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Train & Multiply™

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Sing to the Lord



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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Train & Multiply™



T&M™



Ask for the
Lord's guidance to
develop the music
in your church.

Read and meditate on Psalm 150.

☐ Mark the box when you have done so.

Singing is a very important part of a worship service. Through hymns and psalms we express our love and joy to God, our Creator and Savior, and exalt His greatness and mercy. We encourage each other to grow in faith in Christ.

2 Chronicles 5:12-14 explains how praise pleases God. Please read the passage now.

Hymns are to:

- ☐ enjoy ourselves.
- ☐ please God.

PRACTICAL WORK

- Teach the church musicians about the part music plays in worship. You could use Psalm 100 or other texts mentioned in this study.
- Organize the musicians for the services.
- Instruct those who will be leading worship how to choose and lead the hymns.
- Teach the congregation how to sing better.
- Learn Ephesians 5:19 by heart.
- Compose a hymn of worship, using your own words.

5. When should you find out in what key the hymns are?

6. Write down examples of hymns or verses from Psalms, that serve the following purposes:

Testimony:

Consecration:

Praise:

Confession:

Solomon took the ark of the Lord's Covenant to the new temple. Hundreds sang and played musical instruments before God. Our aim when we lead the singing is to lead the congregation to worship God.

In 2 Chronicles 5, God showed that He was pleased.

He showed His glory in:

☐ a cloud.

☐ a voice.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SONGS

To build a house, one needs to know the different types of building materials. In the same way, to lead public worship, we should know the different kinds of songs, to be able to use them in the right place in the service.

In the Bible, the psalms have different themes. They are of worship, of praise, of petition, of confession, of testimony, of exhortation or of teaching. Often, various themes are combined in the same psalm.

Some hymnbooks have an index of themes at the beginning. This shows which are hymns of worship, of testimony, of invitation, of consecration, etc. We can distinguish between the different kinds of psalms and hymns by looking at what they say.

A WORSHIP hymn speaks of the glory, majesty and holiness of God. In worship we address God, and we forget ourselves. It lifts our hearts. In singing a worship song, we are speaking not to other Christians, but to God.

A hymn of worship focuses on:

- ☐ God.
- ☐ others.

A psalm of PRAISE speaks of God's great acts. For example:
"All you have made will praise you, O Lord: your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom."

(Psalm 145:10-12)

"Open My Eyes"

- ☐ petition.
- ☐ welcome.

"Soldiers of Christ, Arise!"

- ☐ testimony.
- ☐ exhortation.

3. Worship leaders use different approaches to bring God's people into truly spiritual worship. You may have a different style from another leader. Your style will also change according to the occasion and the type of people you lead. Please write below an example of how you plan to lead your people in a typical church service into a meaningful encounter with the most Holy, All-powerful God:
-

4. Which would be the more appropriate hymn to go with a sermon on the Second Coming of Jesus?
- ☐ "Silent Night, Holy Night"
 - ☐ "Jesus is Coming, Sing the Glad Word"

Psalm 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”*

Psalm 63:1 *“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you.”*

2. Mark the answer that best describes each hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

- ☐ worship.
☐ petition.

“In My Need Jesus Found Me”

- ☐ worship.
☐ testimony.

“Oh Jesus, I Have Promised To Serve Thee To The End”

- ☐ petition.
☐ consecration.

Worship concentrates on God Himself and His character, while praise concentrates on His mighty acts. Nevertheless, praise and worship are very close, and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between them.

What kind of Psalm speaks of God’s mighty acts?

P _____

A hymn of TESTIMONY speaks of ourselves (our faith, our desire to follow Jesus Christ, and what He has done for us).

What hymn speaks of ourselves and our experience of what God has done?

- ☐ One of testimony.
☐ One of worship.

A hymn of testimony, such as “Now I Belong to Jesus” expresses our experience and hope. It speaks of oneself.

“I’ll live for Jesus” is a hymn of:

- ☐ testimony.
☐ worship.

A psalm of PETITION asks God for something.

Psalm 140:1 says *“Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men; protect me from men of violence.”*

What does this psalm ask for? _____

Psalm 57: 1 says: *“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.”*

This verse is:

- ☐ petition.
☐ worship.

Other psalms ask God to destroy enemies. These belong to the Old Testament. In the New Testament the Lord commands us to bless our enemies and pray for them. (Matthew 5:43-44)

SUMMARY TEST

1. The following verses from the Psalms are of testimony, confession of sin, praise, consecration or worship. Underneath each one, write down which it is about:

Psalm 48:1 *“Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise.”*

Psalm 51:2 *“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”*

Psalm 18:1 *“I love you, O Lord, my strength.”*

Psalm 34:4 *“I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.”*

- In a firm, clear voice announce the songs according to the order of service.
- Give the note before starting to sing, then help everyone to sing in tune, harmoniously. For this, everyone:
 - should watch the leader, to keep the same rhythm.
 - should pronounce the words clearly and correctly.
 - should not strain to reach the high notes by shouting; rather, by controlling their voices.
 - Sing at a speed appropriate to the type of hymn.
(For example: Songs of joy and encouragement are sung faster. Hymns of meditation may be sung more slowly.)
- Encourage the people to think about the words they are singing, so as to worship God in their hearts.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading during the service. He may wish to add or change something.

Psalm 68:1 says: “*May God arise, His enemies be scattered.*”

This verse is:

- ☐ a prayer against enemies.
- ☐ a psalm of worship.

A hymn of EXHORTATION encourages us to obey God.

“Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,” expresses:

- ☐ worship.
- ☐ exhortation.

This is exhortation because it encourages us to serve the Lord as obedient soldiers.

In a hymn of THANKSGIVING, we thank God for all the benefits we have received.

In a hymn of CONSECRATION, we surrender our lives to the Lord and His service.

“Take my life, and let it be...” expresses:

- ☐ confession.
☐ consecration.

Beside the following hymns titles, write down whether they are hymns of worship, testimony, thanksgiving or praise:

- a. “Holy, holy, holy” _____
- b. “I Surrender All (to Jesus)” _____
- c. “Thank you for every new morning” _____
- d. “To God be the Glory! Great things He has done!” _____
- e. “Great is Thy faithfulness” _____

Answers:

- a. worship,
b. testimony,
c. thanksgiving,
d. praise for God’s works,
e. worship (concentrating on God Himself).

How many aspects do you find need changing?

(Compare him with the following picture.)



Answer: The song leader on the right must: comb his hair, smile, wash his hands, tidy his shirt, wash his trousers, mend his trousers, straighten up, polish his shoes, and shave.

In the Service

- Arrive well before the meeting starts.
- Make sure all is ready.
 - instruments well tuned.
 - order of songs clear, etc.
 - words of all songs known or written up for learning.



- Find out the key for each song and write it down.
- Notify beforehand those who will sing: solos, duos, trios, or play an instrument, so that they practice. In most churches, they normally know ahead of time when they are to begin. The leader does not need to announce it; this avoids long pauses that allow people's attention to drift. It shows a lack of preparation if someone always has to announce everything that happens.
- Dress tidily for the service. Several aspects of the appearance of the song leader on the right need to be changed.

HOW SONGS CAN LEAD A CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

In the Old Testament the Israelites went up to Jerusalem for the festival days. On approaching the city, they sang the "Songs of Ascents." (Psalms 120-134)

These songs of ascents begin with man's need - "*I call on the Lord in my distress*" (Psalm 120:1) and finish in the Sanctuary of God, where men praise the Lord. (Psalm 134:2) From man's need to the presence of God, there is a great distance; perhaps this is why they sang fifteen psalms.

Singing can lift us from life's everyday pressures into the presence of God. But, to praise God in real worship, we must lead the singing with this objective in view. Otherwise, the singing may only lead to an emotional release, which has little to do with the worship of God in spirit and in truth.

Nearly anyone can lead singing, but it needs someone special to lead worshipers. He must be a worshiper himself, if he is to lead others towards real worship. He must know where to begin, where they are going, the steps to take, and when they have reached worship.

WHERE DO WE START?

To lead people, we must begin where they are and be sensitive to their reality. Very often, Christians come to the service worried about their own personal needs, and with their faith weakened.

In a firm loving way, the song leader must help them turn their eyes back to the Lord and encourage them to worship God Who is sovereign over all.

In Psalm 100 we find a model of how to do this. This psalm mentions Moses' tabernacle. Understanding the different parts of the tabernacle will help us to see the progression of worship.

TESTIMONY

(Outside the Tabernacle in the camp)

Psalm 100:1-3 tells us: "Shout for joy to the Lord... come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

WHAT A SONG DIRECTOR NEEDS TO DO

Before the Service

- Pray for the meeting. Remember that a worship service is to adore God, not to entertain the congregation. It is to please God with our praises, and to build up the believers.
- Choose the songs carefully, according to:
 - the people who will attend the service,
 - their order in the service,
 - the purpose of the service,
 - the theme of the sermon.

For example: Is the hymn for confession, praise, thanksgiving, etc.?

- After a message for believers, you should sing a hymn of exhortation. This will call on them to fulfill their duty such as:
 - "Stand up, stand up for Jesus" or
 - "Work, for the night is coming."

At this point, some leaders make the mistake of jerking the people abruptly back into the outside courtyard, with an emotional chorus of thanksgiving. Worship takes time; don't hurry people. Saying clever things is inappropriate. Instructions are not necessary. Let the believers worship. Silence may be menacing to the leader, but is golden for the worshiper.

When you sense the majority has finished their worship, choose a song related to the theme of the preaching of the word, or pass on to any other ministry that has been prepared.

The singing is not an end in itself. The Holy Spirit uses it to release our spirits to worship God. The singing takes the believers from the natural to the spiritual. It takes them from an expression of their own needs, to worship in spirit. Leading songs is more a matter of leading worshipers, than just singing.



Songs of testimony give people an opportunity to focus on their own position before God through Christ's salvation. This gives the believers something to identify with, early on in the service. Some worship leaders prefer to start out with songs of pure worship, to direct the people's attention at once to the Almighty. This will depend on the level of maturity of the people, what the church is accustomed to, and your own prayerful decision.

For example, we can use songs that begin with "I am..." or "I have..." With these songs, we gently take people's minds off their problems and focus them on Almighty God. The next step is thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING

(Entering the courtyard)

The psalmist tells us: "*Enter his gates with thanksgiving.*" (Psalm 100:4) When we sing thanksgiving, we move through the door that divides what is worldly from what is holy.

Going through the door of the courtyard, the first thing one came to was the altar of sacrifice. Next to it was the basin of water. Their meaning is that we can enter through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, and His washing of our sins.

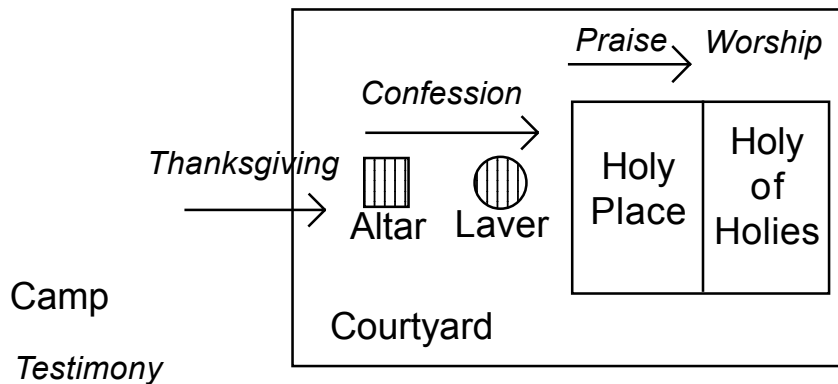
This is a good moment in the service to praise God for the forgiveness
He gives us in Jesus Christ:

*“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the
eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our
consciences from the acts that lead to death, so that we may
serve the living God!”* (Hebrews 9:14)



The Israelites who were not
priests could only enter as far
as the courtyard. However,
thanks to Jesus' sacrifice, we
can proceed right through to
the Most Holy Place!

The Tabernacle



PRAISE

(In the Holy Place)

Once thanksgivings are being sung, it is easy to go on to PRAISE.
We progress from thanksgiving for favors received in the past, to
praises for God's great acts.

The advance from one step to another does not need many words
from the song leader. At this point in the service (coming before
God's holy presence), be careful not to interrupt the flow of the
songs. Do not give notices or pray for other needs, particularly if the
people would need to change position physically. Leave the prayers
and notices for another moment.

WORSHIP

(In the Most Holy Place)

As we enter into the presence of God, the hymns should reflect the
awe that such glory and majesty inspires. *“Bless His name”* says the
psalmist. (Psalm 100:4) When worshiping profoundly, we pass from
simply using words to the worship of God in spirit.