

# **LEARN TO LEAD WORSHIP IN 14 DAYS**

Outline

**A POWERFUL, PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LEADING  
WORSHIP – FAST – EVEN IF YOU’VE NEVER  
DONE IT BEFORE.**

# INTRO

- Yes, you can start leading worship in 14 days
  - Story of my first time leading worship
  - 2 years of piano, no worship leading experience, 1 hour of prep
  - That means you can learn in 14 days
- How to use this training

## DAY 1:

### ***FIND OUT IF YOU'RE CALLED, PLUS, WHAT IS WORSHIP ANYWAY?***

- Motives can be deceiving
  - You might feel you selfishly want to be in front of people or look cool
  - That could be God getting you to start toward your calling
- The fact that you're taking this training is a good indication that God is calling you
- What is worship?
  - Overview of worship as described by Scripture
  - What was it used for?
  - Why does God want us to worship him?
- Even with all this scriptural training, don't feel like you have to be a worship expert to lead worship
  - If your heart's in the right place, God will continue to push you down the right path
- Day 1 worship study and action items

## DAY 2:

### ***NUTS AND BOLTS: DETERMINE YOUR ACCOMPANIMENT***

- You will need instrumentation of some kind
- Which types of instruments are best for worship leaders
- Assuming you play an instrument, at least a little:
- If you don't have one, get a guitar
- Learn G, C, D, Em, Am. Capo everything at first
  - How to learn keys fast, if you have experience there
  - Or, partner up with someone who already plays and start rehearsing

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- Playing by ear: your greatest friend
- Tips on playing and singing at the same time
  - Tasks that seem impossible to you now are attainable.
  - The brain is super flexible and adapts quickly if you push it toward a skill
- You don't play an instrument
  - Find a friend who plays
  - Use your church's or youth group's band (this is ideal)
  - Find an inexpensive backing track
    - Backing track options

## **DAY 3:**

### ***SCHEDULE YOUR FIRST WORSHIP TIME***

- Now that you have chosen your instrument, band, or accompaniment, choose a date that works with everyone involved
  - Also schedule rehearsals if you are playing with a band or accompanist.
- This deadline will force you to put serious effort into getting ready
- You won't have time to put off getting ready
- Where to look for an opportunity
  - Youth groups
  - Kids church
  - Small group
  - Retirement homes
  - Don't ask to lead worship for the main church yet
- Make your own opportunity.
  - Current worship leaders and pastors love it when new leaders show initiative
  - Leaders shouldn't have to pave the way for you.

# DAY 4:

## *CHOOSE YOUR SONGS*

- Why choose songs so early? To get good at just those songs
- Make sure they're easy
- Pick songs that everyone will know. This isn't a time to teach a new song
- Don't worry about learning a huge library of songs yet
- How to choose a good set
- Know your vocal range
- Day 4 action items

# DAY 5:

## *CREATE THE ARRANGEMENTS*

- Arrangements
  - Determine the order in which you'll play and sing the song.
    - e.g. verse, chorus, verse, bridge, etc. Make sure the band knows the plan
- Make notes in your music.
  - Does this part get bigger?
  - Do we sing a capella during this chorus?
- Day 5 action items

# DAY 6:

## *WORK OUT YOUR TRANSITIONS*

- A worship set is only as good as the transitions
- Know what you're going to do between each song
  - That could be a musical transition, prayer, scripture reading, or short word.
- Transitions are a great time to practice being a "worship pastor" not just a "worship leader"
  - A worship leader leads songs and makes sure the worshipers know where you're going musically
  - A pastor "shepherds" the worshipers, teaches about worship, and guides people spiritually
- Pastoring may be a bit much to handle your first time leading worship. But keep that

in mind as you grow.

- Day 6 action items

## **DAY 7:**

### ***PRAY AND READ PSALMS***

- Psalms are ancient songs that people used to worship God
- Studying these somehow centers you on God
  - Getting centered in God takes your focus off yourself
  - The less self-conscious you are, the better you'll sound
  - Pick one or two Psalms. Read through them each day
- Knowing the Psalms will help you give words of encouragement during your worship set. These scriptures will roll off your tongue naturally as you lead
- Day 7 action items

## **DAY 8:**

### ***GET YOUR MUSIC READY***

- Make notes
- Get a binder with clear holders to flip easily
- Another option is an iPad that runs Music Stand.
  - This may be out of budget for you or your church, though
- Worship music resources
  - CCLI
  - Internet chord charts
- Day 8 action items
  - Find and print off your music sheets
  - Make notes about dynamics, arrangement, transitions

# DAY 9:

## *START VOCAL WARMUPS*

- Voice is like any muscle
- You need to work it out to make it perform when you need it
  - Resources include CDs, Spotify playlists, and YouTube
- Day 9 action items
  - Find 1-2 vocal warmup resources.
  - Do the warmups
  - Keep a journal or calendar of how long you worked out your voice each day

# DAY 10:

## *GET COUNSEL*

- Meet with your pastor, spiritual leader, or worship leader
- Ask them to pray you into your role
  - There's nothing magical about this
  - The Bible is full of stories of spiritual authorities anointing individuals for service
- Ask for advice
- Day 10 action items

# DAY 11:

## *REHEARSAL #1*

- Hold your first rehearsal
- Rehearsal tips
- After rehearsal, practice in front of a friend and in front of a mirror
- For some, it's actually worse to play in front of one person than many. That's me
- Playing in front of anyone – even one person – will force you to keep going even if you mess up.
- Getting in front of a mirror will let you know if you are doing anything weird when you play or sing.
- Day 11 action items

# DAY 12:

## ***SING BACKUP VOCALS FOR ANOTHER WORSHIP LEADER***

- You can get the feel of being on stage without leading
- Get used to singing into a mic, projecting
- Get used to the equipment, like monitors, confidence screens, music stands, in-ear monitors or headphones, etc.
- Day 12 action items

# DAY 13:

## ***ONE MORE REHEARSAL. PRACTICE IN THE LOCATION YOU WILL BE LEADING, BUT WITHOUT ANYONE THERE***

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- For instance, stand at the front of the room where the youth group meets and sing to an empty room
- This will give help you get used to the room and atmosphere
- Actually worship there. If you practice worshiping in a location, it will feel more natural when you do it in front of people
- Play exactly how you will be leading: standing, into the mic, etc., with any monitor system you will be using.
- Day 13 action items

# DAY 14:

## ***IT'S WORSHIP DAY***

- Before the worship time
  - Arrive early to get your gear and music set up
  - Pray with your team
  - If you have a sound system, plug in and get a sound check. Make sure everything is balanced and you can hear yourself
  - If possible, run through your songs before people arrive. Run it as though it's the real set with transitions, prayers, etc.
- Worship time:
  - Open the time up in prayer and give a call to worship
  - Lead the songs just like you've practiced. Don't get fancy with anything you hav-

en't already practiced

- Don't close your eyes the whole time. Engage with the audience

- Watch the crowd. Part of being a worship leader is being able to end a song early or extend it depending on how people are engaging

- Ending the song set

- Know how you will end the set

- Pray, or have another leader come up and transition to the next part of service

- Be sensitive to what's going on. Be ready to repeat a song, or have an extra song ready if people still want to worship

## **CONCLUSION:**

### ***REVIEW YOUR WORSHIP TIME***

- Keep a journal of what went well, what could improve

- Next time you lead worship, refer to this journal