

Worship Team Guidelines

"Worship is a divine privilege, and with that privilege comes a great responsibility to show generosity to others in the body of Christ through all we do. We should never leave worship to the pastors and worship leaders. We all need to learn to be excellent, extravagant worshipers, generous in our service to one another and generous in our expression of love toward one another."

--Darlene Zschech

What Worship Leading is:

- ~Worship leading is both worshipping God and drawing others into worship.
- ~The role of a worship leader must be someone who worships. Before anyone can lead anything, he must master it for himself. And we cannot lead where we are not first willing to go for ourselves.
- ~A worship leader must be someone who worships on a continual basis. Worshiping should be a lifestyle, not a Sunday only thing! It is vitally important to have times of personal worship outside of Sundays.

What Worship Leading is not:

- ~Worship leading is not simply leading songs, choruses, or a song service.
- ~Worship leading is not playing songs while others watch. This is not a performance!
- ~Worship leading is not playing music while others worship. We must be skilled enough on our instrument or with our voice and know the songs well enough to be able to enter into worship ourselves. Again, we can't lead where we're not willing to go ourselves!

Worship Team Qualifications:

Committed member of Bethel Church... "Music ministry is not the right of the talented, but the privilege extended to the committed" (Terry Kinard). You must be committed to Bethel church and submitted to the pastors here. This also means that you must attend services whenever possible, NOT ONLY when you are playing on the team. You are also *strongly* encouraged to be a part of a life group.

Maturity... It is important to be at a level of maturity where you can accept coaching and critique from our leadership and *not* take it personally. Maturity also includes being responsible enough to arrive on time, spend time throughout the week preparing, and viewing this as what it is: a leadership role. (The worship team is open to those 18 years old and above, except at the discretion of the Worship Pastor.)

Spiritual maturity... This is a leadership-type ministry. We are all seen as leaders and must live our lives as such, at church and away from church, on and off the stage.

Musical expertise... We must be skilled enough to follow a service that is led by the Spirit of God. We don't want to limit what God will do simply because we can't handle it musically.

Time commitment... Practice, rehearsals and Sunday pre-service preparation is **mandatory**. This can also include special events, etc. Specifics further on...

Support of family... It is important that the individual's immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to the individual.

Leading by example... Worship leading is truly only done **by example**. This is important on stage (Are you entering into worship yourself? Do you look like you're enjoying worship and engaging with God?), as well as off. It is our obligation as worship leaders to get beyond our own self-consciousness, insecurities, and whatever may be hindering us from worshipping and, well, worship!

Ability to flow with a team... This is not a solo event, but a team sport! Worshiping and blending with others is a major consideration.

Ability to flow with the pastor and the pastor's vision for the church... Worship is a part of carrying out the vision of the church: **"Helping seekers become spirit empowered servants of Christ."** The worship leading team has the support of the pastor and the pastor must have the support of the team. Unity is key in a worship service. The pastor and team work together to carry out the full vision the Lord.

Worship Team Guidelines:

Audition & Trial period... First, we will have an interview and a tryout to assess your skill level.

It will be very laid back, but we do need to make sure that your gifting is in music. (We have a lot of other areas to get involved in if the music thing does not work out, though.) Things we will be looking for in the audition: musical and/or vocal ability, stage presence, and leadership qualities. If the audition goes well, we will ask you to sit in on a couple of practices.

Weekly practices sessions... Depending on who you are and what you play, practice sessions will vary according to which service you are playing in. Missing a practice will generally mean you cannot participate in the following service (at the worship leader's discretion).

Scheduling... Our schedule is sent out weekly via email so Internet access is important. If you are unable to make it to a rehearsal or play on a Sunday, please let the worship leader know preferably via email as soon as possible so other arrangements can be made. If you are part of another ministry at Bethel Church it is your responsibility to provide any schedule conflicts to the main worship leader.

If a scheduling conflict arises once the weekly e-mail has been sent, please take it upon yourself to find a replacement. (A list of contact information is available on the worship team page.) Please inform the main worship leader for that service of the change as soon as possible. (This does not apply to last-minute sickness or emergencies. In those instances, let the main worship leader know as soon as possible that you will not be able to make it.)

Sundays... Each member of the team is expected to be at the service location at the designated time before each service. (This time will vary depending on service time.) This gives us time to do sound check, rehearse and/or run through a bit of each song, relax, and pray before each service. Again, if you have an instrument to set up, get there early enough to do that and be ready to go with the rest of us.

Commitment to being spiritually prepared to minister... We need to come prepared not just to sing and play, but also to worship the King and minister to his people. We don't have a lot of time for prayer on Sundays, so please come prayed up! And as previously mentioned, worship during the week (it should be a lifestyle). It is not our place as ministers to come "spiritually hungry." This is a time to be blessed, but also a time to serve. It doesn't matter how awesome we are musically, we must have hearts that are prepared to meet the Lord and bless him--which is what this is all about. If we come with the mindset that we are going to touch God, it will never get routine or old.

Commitment to musical expertise... We need to work at our instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best we can be. This includes personal practice as well as playing for the team. You will be working with a leader who is committed to excellence and believes in practice. We must bring the best sacrifice possible to the Lord. Becoming familiar with the music makes it easier to worship on Sunday mornings instead of worrying about what comes next.

Commitment to growing spiritually... We need to be committed to maturing in our Christian walk! We cannot allow ourselves to grow stagnant, or our worship will also become stagnant. What is in our hearts is what is going to come out when we worship.

In that vein, you will be working with a leader who will not mind his own business. If I sense that you are something other than the most content worship team member in the history of worship teams, I'll probably come bother you about it. I feel it is important to remain open and transparent. Also know there are situations that can have you removed from the team (usually temporarily), not as punishment, but, as I said before, because we are all leaders and will be expected to live a life (inward and outward) that is becoming of leaders. No, this is not legalism! We must strive to be a Christ-like example both on the team and off.

Commitment to flowing with the team... We need to look at the team as not just a collection of individual musicians, but as a single unit with one purpose. Our heart attitude should not be to shine forth our own technical skill and be "rock stars," but to use that to enhance the team and worship experience as a whole. "TEAM EFFORT" is the thing to remember here. There must be unity and humility in order to flow under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.