



THE SHEPHERDING HEART OF A WORSHIP LEADER

By Yancy

1. Shepherd defined.

- a. a person who herds, tends, and guards sheep.
- b. a person who protects, guides, or watches over a person or group of people.
- c. a member of the clergy.
- d. the Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

2. The heart for this session.

- a. **1 Peter 5:2&3** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

3. God has been stirring in me our responsibility to raise disciples in the area of worship.

4. **Let's do a check up.** When you take your child to the pediatrician each year they do some things to monitor how they are growing.
 - a. Physical height and weight
 - b. They make sure growth is happening.
 - c. The Dr. checks for increasing in ability and knowledge.

i. Nutrition

1. **Spiritual diet.** Word, Prayer, Worship Psalm 1:1-3
"Blessed is the one...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

ii. Rest

1. **Hiding place in His presence.** Acts 3:20 "times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord."

iii. Speech & Vocabulary

1. **What is the vocabulary of the songs you are leading them in?** Psalm 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

iv. Eye Contact

1. **Focus.** Hebrews 12:1-3 'let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...'

v. **Reflexes**

1. **How do they respond?**

- a. Lamentations 2:19 Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin;
pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him.
- b. James 4:8 Move your heart closer and closer to God, and he will come even closer to you.
- c. Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

5. **KIDMIN WORSHIP CHECK-UP:**

1. Do you have a written vision for worship?
 - a. Are your leaders aware of it?
2. Are your leaders examples of worship?
 - a. On stage (worship team) and off (crowd/room monitors)
3. How do you coach and train kids to worship?
 - a. What are you teaching?
 - b. How do you help them grow in knowledge?
4. Do they participate and engage?
5. Do the kids like your music?
6. What do your songs help you accomplish (gain)?
7. How are your song choices helping:
 - a. kids experience God's presence?
 - b. Grow as life-long Christ followers

6. **Picture of a Worship Leader**

- a. Coach, trainer, exercise leader analogy.

7. **Isaiah 40 is a treasure trove of wisdom.** Read it in full!

- a. **Vs. 3-5** A messenger is calling out, "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight road through it for our God. **4** Every valley will be filled in. Every mountain and hill will be made level. The rough ground will be smoothed out. The rocky places will be made flat. **5** Then the glory of the Lord will appear. And everyone will see it together. The Lord has spoken."
- b. Vs. 11 He takes care of his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms. He carries them close to his heart. *He gently leads those that have little ones.*

8. **1 Peter 5:2&3** *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager*

to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. In other translations we find the phrases:

- a. **Care for the flock**
 - i. Love people, heart for them & the house
- b. **Entrusted to you**
 - i. Someone believes you can do it. You have been given the authority and responsibility.
- c. **Watch over**
 - i. Guard, protect, be aware, make eye contact.
- d. **Exercise oversight**
 - i. Be a person that leads worship. Evaluate where they are and adjust to help them get where they need to go.
- e. **Willing** -consenting or ready.
 - i. Your attitude. Rehearse and be prepared!
- f. **Feed the flock (KJV)** ready mind!
 - i. You can't lead others somewhere you haven't been and aren't prepared to go.
 - ii. Get your heart right so you can lead well!
- g. **Real desire to serve**
- h. **Cheerful minds**
 - i. Put a smile on your face. Watch video playback. Stand in front of a mirror and become aware of what happy/cheerful looks like.
- i. **Be an example**
 - i. You set the pace. Positive peer pressure. Again the "coach/trainer" model of worship leading. You can't just press play on a video. You have to lead them!

9. Characteristics of Shepherd Worship Leaders:

- a. **Know your role.** John 10:1-3
 - i. **Job descriptions**
 - ii. **What needs to be accomplished?**
 - iii. **What type of atmosphere needs to be set?**
 - iv. **Introduce your worship leader and make known the authority they have been given.**
- b. **Know your audience.** John 10: 3 and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
 - i. **Build relationships.**
 - ii. **Don't underestimate the power of conversation.**
 - iii. **Are you doing things to build trust or push away?**
- c. **Example to follow** John 10:4 he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him.
 - i. **Develop your heart for worship. (books, concerts, playlists)**
 - ii. **Be a good worshipper when you are being led. (sow/reap)**

- iii. The shepherd "staff" can be like vocal instruction for the worship leader. It points the way of what they need to do. It leads them in the way they need to go so they can find their hiding place/protection in God's presence.
 - iv. The shepherd "staff" is a source of rest. Teach kids to RUN to God and find their REST in Him no matter what the season brings.
- d. **Trust-worthy** John 10:4-5 his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.
- e. **Protect** In John 10:1 it talks about the sheep pen. It protects the sheep.
 - i. Draw a box around worship to teach your kids what it is, why it matters and how they engage with it.
 - ii. Every week, talk about the what, why, where, when and how.
 - iii. In John 10:11-13 Jesus modeled to us the role of a shepherd.
 - iv. Protect your sheep by giving them understanding of what worship time is and should look like.
 - v. Protect your sheep by not allowing mockery to take place.
 - vi. Protect your sheep by not allowing the sheep to disrupt and bother the other sheep.
 - vii. The shepherd "Rod" is for protecting them from dangerous situations. It is a symbol of love, not discipline.
- f. **Correct** John 10:16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.
 - i. **Corporate correction** (teaching moments)
 - ii. **Individual correction** (pull aside and have a heart to heart.)
 - iii. **Evaluation correction.** Consider what you're doing and presenting that may be allowing room for certain behaviors to happen and develop.
 - 1. What kinds of changes needs to occur in:
 - a. Song choice
 - b. How you're leading
 - c. What you're inviting them to
 - iv. Who else needs to be invited into the sheep pen?
- g. **Provision.** John 10:9 They will come in and go out, and find pasture.
 - i. Psalm 23 says the sheep will not be in want, rest in green pastures, have quiet waters and be restored.

- ii. How are your worship sets providing these experiences?
1. STOP DOING songs. START LEADING worship.

10. A great worship leader is intentional and strategic every step of the way.

- a. **The songs you sing and why.**
- b. **What is your vision?**
- c. **Where are you taking them on the journey?** Goals for today, this month, this quarter.
- d. **How can you help them grow in knowledge?** What are you gonna share and teach?
- e. **Challenge them to take their next step.** Coach them to help them dive in with all their heart.

11. Consider Psalm 23 and how you lead kids in worship can model those same things to them.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[a] I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

12. Thank you for being here! 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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