

Men's Worship Training Workshop

Leading Songs In Public Worship

Scriptural Considerations For Singing In Worship:

1. **Ephesians 5:19** – *“Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.”*
 - *“Psalms” obviously refers to the Psalms we read of in the Old Testament.*
 - *“Hymns & Spiritual songs” were probably songs that the early Christians wrote themselves.*
2. Colossians 3:16-17 – *“16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*
3. Psalm 30:4 – *“Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.”*
4. Psalm 104:33 – *“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.”*
5. James 5:13 – *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”*

Practical Considerations For Singing In Worship:

1. The book of Psalms were songs the Hebrews sang. The words of Psalms are inspired and were set to music.
2. Words connected with music helps us to remember the words.
3. In life why do we sing? We sing when we are in a good mood and happy.
4. Singing can also encourage us and lift our spirits.
5. In the first century the New Testament was not complete. But sections of the New Testament, and the teachings of the apostles were sometimes set to music (i.e. Hymns and spiritual songs).

Song Leaders Have A Vitally Important Job:

1. Song leaders must create a positive tone for the worship. This is accomplished by using the appropriate pitch and tempo linked with enthusiasm and passion.
2. It is the song leader's goal to encourage and uplift the hearts of all the singers – Not discourage and depress the congregation.
3. Song leaders need to take their responsibilities seriously.
4. Always remember that a song leader does much more than select a few songs to sing.

Some Natural Ability Is Necessary:

1. Paul's says that preachers and elders need to be *able to teach*. The same could be said about song leaders, they need to be able to sing.
2. Most people have the ability to sing. But there are some that are *tone deaf* (unable to perceive differences of musical pitch accurately).
3. A man does not necessarily need to be a trained singer to lead singing in public worship. Training is always a plus, but not necessary.
4. Understanding the fundamentals of music can be beneficial. But that doesn't mean a song leader must know how to read music.
5. Most Christians learn church songs by rote. By singing songs repeatedly, most people eventually pick up the melody.
6. As with all things, practice makes perfect.

Song Leader Tools:

1. Personal song book.
2. Pitch pipe or pitch app.
3. You need to create a list of the songs you can lead comfortably.
4. Keep a log of the songs you have led, so you don't fall into a pattern of singing the same eight or ten songs.

Basic Music Information:



Name	Note	Rest	
Whole Note			4 Beats
Half Note			2 Beats
Quarter Note			1 Beat
Eighth Note			½ Beat
Sixteenth Note			¼ Beat

Sharp = Half-Step Up

b Flat = Half-Step Down

The Importance Of Pitch:

1. If you pitch a song too high, half the congregation, especially the men, will fade out.
2. If you pitch a song too low, you lose a lot of the women, plus the bass singers will find their notes too low to sing.
3. Since all our songs are in four-part harmony, pitch is important.
4. Then there is another consideration – your voice. You don't want to pitch a song so high that you are unable to hit the notes. Doing so will cause you to go flat, which is a BIG "no-no!"
5. It sounds complicated, but with a little advance planning it's relatively simple:
6. In the top left corner of our song books you are given the key and the direction pattern number. This makes it easy for the song leader.
7. You need to sing the song before to determine if your voice will allow you to pitch the song as it is written. If not, lower the pitch a half step, and repeat if necessary until you find the pitch your voice can handle. Then write your personal pitch on the top of the page.
8. Very few people have what is called "Perfect-Pitch." Therefore, most song leaders will need some kind of pitch device.

The Importance Of Tempo:

1. The tempo of a song is as important as the pitch of a song – in some cases more so.
2. Leading with your hand:
 - Leading with just your voice has disadvantages (i.e. a stronger voice in the audience can drag the song down (tempo drag).
 - With your hand you can convey tempo, emotion, loudness, softness. This will greatly enhance a song leader's ability to bring out the meaning of the song.
 - A song leader must know how to beat time for the congregation.
 - There are only three simple patterns you need to know in order to lead any song in the hymnal. They are: the 2-beat, the 3-beat, the 4-beat. They are easily learned and become second nature with a little practice.
3. A precise beat is achieved by:
 - Extending the arm
 - Keep the hand extended so that the palm is visible to the congregation.
 - Exaggerate each beat.
 - Keep the beat chin high so everyone can see.

General Observations:

1. Announce song numbers twice.
2. Announce the title.
3. Sound your starting note
4. Start singing on a down beat
5. Maintain a clear beat pattern.
6. Be ready to lead the invitation song immediately after the sermon.
7. Avoid using new or complicated songs as an invitation song.
8. In fact, it's best not to include unfamiliar song in the song service.
9. Avoid making lengthy comments. Keep the song service moving and let the songs speak for themselves.
10. Try to begin the song service with a lively song of praise.
11. Avoid using a lengthy song for the dismissal song.
12. Always have extra songs ready in the event of a baptism.