



## Made To Praise: Preschool Worship

by Yancy

### 1. Worship is communication

- A. God
- B. Our kids/audience

### 2. What are you communicating?

- A. Songs
- B. Vocabulary
- C. Leader

### 3. Preschool worship is a POWERFUL thing!

- A. Psalm 8:1&2 God, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name. Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you; toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk, and silence atheist babble." (MSG)
- B. Kids worshipping is the sweetest sound

### 4. What's your vision

- A. Write it down
- B. Help your team know what they are striving for each week

### 5. How to choose age-appropriate songs

#### A. Attentions Spans

1. Song length should be 1.5-2 minutes. 3 minutes only when you have to.
2. You can edit songs down to a shorter length if needed.
  - a) "How Great Is Our God"
  - b) Pro Tools, Logic or Garage Band
3. There's a difference in a two year old vs. a five year old
  - a) 2's & 3's -needs to be simple, very repetitive
  - b) 5's love "repeat" type songs. Can handle multiple parts (vs. chorus, etc.)

#### B. You don't need a huge repertoire of songs

1. Kids love the same thing over and over
2. They like routine and familiar
3. Repetition increases understanding:
  - a) 1st time heard 10% is retained
  - b) 2nd time heard 25% is retained

- c) 3rd time heard 50% is retained
- d) 4th time heard 75% is retained
- 4. Different models:
  - a) Use the same songs every week throughout month
  - b) Does different songs each week but has one "theme" song about what's being taught that gets repeated every week
- 5. Find what works and do that
- C. Don't do too many songs at once**
  - 1. They're not going to be into singing 5 songs back to back
  - 2. Remember attention spans and plan your service accordingly
- D. Look, watch and experience some of the most popular preschool music there is to learn**
  - 1. Laurie Berkner Band
  - 2. Yo Gabba Gabba
  - 3. Disney Junior
    - a) This music is all simple, repetitive and uses a limited vocabulary that a preschooler can understand

## **6. To learn they have to understand!**

### **A. Vocabulary**

- 1. Abstract Vs. Concrete
- 2. It's hard for a child to understand "Jesus is my Savior" but they can understand "Jesus is my friend."
- 3. A 2-year old has approximately 200 words in his vocabulary.
- 4. An adult has 10,000-15,000 words...no wonder they don't understand us.

### **B. Look for songs that speak their language**

### **C. As you lead them, you have to speak their language as well in order to communicate with them!**

### **D. Get them involved:**

- 1. Clap
- 2. Jump
- 3. Dance
- 4. Specific motions
- 5. Hands raised
- 6. Stand up
- 7. Sit Down
- 8. Shout it, Whisper it
- 9. **Use props:**
  - a) Instruments
  - b) Hats
  - c) Dress up props
  - d) Find things that tie into the song's theme

## 7. Creating motions for songs

- A. What is the obvious motion that comes to mind when you listen to the song?
1. Simple
    - a) Jump, wiggle, movement of arms and legs, spinning
  2. General dance moves are always great
  3. You want the motions to enhance the song not take away from the song
  4. Don't worry about having a motion for the entire song. Absence makes the heart grow fonder ☺
  5. Have fun!

## 8. Leading worship is more about your leadership ability than your musical ability

- A. I am not saying that it's ok to be tone deaf
- B. To lead worship means more than just standing up there and singing songs.
- C. The title "worship leader"
1. The definition of leader is "a person or thing that leads"
- D. Leading worship is a lot like an aerobics instructor
1. Positive behavior that needs to be encouraged!

## 9. Here are my top 10 for leading worship for kids

1. **Prepare**
  - a) Plan what you're going to say
  - b) Plan the transitions
  - c) Know your songs
  - d) Don't wait till the day of to plan.
  - e) The anointing doesn't make up for lack of preparation.
2. **Constantly evaluate.**
  - a) A good teacher has a sense of when their audience is getting it and when they're not. A good teacher takes notice and goes back to the drawing board to find another way to communicate.
3. **Speak clearly**
  - a) Talk slower than you normally do
  - b) Repeat what you say
4. **Be bold**
  - a) If you act wimpy they'll think you're wimpy. It's a respect / authority thing. No mousy-ness
  - b) You are the leader!
5. **Be exciting**
  - a) Talk with energy

- b) Speak with a higher tone than normal
- c) Wear bright colors, don't wear all black
- 6. **Be consistent**
  - a) Just like parenting. You can't lay down the law one day and then be slack the next. It sends a confusing message.
  - b) Multiple services, teams and leaders means putting into your team so they are all headed to the same place.
- 7. **Don't hide behind a microphone stand**
- 8. **Make eye contact**
  - a) Be focused in your movements
  - b) Move around, don't stay in one spot
- 9. **Give vocal instruction**
  - a) Sing, clap, lift your hands, worship from your heart, sing to Jesus, etc.
  - b) Let me show you what I'm talking about .
- 10. **Teach kids to worship**
  - (1) Why we worship God
    - (a) **First look**-giving first picture of a loving God
    - (b) **First Look Worship**-first picture of US loving God
  - (2) How many like to hear the words I love you?
  - (3) **Psalm 22:27&28,30&31**

From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to God. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him...Our children and their children will get in on this As the word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news— that God does what he says. (MSG)

## 10. What to look for as you recruit Preschool Worship Leaders

- A. **Fun!**
  - 1. It has to be someone who will be willing to jump, wiggle, cluck like a chicken, etc.
  - 2. Lay down their pride
- B. **Personality**
  - 1. The way you communicate can inspire wonder
- C. **Committed to excellence**
  - 1. Being prepared
  - 2. Evaluating
  - 3. Growth
- D. **Music/singing experience is preferred but not required**
  - 1. Possible people in your congregation who would be great at this
    - a) Middle school and high school students
    - b) Musically talented moms who have laid down their music to be Moms. They may be itching for an opportunity
    - c) Young adult couples

d) Drama/theater people

### **11. Reminders for using soundtracks effectively**

- A. You control the intro and instrumentals. Don't let them control you
  - 1. Plan what you need to say
    - a) Encourage participation
    - b) Explain what the song is about
    - c) Have kids interact with each other
    - d) You engage them and get a verbal response
    - e) Even use the outro to encourage worship or carry a transition

### **12. Pray**

- A. Pray for direction as you lead worship
  - B. Pray for the right people for your team
  - C. Be specific in what you ask for personnel wise
  - D. Read the word
  - E. Worship (off stage)
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