

# Worship Mentors & Models

## I. The Lesson

The common misunderstanding is that the “worship leader” is the guy or gal with the acoustic guitar or keyboard and the microphone. In reality, everyone on stage is a worship leader! **Worship leading is more visual than audible.** Worship leading in a church gathering is done through body language, countenance, spirit-to-spirit communication, and a release of passion.

Communication experts report that 80% of effective communication does not come from the content of words, but through non-verbal means (voice inflection, body language, expression, etc.). **Only 20% of what is perceived and received is verbal** (the words). The same can be said for worship ministry. For this reason, everyone on stage needs to re-evaluate their leadership potential both on and off stage.

More and more, I hear from our worship team that people in our city and region are recognizing them at restaurants and stores and greet them with a warm smile and a “Hey, you’re on stage at the church, right?” This can be flattering, motivational, or an awkward moment depending on what mood you were in when that person behind the counter asked the question. The point being, your life is modeling worship or lack thereof, while you are on the stage and long after you leave it!

### Being Mentored:

Here’s the “big thought” on mentoring... Ready? ***“Take some time to follow a mentor or two before you become one.”***

1. If we are serious about growing in any area of life and ministry we must begin to \_\_\_\_\_ mentors. Then, we must continue to find them, receive from them, and submit our hearts to their expertise and anointing throughout our lives. Remember, leaders never stop learning and growing!
2. Don’t wait for your mentors to \_\_\_\_\_! You can choose them and receive from all they have without a formal agreement of a mentor-protégé relationship!

During my years growing as a worship leader (Dave writing this), I did not have people around me to show me – one-on-one – how to lead worship, be an effective communicator, create a flow during a worship service or bring a congregation into a place of real and passionate worship. So, I decided I would “seek out” mentors and learn everything I could from them. This process took me years as I looked for books, CDs, conferences, and any other resource I could find that would help me

develop me as a worship leader. This was much more of a challenge in the late 80's and early 90's than it is now! As I began to find models of great worship leading, I would simply submit my heart and gifts to their mentoring, even though they did not know me and it was all through digital methods. Amazingly, as the years went by, God allowed me to meet, develop friendships with, and be mentored personally by many of those individuals.

The point is, you can find, submit to, and receive from others without ever knowing them personally! So don't make the mistake of thinking that it will require someone of influence and expertise to be able to commit significant time and attention to you before you can be successfully mentored! If you have not started this process, start now!

3. All of us need to be \_\_\_\_\_ to learn and receive from someone or several people who are more advanced and competent than we are in the areas in which we desire to grow.
4. Do not confine the concept of mentoring to being trained for a specific skill or talent. If we seek out mentors for our talents and gifting to the exclusion of the \_\_\_\_\_, we can neglect the things that really provide the foundation for success! (We will address this further during discussion.)

### **Modeling Worship**

Modeling worship doesn't mean backup singers walking the catwalk or lead players doing a photo shoot. Modeling worship is the practical way that we teach, lead, and mentor people in our congregations through the example of worship that we display on stage as well as in our personal lives. Eventually, congregations reproduce after their "own kind." The heart, passion, worship level, and lifestyles of the leadership and those in obvious places of influence will become the unspoken standard of the group. Go to any church and you can observe this in action.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than accurate or high levels of technical ability. What we display with our body language (our hands, smiles or lack thereof, overall physical appearance, and visible passion) communicates and teaches.
2. Living every day as an \_\_\_\_\_ of worship. "Follow me as I follow Christ." This is a principal found several times in the Word. As worship teams, this is what we are really saying. So the question must be asked: "If everyone is worshiping like I am, would it create the desired results?"
3. Be aware of and practice the appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ for every stage of the worship experience. There is nothing quite as confusing

as watching a singer who has a somber, intense countenance of brokenness or intercession during an upbeat song that is talking about dancing or the joy of the Lord.

4. \_\_\_\_\_. We need to do a lot more of this! A good practice, is to film the weekend services and then play it back and see what people are being motivated to emulate. This is usually a real “wake up call” for every one on stage.
5. Remember that you are always \_\_\_\_\_ true worship with your lifestyle and behavior beyond the church walls.
6. The ways we serve, give, submit to other leaders, and interact with our church family are huge determining factors in our ability to lead God’s people into consistent places of meaningful worship. The key is to remember that we are making \_\_\_\_\_ and fulfilling the commandment of Christ! (Matt. 28:19)

## II. Discussion

1. Have you ever watched yourself on DVD made when you were on stage leading, singing or playing? What did you think? Would you be motivated to wholeheartedly worship God if you were in the congregation?
2. What are a couple examples of awkward or potentially awkward moments that occurred when you encountered people around your city that recognized you as a worship team member?
3. What are some practical ways we can be mentored and even receive impartation from respected leaders we have not even met?
4. What are some of the “hidden things” that we need to be mentored in?
5. How can we model the lifestyle of worship and whole-hearted devotion to our church once we walk off the platform? Here’s a question to help you get started on that: How do you position yourself and interact when the Word is being preached?

## III. Prayer Points

1. Pray for an ongoing and increasing awareness of the privilege and responsibility that we have been given.
2. Ask for conviction regarding any area of our lives that would be a “stumbling block” for those who are watching our lives and looking to us as an example.

3. Pray for a countenance of joy and a true heart of worship to be released every time you get on stage.
4. To quote Wendell Smith, “Pray for your face before you go to the platform.” ☺
5. Pray that everyone on the team will search out and submit to the right mentors, even if they cannot meet them personally.
6. Let’s pray and ask that we would be able to truly say, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”