

→ **True Or False: A Paradigm Shift**

- A. Myth- Worship leading is all about my intimacy with God. Forgetting the “leader” part of worship leader.
1. Symptoms
 - People just stare at you aimlessly as you worship “in the spirit”
 - People don’t feel the presence like you do
 - There isn’t any growth in your community of worship.
 - You just pick your favorite songs to sing every week.
 - You play horrible music...
 2. Truth- Worship leading is a balance between loving God and loving His people. It is creating a space for people to encounter God and then leading them into it.
- B. Myth- Small group worship is not as important as leading in front of a congregation.
1. Symptoms
 - Being unprepared. Awkward silence or major screw ups.
 - Just putting worship into the study because it’s expected
 - Lamé worship times.
 - Feeling like you’re not a worship leader
 2. Truth- Your role as a worship leader in the small group is important. Small Group Worship can be extremely powerful times of healing and meeting God.
- C. Myth- I need to be like Kim Walker or some other famous worship leader.
1. Symptoms
 - Doing a song like “Montana” or “You Are Good” and realizing no one wants to get up and dance.
 - Comparison and jealousy
 - Trying to conjure up some spiritual high that isn’t there
 - Trying to be someone you are not
 2. Truth- You are unique in the way God made you as a worship leader. Instead of trying to be like someone else, maximize what God has given you!

→ **Choosing a Song Set- Building a Tabernacle**

- A. The Great Tension: Structure vs. Spontaneity
1. Building the structure, allows a place to freely engage with God. Once the house is built, people are free to roam around in it.
 2. A well thought out song set is extremely important element of worship leading.
 - a. Allows God to speak to you about the set and gives him space to mold the set
 - b. Allows you to be free to worship
 - c. Allows you to prepare song sheets for the group

B. General tips.

1. Choose familiar songs. New songs should be introduced strategically!
2. Choose songs in a comfortable key. E is a good middle ground.
3. Choose songs that fit the band dynamics. In the case of an small group setting, this will generally mean “big band” songs won’t work or feel the same.
4. Choose songs that flow together well, by theme and musically.
5. A set should tell a story. You’re not just picking 5 of your favorite songs, but taking people on a journey through the songs you lead them in.

C. Questions to Ask in Preparing a Set

1. What is God speaking!?
2. What has God been saying to your group? What is the group studying or focusing on? What does God want to say to the group? Theme?
3. What has God been speaking to me lately? What songs touch me? What songs have I been worshiping to?
4. Do these songs represent the diversity of our group?
 - a. Hymns vs. Contemporary Songs.
 - b. Multi-Ethnic Songs

D. General set structures

1. Chris Tomlin’s Balanced Meal
2. Fast and joyous to slow and intimate
3. There is no rule to this. Again the idea is not set a mold for you all the follow, but to allow God to inspire you to build a tabernacle.

E. Other tips

1. Be sensitive of time given. Instead of going by number of songs, pay attention to how much time you have. Two people can go through 5 songs at very different rates. General rule is about 4 minutes per a song.
2. If you are in a small group, make sure you have lyrics printed out. If you don’t have lyrics, it is even more important to choose commonly known songs. Generally if the song is known by over 80% of the group you should be okay. You should also practice verbally cueing the lyrics to the group.
3. It’s okay to prepare more songs than you can sing. The key to preparation is to FREE you, not constrict you. Be flexible.

→ **Before the Set: Preparing the Heart**

- A. You must constantly ask the question- how do I best lead the congregation and be genuine with where I am. This is another great tension in worship leading.
- B. Always spend time preparing in prayer and connecting with the Lord. Ask especially for humility in recognition that it is not you who needs to show up, but God.

- C. We must first be able to come before the Lord in worship ourselves. Building the house, without allowing ourselves to go in becomes pointless and ultimately constricting. If we fail to worship ourselves, our work in building will be in vain.

→ **During the Set: Shepherding the Moment**

- A. Don't be afraid to lead people! It is not enough to just worship yourself and hope people follow along. As a leader, your responsibility is split. You are responsible for connecting with God yourself AND for leading people into His presence.
- B. Analogy of a Shepherd. Be sensitive to where people are. Remember the Shepherd is willing to die for his sheep. Also, remember that shepherds not only old staffs for gentle guiding, but a rod. Don't be afraid to challenge them!
- C. What are our tools of the trade? You can use any of these tools during a set to help guide people into worship.
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. Psalms
 - 3. Exhortation
 - 4. Testimony
 - 5. Call and Response
 - 6. Verbal guidance
- D. Give clear instructions, interpret everything, and don't assume someone new knows the correct protocol or what to do.
- E. Don't feel like you have to control every minutes though! Finding the balance between leading, guiding and allowing them to interact with God. Plan in times for spontaneous worship. Explain to those who are new what you are doing and invite people into it. When it is done you should use leadership to regather the group.