

WORSHIP PLANNING

Session 2

Worship Planning

- ◆ *Remember worship is a dialogue*
- ◆ *Elements chosen should communicate something about God or give voice to our response to His revelation*
- ◆ *Be creative - our culture, younger culture especially, craves the experiential*

A. Creative Ideas

1. God's Word needs to be introduced into the body of our worship; restoration of worship in Israel; no mention of music [Nehemiah 8:1-6]
 - a. Different languages [Acts 2]
 - b. Books of the Law - attorney, judge
 - c. Physician - discuss the physical horror of the cross; read narrative
 - d. Astronomer - discuss galaxies; read Psalm 19
 - e. Science teacher or botanist - read Psalm 104
 - f. Shepherd - read Psalm 23
 - g. Musician - read Psalm 96 or Psalm 150
 - h. Couple - read Ephesians 5
 - i. Grandfather and grandson - read Psalm 145:4; share bible story one generation will tell
 - j. Quotations of scripture
 - k. Share favorite verses; tell why between stanzas of hymns or worship songs about the Word
 - l. Dramatic retelling of a bible story - "A farmer went out to sow some seed..." or
 - m. Four readers (narrator, father, good son, prodigal son) on stools telling the "Prodigal Son" story
 - n. Alternate present news stories juxtaposed with scripture about God's faithfulness and immutability [Psalm 46]
 - o. Mother reads "Mary's Magnificat"
 - p. Older gentleman reads "Zephaniah's Praise"
 - q. Physician or OB/GYN reads Psalm 139
 - r. Additional examples from class
2. The bible itself is a narrative of God's love for mankind and can be shared in dramatic ways
 - a. Must be well done and well-rehearsed

- b. Utilize modern stories to illustrate the scripture
 - i. Make sure it matches the message for the day
 - ii. Sower and the seed
- c. Hymn writers' stories - Fanny Crosby (blind hymn writer), Philip Bliss
- 3. Video clips and other media
 - a. Available at low cost for inclusion in service
 - b. Clips from famous movies to illustrate a point (get permission)
- 4. Music
 - a. Used a great deal in worshiping God [Psalm 146:1-2]
 - b. Different kind of music
 - i. Holy Angels
 - ii. Heart for God - Primary
 - c. Should be absolutely biblically, theologically correct
 - i. Words matter!
 - ii. Don't choose a song simply based on the beat!
 - ◆ *Ask about songs like "Reckless Love"*
 - d. Should be chosen for the congregation
 - i. Choose music that is sing-able with a melody and rhythm, in a comfortable range
 - ii. If congregation is not singing - often because they can't or they don't know it
 - iii. Not your opportunity to highlight the latest and greatest
 - e. Teach new songs intentionally
 - i. People cannot pour out their heart in worship through a song they are not comfortable with
 - f. Choose a musical style that fits with your church family
 - g. Choose music that fits the text
 - i. Not a fast, upbeat approach to the agony of the cross
 - h. Present your best offering of music to the Lord with a pure heart
 - i. God didn't accept spotted sheep or leftover offerings
 - ii. All music should first be God-honoring
 - i. Do things creatively
 - i. Antiphonal singing
 - ii. Solo vs congregational
 - iii. New arrangements of old songs
 - iv. Provide song background
 - j. Balance objective and subjective songs
 - k. Balance vertical and horizontal songs
 - l. Vary keys and tempos
 - m. High range late in service (if used at all)

5. Arts

- a. Art display (painting or drawing) in the church lobby
 - ii. Create works of art during a sermon or bible story telling
 - iii. Display children's artwork around a central bible theme
 - ◆ *Examples: What do angels look like? What does Heaven look like?*
- b. Pottery - throw a pot and tell a bible story about Jesus describing the Potter
- c. Sand art
- d. Sign language - an artistic expression
- e. Interpretive dance
- f. Ideas from class

6. Prayers

- a. The soul of worship [Acts 2:42] "Every church continued steadfastly in prayers"
- b. Guiding principles for corporate prayers
 - i. Have a purpose
 - ii. Address to God
 - iii. Avoid old English
 - iv. Speak in a clear voice
 - v. Speak loud enough to be heard
 - vi. Avoid speaking too long
 - vii. Offer advance notification
 - viii. Represent the entire community
 - ix. Avoid sermonizing
 - x. Avoid cliches

7. Preaching

- a. Always biblical
- b. Always theologically accurate
 - i. Ask God to show you what He wants to communicate
- c. Be yourself - use your voice
- d. Be the worship leader
 - i. Your expression of worship draws parameters for the rest of the congregation to follow
- e. Be transparent
 - i. Ron Lyles story
- f. Can use objects and be creative
 - i. Stone story
 - ii. Monologue - 1st person account (Roman guard)
- g. Review transcendence and immanence used in every service
 - i. Transcendence or immanence?
 - ◆ *"He Will Hold Me Fast"*
 - ◆ *"O the Blood (of Jesus washes me...)"*