



POWER PACKED PRESCHOOL PRAISE

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. The verse that changed everything for me.
 - 1. 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. Psalm 8:2 (TPT) You have built a stronghold by the songs of babies. Strength rises up with the chorus of singing children. This kind of praise has the power to shut Satan's mouth. Childlike worship will silence the madness of those who oppose you.
- C. **Every time** you press play you are choosing to unleash God's power to be at work in your classes, halls and homes.
- D. Kids worshipping is the sweetest sound you will ever hear.
- E. **Children worshipping plays a part in our salvation story.**
 - 1. Jesus was on the donkey. The crowds were crying "Hosanna". Matthew 21:16 says: Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"
 - a) NLT says: you have taught children **and infants** to give you praise.
 - b) NKJV says: out of the mouth of babes you have perfected praise.
 - c) ISV says: "you have created praise".
 - d) TPT says: "You have fashioned the lips of children and little ones to compose your praises'."

F. The Cosmic Chorus of Praise

1. Psalm 148-10-13

Praise him, all beasts and birds, mice and men, kings, queens, princes, and princesses, young men and maidens, **children and babes**, old and young alike, everyone everywhere! ¹³ **Let them all join in with this orchestra of praise. For the name of the Lord is the only name we raise! (TPT)**

G. The subject of our praise:

1. 1John 5:21 "So, little children, guard yourselves from worshiping anything but him." (TPT)
2. keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts. (NLT)

H. It's a qualification of a leader.

1. 1 Timothy 3:4 His heart should be set on guiding his household with wisdom and dignity **bringing up his children to worship with devotion and purity.**

I. When you intentional about creating spaces for kids to sing God's praise it creates a shift in the atmosphere. The power of God is unlocked and invited to live, move and having being in our midst.

1. Make time every time you gather for kids to praise God.
2. Put His praises on their lips.

4. Create playlists on Apple Music and Spotify of the songs you use in your ministry. (monthly, quarterly, annually.)

- a) A legal way to get the music in the hands of families with zero cost to you.
- b) Link to the playlists in emails, newsletters, social media etc.
- c) Soundsgood.co is a great resource to create one playlist and make available in multiple platforms with a smart link.

5. How to choose age-appropriate songs

A. Attentions Spans

1. Song length should be 2 minutes. 3 minutes only when you have to. (BPM and repetition are exceptions.)
2. You can edit songs down to a shorter length if needed.
 - a) 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**
- a) Look for simple, repetitive and a limited use of 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
 - (1) Race flags
 - (2) Bath toys
 - (3) Superhero capes

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. Define your vision for preschool worship.

- A. Share that with your team, teachers, etc.
- B. Are you teaching kids in a way that you will accomplish your vision?
 - 1. Be intentional
 - 2. Specific
 - 3. Keep creating opportunities and giving them steps to take

10. Here are my top 10 for leading worship for preschool 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) Ask questions that demand a response. (Audible or physical)
 - c) Vocal inflection is an accelerator.
10. **Teach kids to worship**
 - (1) Why we worship God
 - (2) How many like to hear the words I love you?

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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)

14. What's a simple thing you learned to do you can GO do?

- A. Don't forget to seek God and define what you want to see happen in your preschool worship times.
- B. Go help kids experience God's presence in worship. May they taste and see that He is good so they hunger and thirst for more of Him!

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