
3. **Play through a song from the set** - This can be any song that will give people ample opportunity to set their IEM's (in ear monitors) up how they need them, and also help the team to get warmed up before the rehearsal. We typically do song #1 for this.
4. **Rehearsal begins** - The team works through each song, transitions and parts together. If the Worship Leader wants to, at this time they can split the band and vocals to work separately on parts. However, that is not always necessary and doesn't need to happen every time.
5. **Full run-through** - This is when the team runs the whole set top to bottom without stopping, including transitions and (if the Worship Leader wants them to) vocal encouragements. It might be beneficial to take a short break before this portion to give everyone time for their ears/hands/voices to rest. This will also give the MD time to talk to anyone about parts if necessary and give FOH time to set up a recording. *Full run-through should be recorded so that the team has something to listen back to and practice with/make adjustments as necessary.*
6. **FLOW** - Make sure to flow in rehearsal/run-through as well. If the team can't flow in rehearsal, then they probably won't in service either. This is a great time to train newer Worship Leaders on flow in a safe space, and it also gives the team time to simply worship together without having to lead anybody else. Flowing in rehearsal will inevitably help build confidence in the team members who might be less comfortable with it.

“For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” *Titus 1:7-9*

