

Worship Matters Video Intensive with Bob Kauflin
Session 6: Planning Meetings
(From Chapter 13 of *Worship Matters*)¹
Outline & Discussion Questions

*A faithful worship leader
magnifies the greatness of God
in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
by skillfully combining God's Word with music,
thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel,
to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory.*

I. **Our Gatherings Matter.** (2 Chronicles 29-32, 34-35)

II. **Understanding Liturgy**

A. **Liturgy models**

B. **Liturgy teaches**

C. **Liturgy shapes and influences**

"As we plan and order our services, discerning the content to include, we shape the beliefs and devotional lives of our church members."²

We not only become like *what* we worship, we become like *how* we worship.

III. Worship is More than a Song Set.

Songs are *part* of the story when we gather, but they're not the *whole* story. They were never meant to tell the whole story of our faith or be the primary way we engage with or worship God.

IV. Don't Let Musical Considerations Drive Your Theology.

Musical priorities should serve pastoral and theological priorities.

V. Putting It All Together

A. Plan thematically

"Our unchanging theme every week is the grand story of deliverance that God accomplished for his people through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."³

Each and every week, we want to be sure that anyone who attends our meetings understands the story of the gospel.

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” - Revelation 5:12⁴

Whatever theme we choose, we want to be sure we don't miss the greatest theme of all: God has come in Jesus Christ to save sinners from his wrath for his glory.

B. Plan Progressively

A typical gospel liturgy (Taken from *Christ-Centered Worship*⁵ by Bryan Chapell):

1. **Adoration**—*recognition of God's greatness and grace*
2. **Confession**—*acknowledgement of our sin and need for grace*
3. **Assurance of Pardon**—*affirmation of God's provision of grace*
4. **Thanksgiving**—*expression of gratefulness for God's grace*
5. **Petition and Intercession**—*acknowledgement of dependence on God's grace*
6. **Instruction**—*proclamation of God's grace*
7. **Communion and Fellowship**—*celebrating the grace of union with Christ and his people*
8. **Charge and Blessing**—*exhortation to live in light of God's grace*

“Today, in an age that seeks to simplify everything—songs, sermons, readings, and ritual of the service—the clear and powerful proclamation of sound biblical doctrine and practice in every part of the service will give spiritual depth to worship and demonstrate the vitality of the faith in the lives of the worshippers.”⁶

C. Plan Contextually

Don't let what you do become boring, meaningless, or unaffecting. While we have one message, and a few tools, we have many ways of using those tools.

D. Plan Creatively

- Learn new songs
- Change a song structure
- Use simpler or more complex instrumentation
- Involve people from the congregation in what you do
- Read Scripture during your songs
- Use Creeds
- Use different languages
- Use appropriate visuals
- Use testimonies
- Find different ways to praying together

Creativity has boundaries.

“Artists, like everyone else are the recipients of grace. They are stewards of what has been given to them. God gave them the gift of artistic ability not for unrestrained self-indulgence, but to glorify God and to serve their fellow humans.”⁷

Three limiters that can guide our use of creativity that will help keep it within the proper boundaries:

1. **The Edification Limiter:** Do the creative elements we want to add meaningfully building up the church, distracting the church, or just entertaining the church?

2. **The Unity Limiter:** Do creative elements enable people from different generations, backgrounds, and classes to worship God together, expressing our unity in the gospel or do those creative elements tend to drive people apart?

3. **The Gospel Limiter:** Do the creative elements we want to add distract from, distort, or demean the gospel or do they draw attention to its uniqueness, its beauty, and its and power?

Session 6 Discussion Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word "liturgy"? What is liturgy?

2. Where are you and your church at in regards to planning thematically? Progressively? Contextually? Creatively?

3. How do you think your church is at using the boundaries (limiters) of creativity?

4. What temptations do you face regarding creativity (fear/hesitancy vs. eager/undiscerning, etc.)?

5. What temptations do you think the people in your church will have regarding creativity (fear/hesitancy versus eager/undiscerning, etc.)?

6. What are some other ways we can help people understand that what we do every week is "ultimately more amazing, thrilling, moving, humbling, encouraging, and awe-inspiring than anything this world has to offer"?

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⁵ *Christ Centered Worship* by Bryan Chapell. © 2009 by Bryan Chapell. Published by Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, MI. www.bakeracademic.com

⁶ Taken from *Recalling the Hope of Glory* by Allen Ross. © 2006, p. 506. Published by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI. Used by permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

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