

THE 5 PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

Session 3 – Worship in the Crowd

Designing a Worship Service for Believers Which Is Also a Witness to Unbelievers

We now move from the largest circle, the Community, to the next circle inward, which represents the group of people who show up on Sunday mornings for worship, at least occasionally. We may call this group the Crowd for obvious reasons. These are people who are just attenders. They haven't necessarily joined the church. Many of them aren't even Christians yet. The Crowd is made up of believers and unbelievers, members and non-members.

Facts About Crowds

(1) Jesus' Ministry Large Crowds.

“Enormous crowds followed Him wherever He went...”
Matthew 4:25 (TLB)

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
Matthew 9:36

“The large crowd listened to Him with delight.”
Mark 12: 37

What was it that attracted people to Jesus' ministry in such large numbers? Why were they drawn to His ministry? Jesus did three things with crowds:

- He loved them; He had compassion on them (Matthew 9:36).
- He met their needs: we see Him healing the sick, casting out demons, caring for the poor and feeding the hungry (Matt.15: 30; Luke 6:17–18; John 6:2, et al.).
- He taught them in an interesting and practical way (Matt.13: 34; Mark 10:1; 12: 37, et al.).

(2) Jesus Attracted Crowds by Unbelievers.

Loving unbelievers the way Jesus did is the most overlooked key to reaching a crowd. Without His passion for the lost, we will be unwilling to make the sacrifices necessary to reach them.

- **Create an atmosphere of acceptance.**

Growing churches love; loving churches grow.

- **The pastor must be loving.**

- *Memorize names.*

- *Personally greet people before and after services.*

- *Touch people.*

- *Use a warm, personal style in your written communications with visitors.*

- **Understand the difference between acceptance and approval.**

As Christians, we're all called to accept and love unbelievers without approving of sinful lifestyles.

(3) Jesus Attracted Crowds by Meeting People's .

One church has this as their vision statement:

“It is our dream that this will be a place where the hurting, the hopeless, the discouraged, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find love, acceptance, guidance, and encouragement.”

Written into this same church's bylaws is this sentence:

“This church exists to benefit the residents of our community by providing for their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, and social needs.”

The church's objective is to minister to the total person. It does not limit their ministry to only the so-called “spiritual” needs. They believe God cares about every part of a person's life. People cannot be compartmentalized. Their needs spill over onto each other (James 2:15-16).

What are the needs of the unchurched in our community? Review the teaching points from the section on outreach: “Evangelizing in the Community.”

(4) Jesus Attracted Crowds by _____ in a Practical, Interesting Way.

- *“The crowds were amazed at His teaching”* (Matt. 7: 28)
- *“The crowds were profoundly impressed”* (Matt. 22:33 LB)
- *“The people were so enthusiastic about Jesus’ teaching”* (Mark 11:18 LB)
- *“The great crowd enjoyed listening to Him”* (Mark 12:37 NASB)

To preach like Jesus, we must:

- Begin with people’s needs, hurts, and interests (see Luke 4:18–19).
- Relate truth to life (see the Sermon on the Mount).

(5) Being Concerned about Ministry to Crowds Is Not Without _____.

- **Attraction Evangelism.**

To believers, Jesus says, *“Go!”* But to the lost world, Jesus says, *“Come* (John 1:39; 7:39; Matt.11:28)!”

- **Responding to culture: imitation, isolation, or infiltration?**

Eleven Convictions About Worship

1. Only _____ can truly worship God.

**Worship is expressing our love to God for who He is,
what He has said, and what He is doing.**

2. There is no correct “_____” of worship.

*“God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in **spirit** and in **truth**”*

John 4:24

- *Worship must be in spirit:*

- *Worship must also be in truth:*

3. Unbelievers can _____ believers worship.

**4. Worship is a powerful witness to unbelievers if God’s _____
is felt and the message is _____.**

“... a crowd came together.”

Acts 2: 6

(1) *God’s presence must be sensed in the service.*

(2) *The worship and the message need to be understandable.*

**5. God expects us to be sensitive to the _____, _____, and
_____ of unbelievers when they are present in our worship services.**

“If the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’”

1 Corinthians 14:23-25

From This Passage, We May Draw 3 Conclusions

- 1) Unbelievers are expected to be present in Christian worship. Paul clearly expects that both “*unbelievers*” and “*the inquirer*” (literally, “a seeker” or “one who does not understand”) will be present in worship (1 Cor.14: 23).

“Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God.”
1 Corinthians 10:32

“Be tactful with those who are not Christians and be sure you make the best use of your time with them.”
Colossians 4:5 (JB)

- 2) Unbelievers should find the praise of Christians to be understandable. Paul tells this church to *adapt* its worship because unbelievers will be present.
- 3) Nonbelievers can be converted through comprehensible worship. In 1 Corinthians 14, this happens during the service.

It is important that we have evangelistic aims in our worship! How does this happen?

- 1) **Get unbelievers into worship.**
- 2) **Make worship understandable to unbelievers.**

How do we do that? Here are some suggestions:

- (1) Seek to worship and preach in ways that are understandable.
- (2) Explain the service as you go along.

- (3) Directly address and welcome unbelievers in ways that are respectful.
- (4) If needed, consider upgrading the quality of the music, speech and visual aesthetics.
- (5) Celebrate deeds of mercy and justice.
- (6) Use our celebration of the ordinances to make the gospel clear.
- (7) Preach grace.

6. A worship service does not have to be _____ to be evangelistic.

The message doesn't have to be compromised—just understandable!

“If I don't understand the language, it's not going to do me much good.”

1 Corinthians 14:11 (MSG)

7. The needs of believers and unbelievers often _____—they are very different in some areas but are very similar in many others.

- Who am I?
- Where did I come from?
- What is my purpose in life?
- Is there meaning to life?
- Does my life have significance?
- Why is there suffering and evil in the world?
- Where am I going when I die?

8. A service geared toward _____ is meant to supplement personal evangelism, not replace it.

9. There is no standard way to _____ an evangelistic worship service.

What really attracts large numbers of unchurched to a church is:
_____!

10. It takes _____, _____ to offer an evangelistic worship service.

"We haven't used our rights. Instead, we would put up with anything in order not to hinder the Good News of Christ in any way."
1 Corinthians 9:12 (GWT)

The tension between "service" and "serve-us"

"Your attitude must be like My own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served but to serve..."
Matthew 20:28 (TLB)

11. It Is Helpful to Plan Weekly Services around a _____.

- It gives those who are responsible for selecting music a place to begin their planning.
- It unifies the worship experience for the entire congregation.

The Role of Announcements

Establish policies!

Guidelines Concerning Music

“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many people will see this and worship Him. Then they will trust the LORD.”

Psalm 40:3 (NCV)

Throughout church history, great theologians have put God’s truth to the music style of their day:

- The tune of Martin Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is borrowed from a popular song of his day.
- Charles Wesley used several popular tunes from the taverns and opera houses in England.
- John Calvin hired two secular songwriters of his day to put his theology to music. The Queen of England was so incensed by these “vulgar tunes” that she derisively referred to them as Calvin’s “Geneva jigs”!
- Hymn writer Fanny Crosby consciously used the musical style that was popular in the bars of her day, and it was scandalous to people.

Songs that we now consider sacred classics were once very contemporary and as criticized as today’s contemporary Christian music.

Principles to Guide Music Choice:

- 1) Based on the principles taught in 1 Corinthians 14 (see above), consider a style that will most effectively help us to impact unbelievers.
- 2) Since we should match our music to the kind of people God wants our church to reach, based on our demographic study (see Evangelism in Our Community), this points to a direction of contemporary.
- 3) The other option is to have two different services: traditional and contemporary.

4) All contemporary Christian music should be selected based on both the lyrics and the tune.

5) The tempo of songs is important.

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs”

Psalm 100:2

6) Hymns should still be used in contemporary services.

7) It is unrealistic to expect the unchurched to sing songs of praise and commitment to Jesus before they become believers.

8) The music, like all other elements, should be chosen based on the weekly Theistic Theme.

Checklist for an Evangelistic Worship Service

☞ **DO WE MAKE IT AS EASY AS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND?**

- *Offer multiple services.*
- *Offer surplus parking.*
- *Offer children's classes at the same time as the service.*
- *Put a map on all advertisements.*

☞ **DO WE HAVE A GOOD PACE AND FLOW IN OUR SERVICE?**

- *Look for ways to save time.*
- *Minimize transition times.*
- *Keep pastoral prayers short.*

☞ **DO WE FOCUS ON MAKING VISITORS FEEL WELCOME?**

Visitors have already formed an opinion about your church within the first ten minutes after they arrive.

When people come to church, the first emotion is often : Our job is to reduce it!

- *Reserve the best parking spots for visitors.*
- *Select greeters carefully.*
- *Enlist hosts.*
- *Set up an information table (or two).*
- *Place directional signs and maps everywhere.*

- *Allow visitors to remain anonymous in the service.*
- *Offer a sincere, warm, casual public welcome that relaxes people.*
- *If the church offers a greeting time, consider having the service begin and end with one.*
- *Encourage everyone to fill out a Welcome (or Connect) Card.*
- *Teach the congregation to implement the 3-minute rule.*
- *Offer a refreshment table after each service.*

✚ DO WE HAVE A GOOD ENVIRONMENT?

Ask: “What message is our building giving off?”

The problem: We tend to overlook things after just a few weeks!

Ways to Brighten Up Our Environment

- *Lighting:* Is it bright enough?
- *Temperature:* Too warm or too cold kills a service.
- *Sound:* Buy the best mics, speakers and sound board we can afford.
- *Seating:* The smaller the crowd, the closer the speaker needs to be to people.
- *Decorations:* The best and cheapest are plants.
- *Nurseries:* Make sure they are clean and safe.
- *Restrooms:* Clean and odor-free.

✚ DO WE HELP VISITORS UNDERSTAND THE WORSHIP SERVICE?

- *Print a bulletin with an order of service.*
- *Minimize internal church announcements.*
- *Announce only the events that apply to everyone.*

- *Screen out “in-house” terminology.*
- *Avoid appeals for voluntary help.*
- *Help those who are unfamiliar with the Bible.*
- *Preach with our target and purpose in mind.*
- *Match our music to those we want to reach.*

✧ **DO WE CONTINUALLY EVALUATE AND IMPROVE?**

ASK: What can we do better next Sunday?


Tools to Use for Evaluation

- **Attendance / Communication Card**
- **Visitor’s first impression reply card**
- **Staff worship evaluation form**

(See the next pages for some Evaluation Tools)

EVALUATION TOOLS

Welcome Card

		<h3 style="margin: 0;">CONNECT CARD</h3>	
Date: _____		Email Address: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Email Address	
PLEASE PRINT		Your Age Group	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 18-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 24-29
		<input type="checkbox"/> 30's	<input type="checkbox"/> 30's
Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> New Address		<input type="checkbox"/> 40's	<input type="checkbox"/> 50's
		<input type="checkbox"/> 60's	<input type="checkbox"/> 60's
Name: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 70's	<input type="checkbox"/> 80's
Address: _____		(If a student) Your Current School Grade	
City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 College Post College	College Post College
Cell Phone: (____) _____		I am: <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Mar	
Work Phone: (____) _____		Names of children living at home and birthdates: _____	
Is this your: ___ 1 st time? ___ 2 nd time? ___ 3 rd time?		_____	
I am: ___ Attender ___ Member		_____	
___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ Register		_____	

<p>MY DECISION TODAY:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm committing my life to Christ.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I want to be baptized.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm renewing my commitment to Christ.</p> <p>Enroll me in the next:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Class 101: Membership</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Class 201: Maturity</p>	<p>I'M INTERESTED IN:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Knowing how to commit my life to Christ</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Growing in my faith.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Joining the church family</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small group: ___ Couples ___ Singles ___ Men ___ Women</p> <p>Counseling: ___ Pre- ___ Marriage ___ Personal Marital</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTIVITIES:</p>
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<input type="checkbox"/> Class 301: Life Mission <input type="checkbox"/> Class 401:	<input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Junior High <input type="checkbox"/> Senior High <input type="checkbox"/> College Age (18-22) <input type="checkbox"/> Single Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Couples <input type="checkbox"/> For Prayer Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Men <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Single Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Child Dedication <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Support Group
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I'm interested in volunteering in the following areas:

PRAYER REQUESTS:

FIRST IMPRESSION CARD

Thank you for your recent visit to Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church. Our church wants to serve you better. Would you give us your opinion, please? Thank you!

This is what I noticed first: _____

This is what I liked best: _____

This is what I liked least: _____

Age: 16-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60+ Date Attended: _____

WORSHIP EVALUATION FORM

“Evaluate for Excellence”

Date: _____ Service Hour: _____

OUTSIDE THE SERVICE

Traffic Flow: _____

Parking: _____

Direction Signs: _____

Adequate Greeters: _____

Cleanliness of Restrooms: _____

Cleanliness of Grounds: _____

Information Tables: _____

Refreshment Area: _____

Other Factors: _____

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

Easy to Find: _____

Adequate Info Table Hosts: _____

Comments on Teaching/Help: _____

Other Factors: _____

WORSHIP CENTER (Physical Appearance and Atmosphere)

Cleanliness: _____

Stage & Decorations: _____

Seating Arrangements: _____

Sound System: _____

Lighting: _____

Bulletins: _____

Ushers: _____

Other Factors: _____

SERVICE:

Comments on Service: _____

Other Factors: _____