

Praise, Worship & Kids

What is praise & worship? Can children engage in it? If so, how? Kids love to express themselves. The younger the child, the closer they seem to be to the land of no fear. Expressions of worship found in Psalms seem to come naturally; we just need to find ways to draw it out. We'll explore some of the following... Engaging your audience. Leading with respect. Allowing encounter. Having fun in worship. Living what we lead.

- **What is praise & worship?**
- **Engaging your Audience**
- **Leading with Respect**
- **Allowing Encounter**
- **Having Fun in Worship**
- **Living what we lead**

I think it is easier to lead children in praise & worship than adults.



To lead a child is a sobering thing if we really take into consideration how impressionable they are.

What is Praise & Worship?

...this is a topic within itself!

"Come, let's shout praises to GOD, raise the roof for the Rock who saved us! Let's march into his presence singing praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!"

Psalm 95:1-2 MSG

What is Worship? adoration, love, reverence, respect, devotion, adulation, veneration
We can't lead what we don't know.

Worship is NOT a style of life -- It is what we are made for!

- It is everything my life should be.

- Worship is a posture of submission and a declaration of love and allegiance to God.

[Psalm 51:16-17](#)

Worship is not wishy-washy. It is led by the Holy Spirit.

- That means that it is full of God's attributes!
 - Passionate, powerful, wise, true, strategic, purposeful
 - It is what the Holy Spirit is constantly prompting us to do – to bring glory and honour to Jesus; full of power, grace and truth. [John 4:24](#)

Worship is not music.

Somehow, we have made worship in the church to be music. What a loss. Worship is much more than the music we play.

OK. So, why is music so important!

- God made it. God likes it!
- Music is a gift that God has given us to express what words cannot convey, an expression of the soul, to release what words cannot say.
- Praise & Worship, in scripture, is often wrapped up and released in music.

"Then a voice came from the throne, saying: 'Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!' " Revelation 19:5 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9 "Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy!" Psalm 33:1,3

Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life. ~Ludwig van Beethoven

- There's more to music than what meets the eye.
Music gets our attention, touches the soul, and makes us want to move... literally!
- We need to use it. [Isaiah 30:32](#)

Worship is powerful!

- Gets our eyes on Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit in you is always drawing us to focus and worship Jesus John 16: 14
- Releases God.
 - When we release worship to God, we are releasing the very Spirit that drew us to Him in the first place. (God is so full of paradoxes!) John 16:12-15

A quick search in the NKJV of the Bible showed 'worship' in 197 and 'praise' in 277 places. When coupled with the following words I found:

Worship	Praise
Praise – 4	Worship – 4
Music – 4	Music 10
Song – 0	Song – 20
Sing – 4	Sing – 49
Voice – 2	Voice – 8

- Everything is possible in God's presence – proper conviction of the soul, forgiveness, healing, salvation
- Turns the light on.
 - Dispels darkness John 1:5
 - The devil must take a hike! Psalm 8:2; Rev.12:11a
- Gets God's attention [Psalm 47:5-6](#)
 - He likes it! God is looking for worshippers 2 Kings 3:13-20 (If it wasn't for Judah/praise in the room)
 - He promises to draw close to those who come near to Him [Jeremiah 29:13](#)

Corporate bonuses to worship...

- Evangelizes
 - When we lift Jesus high, He draws all people to Him [John 12:32](#)
- Brings unity
 - When we sing together, we make a united declaration of praise [Acts 2:1](#)
 - True worship always brings right perspective – we are able to see things for what they really are and don't care so much about the superficial.

Dr. Carolyn Leaf:

- Thanksgiving – God starts listening
- Praise – we feel (come in to) His actual presence
- Worship – God acts on our behalf

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.

Engaging your Audience

How do we engage children?



Pray beforehand for God to prepare the children's hearts to receive.

- If we aren't being led by the Holy Spirit, we will never have the impact that we are hoping for

Kids are sheep (so are adults, but we are talking children ☺)

- Lead by example.
- Body language is important!
- Do what you ask them to do.
- Express yourself – connect your heart with actions – love God visibly with your heart & might!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

[Deuteronomy 6:5](#)

Make Eye Contact

- Engage personally by looking at your group directly
- Let them look at you

Don't be shy Hebrews 10:19 *Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus*

- Kid's respond to music
- Kid's respond to confidence
- Be bold in releasing your praise to God ... let God out!

Use their language

- Being culturally relevant is just learning the language of the mission field God has us in

Don't work alone

- Kids are kids / their attention span is limited
- We all need adult helpers to assist with crowd control

Hold your plan loosely

- Always watch how the children are reacting & receiving
- Don't keep using songs / material that continually doesn't land well – doesn't resonate & create a buy-in for the kids

Leading with Respect



Show them that you believe in them

- You won't be given what you don't give
- Invite them to lead along with you / musically, actions

Take notice of those that you lead when outside of the class

- a simple 'hello' / hug / high 5 / goes a long way
- they learn that you really care about them as a person

Don't dumb the message down!

- Don't underestimate the ability for young children to grasp the things of God.
- Children understand more than we realize. They haven't learnt to rationalize and doubt quite as good as us 'older' people...
- They simply believe. Jesus understood this. He said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Matthew 11:25

Allowing Encounter

If thanksgiving & praise lead us into God's presence, we can assume that there will be moments of encounter with Him.



- These are special moments / I call them 'When God sits down among us'
- Pray for wisdom on what to do
- Follow what He shows you to do
- Don't be afraid of silence

Allow Fun in Worship

If worship activates God's response to us, then sometimes that will be JOY!

PSALM 150 - Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! ² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ³ Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! ⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! ⁵ Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!



- Joy is the one emotion that is talked about in worship... It happens to be fun!
- Psalm 150
- *It is possible to find songs that are crazy & fun, but still give truth. We don't have to be so serious all the time. God isn't.*

Living what we Lead

children are great
imitators. So give
them something
great to imitate.

Be Authentic / Be Real

- Kids are watching. They have very good eyesight!
- Do you believe what you say?
- Do you believe what you sing?
- Are you living what you say & sing?
- Kids will follow your example! Can you say with Paul, 'Follow me'?

Declare regardless of how you feel / this might be a teachable moment for the children you lead...

- Psalm 119:172 - Let my tongue sing about your word, for all your commands are right. Truth is always truth
- Sometimes we need to hear ourselves (*Psalm 42:5 - Why are you*

Could I put this
on my Facebook
status?

*"Pattern your
lives after
mine..."*
Philippians 3:17

cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.)

- *Being open or using a story / testimony from your own life of praising/worshiping regardless of a negative circumstance is a powerful life lesson.*

Some practical thoughts

Kid's go home singing what we teach them

- Make sure we teach songs that reflect the heart of God, His Word, and who we are in Him
- See songs as seed. What they sing, they also hear and retain in their hearts & minds.

Story. I lead worship every Monday at a local Christian school. I recently had a parent tell me that she wanted me to know that the children were listening & retaining the songs I was teaching. Her kids were singing them at home like they had known them all their lives ... actually; she told me they were 'boastfully' singing them. They knew something that mom & dad hadn't learned yet ☺

Develop a song list.

Song list should include:

- Songs that are familiar to majority of leaders
- Material from your 'big church' if possible
- A few new songs every year to keep a freshness in your worship times
- Songs that reflect today's culture – speak the language of the youth you are working with
 - That means that we, as leaders, need to be researching & listening to what is happening out there
- Songs that are true, reflect God, reflect His Word, reflect who we are in Him, give the Gospel, give hope
 - Major on songs that make a declaration of who God is and what He has done for us
 - Minor on introspective songs – call to respond, how God makes me feel (you may need one of these each meeting, to help kids respond)