

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

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ABSTRACT

Since creation, God's plan for humanity was for the purpose of worship. How we worship matters, and there are stringent guidelines in the Old Testament and the New Testament on how it should be conducted. As society has changed across ages, modes of worship have changed both negatively and positively. This research paper aims to discuss the Biblical principles of music and worship directed toward the worship leader by exploring the principles of worship taken from the Old and New Testaments in the Bible. The review will employ a qualitative explanatory study design to answer the question, what, in addition to gifts and talents, make for a qualified worship leader? Additionally, the sub-questions framed for this study are as follows: What are the correct intentions for the music ministry? Have the changes in musical styles and other significant church worship changes over the years altered the way we worship? Answering these questions will require exploring the Biblical purpose of music, knowing the importance of planning, and developing effective relationships. It will also involve examining the issue of attire and knowing when to stop the music. This study is significant as it will highlight how worship should be conducted to align with God's Word, including the integrity of the heart of the worship leader at a time when the church is witnessing dramatic changes due to technology and globalization. Besides, this review can be used as a reference point for Bible colleges and churches as there is an urgent need to equip worship leaders with the necessary Biblical principles that will help them effectively lead their congregants into God's presence.

Keywords: Worship leader, Old Testament, New Testament, Biblical purpose.

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Chapter I: Introduction

Background

From the beginning of time, God has always had a plan for worship. The creation of humanity was for the purpose of worship. Isaiah 43:21 declares, *"This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise (Isaiah 43:21, KJV)."* God wanted a relationship with people, and He desired all of their worship to be given to Him.

How we worship matters. There were stringent guidelines in the Old Testament when it came to worship. If we were to sum up worship in the Old Testament, it would be *"to worship at a distance."* That was the command written in Exodus 24. *"And he said unto Moses, come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him (Exodus 24:1-2, KJV)."* Other Old Testament principles of worship included making sacrifices, building memorials, and testing the integrity of worship. Finally, the Old Testament gives us the largest book in the Bible; the Psalms, the hymnal of the Hebrew worshipers. David, shepherd boy who later became King of Israel, wrote 75 of the 150 Psalms, many of which express his personal prayers and worship. The book of Psalms is actually five books compiled by various authors delivering the Pentateuch. Psalm 78:72 speaks of David leading from the "integrity of the heart."

The New Testament also delivers instruction on worship. The Apostle Paul described true worship perfectly when he proclaimed,

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:1-2

KJV).” The NLT version ends with, “*This is truly the way to worship him, (Romans 12:2 NLT).*”

In John 4, Jesus was speaking with the woman at the well, and he shifted the conversation to worship. “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him (John 4:23-24, KJV).*” An all-seeing, all-knowing, omniscient God seeks a true worshiper. That signifies that Jesus is interested in those who truly worship Him in spirit and in truth. When Jesus cried out, “*It is finished!*” the Bible says the veil that separated the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom. He became the ultimate sacrifice that gave us direct access into His Holy presence to worship Him freely. Jesus desired a close relationship and worship from the hearts of humanity instead of just going through the rituals.

Statement of the Problem

As society has changed over the years, so many churches have changed with it. Lighting, video, as well as other forms of media and technology, have been brought into the Church to be used to enhance the worship service experience. Along with these changes come positive and negative results. Worship in the Church was never initially intended for entertainment purposes. There are principles of music when speaking of music in the Church. The seven principles of Music in the Church as described by R. B. Ouellette include:

1. Teach Truth
2. Avoid Worldliness
3. Advance the Cause of Christ
4. Avoid Extremes
5. Be Appropriate to the Congregation
6. Agree with Scripture
7. Meet with the Approval of the Pastor¹

These principles will be expounded upon within the literature review taken from Alvin Fruga’s

¹ R. B. Ouellette, “7 Principles for Music in the Church,” last modified January 09, 2014, Accessed July 2, 2020, <https://ministry127.com/music-ministry/7-principles-for-music-in-the-church>.

book, *When They Began to Sing*.

Statement of the Purpose

This research paper aims to discuss Biblical principles of music and worship directed toward the worship leader. This discussion will be developed by recognizing principles of worship taken from the Old and New Testaments in the Bible. Additionally, this research serves as a teaching tool in places such as churches and Bible Colleges. Never has there been a more important time to equip worship leaders with Biblical principles and guidelines for adequately ushering us into God's Holy presence. When worship leaders are leading worship, it should always be in alignment with the Word of God.

Significance of the Study

America is the greatest country in all the world. There is the freedom to come to the House of God, lift our voices, and worship Him freely. Over the years, styles of worship songs have changed. Technology in the Church has changed. Instrumentation, vocal arrangements, and even the way we dress when we come to Church have changed. However, if Jesus speaks of *acceptable worship* in John 4:23, is there *unacceptable worship*? Jesus said in Matthew 15:8-9, “*These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain*” (Matthew 15:8-9 KJV). According to Dr. Keith Currie, acceptable worship should include the following:

1. Acceptable worship seeks to engage the head and the heart.
2. Pre-requisites to acceptable worship are a right heart attitude, obedience, and righteous living.
3. Acceptable worship requires unity in our diversity.
4. Acceptable worship will include confession of sin.
5. Acceptable worship will involve reverence and awe.
6. Acceptable worship will be joyful and celebrative.²

² Dr. Keith Currie, *Acceptable Worship*, unpublished article, Liberty University

What can we learn about worship from the Old Testament and the New Testament to align with God's Word when it comes to worshipping Him? This paper aims to look at the integrity of the heart when it comes to the worship leader.

Research Question

The research question, which has been framed for this study is as follows:

- What, in addition to gifts and talents, make for a qualified worship leader?

The sub-question framed for this study is as follows:

- What are the correct intentions for the music ministry, and have the changes in musical styles and other significant changes in church worship over the years altered the way we worship?

Chapter II: Literature Review

Biblical History of Music Ministry

The Bible illustrates various eras that include practices of worship. Exodus outlines Moses' Era when he is leading the Israelites to the Promised Land. Moses left the Israelites for forty days and forty nights to go up the mountain to pray. In his absence, the Israelites, with the help of Moses' brother, Aaron, melted all of their gold and formed a golden calf to worship. As Moses was descending the mountain, Joshua met him halfway. Exodus 32:17-18 says,

“And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, ‘There is a noise of war in the camp’. And he (Moses) said, ‘It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear (Exodus 32:17-18, KJV).’”

Moses had a personal encounter with God. He understood the difference between an overcomer's shout and cry and "just a noise of singing."³ This is because God had already told him what was

³ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 3.

happening in the camp. This is a powerful illustration that prayer is a necessity before worship. God is not interested in just a noise of singing.

Fast-forward approximately forty years, and Joshua is face to face with the walls of Jericho. With Moses's words echoing in his mind, Joshua knew he had to have more than just a noise of singing to bring the walls down. It would take a shout mixed with obedience to bring them down. There are strongholds and spiritual adversaries that come against the music department. It is essential to understand that merely a "noise of singing" is not enough to fight spiritual warfare.

Moses saw the idolatry of God's people, and while stopping the celebration, he did a few other things. First, he broke the tablets of stone to let the people know they had broken God's covenant. Second, he burned the golden calf, ground it into powder, mixed the powder with water, and forced the Israelites to drink it. Next, Moses gave the assistant pastor, his brother Aaron, a stern lecture. Finally, he asked, "Who's on the Lord's side?"

In response to the question, the Levites stepped forward. Moses had to be pleased, for he was from the tribe of Levi as well. For their willingness to make a stand, God had Moses place the Levites over the complete care of the Tent of Meeting.

“Their responsibilities included, transporting the tabernacle and all of its furnishings, carrying of the Ark of the Covenant with poles, setting up and tearing down the Tent of Meeting, musicians and singers to lead praise and worship, doorkeepers and administrators, and they were paid by receiving tithes from the other eleven tribes⁴.”

⁴ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 6.

It is interesting to note that Levi means "to be attached, to twine, unite, remain, join or be joined."⁵ To effectively minister from a Biblical perspective, there must be a connection between the worshipper and God. God is seeking a worshipper that is connected with Him.

Fast forward to David's era. David has just assumed the throne as King, and he calls for them to bring the Ark of the Covenant back from Kiriath Jearim to Jerusalem. The Ark had been in Abinadab's house for twenty years. They placed it on a cart for more accessible transport. He asked Abinadab's sons, Uzzah and Ahio, to guide the cart back. The mistakes David made include that he conferred with his officers and the people about how to bring the Ark back instead of finding out God's instructions. Then they placed it on a cart when God had instructed the Ark should always be carried on the shoulders with poles. Next, Uzzah and Ahio were from the tribe of Judah. The transporting of the Ark was designated for only the Levites. Finally, Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark, and God struck him dead.⁶ It is important to understand from this story that God has a specific plan on how He wants His presence handled. *"To obey is better than to sacrifice..."* (1 Samuel 15:22 KJV). Obedience to His Word is foundational to acceptable worship.

This is another occurrence where the celebration stopped. David decided to stop the procession, change plans, and place the Ark in the care of Obed-Edom, where it remained for three months. During that time, David realized his mistake and remembered God's plan for transporting the Ark. He then called for the Levites to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem. This time he was determined to do it right. Observe the difference. Firstly, the Levites consecrated

⁵ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 15.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 14.

themselves before the Lord. Then the Levites carried the Ark on their shoulders with poles. Finally, every six paces, they stopped for sacrifice and worship.⁷

David then appointed musicians and singers to minister continually according to God's instructions. This is the first Biblical account of an organized music ministry. All of the musicians and singers were Levites. They were placed over the singing and playing due to their skillfulness. Furthermore, as found in I Chronicles 9:33 in the Bible, Music Ministry was perceived as a full-time ministry, especially for people working day and night for the same⁸. Generationally, every king after David followed suit in how to handle the presence of God. This is a beautiful demonstration of how the methods of worship and praise will have generational effects. King Saul was not interested in bringing back the Ark. Because of his disregard for God's presence, his daughter, Michal, took it a step further. Not only was she uninterested in God's presence, but she also mocked it and others who worshipped. *"As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. (1 Samuel 6:16 KJV)"* After the ark was placed in the tent and the offerings and praises were made to the Lord, David returned home to bless his household. He was then met with opposition by Michal who rebuked him for the way he worshipped. Because of her disdain, *"Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death (1 Samuel 6:23 KJV)."*

The Biblical foundation of worship was designed by God to minister to Him first and foremost in the prescribed plan he placed in His Word. They were to worship God alone; He is an audience of one. There is a culture in some churches today where they seek a response from

⁷ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 16.

⁸ Ken Lynch, "Biblical Music in a Contemporary World," *Edgmont Ave*, (2018): 13.

the audience instead of focusing on the One to whom they are worshipping. We now have the opportunity to go beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies as we worship.

There is much to be learned from today's era of music and how it aligns Biblically. Alvin Fruga outlines in another one of his books, *The Third Key*, that decade after decade, we see a decline in the churches today in the area of preserving the presence of God. The '70s brought about the charismatic movement. In the 80's and the early '90s, the Church experienced the Word movement. From the Mid '90s to present, the world experienced the seeker-sensitive movement, giving the congregation what it wants to invoke a response⁹. Moses understood the necessity of God's presence when he said in Exodus 33:15, "*I will not go another step forward unless I know Your presence precedes me.*"

Finally, the concept of vertical and horizontal ministry can be seen from a Biblical perspective. The Levites were instructed to take care of His house and worship God as well as minister and lead the people of Israel into worship. Vertical Ministry is our ministry to God in personal devotions and prayer outside of the Church. The worship leader must be careful not to get carried away with vertical ministry during the church service, where they fail to minister horizontally to the congregation.

Horizontal ministry is leading others with words, music, and example into the Holy Presence of God to worship Him. It is the worship team that carries the weight and responsibility of ushering in God's presence on our shoulders, much like the Levites did so long ago. Worship should always be a positive experience. There needs to be a balance between 'horizontal' and 'vertical' ministry. An example of this would be in the song sets a worship leader chooses. A horizontal worship song example is *How Great is our God*. This song gives Him glory for who

⁹ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 76.

He is, however, it is not singing directly to Him. It is more of a statement that we serve a great God. A vertical worship song example is *What a Beautiful Name*. The lyrics of this song speak directly to God; ...*You have no rival, You have no equal...*” There should be a balance between horizontal and vertical worship songs during a worship set so that it glorifies God and also edifies the body of Christ.

Requirements for Ministering in the Temple

After the Levites stepped forward, there were five requirements that God demanded of the Levites before they were able to minister.

1. He required them to make a decision.¹⁰

This was a decision to turn from their wicked ways and turn back to God. It is important to note that this was not a decision to minister. Moses didn't ask, "Who would like to lead in praise and worship, or who wants to carry the Ark of the Covenant?" He simply asked, "*Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him (Exodus 32:26 KJV)*". They simply made a decision to step forward. Because of their turning back to God, and their spirit of repentance, God knew He could entrust them with His house and His presence.

Acceptable worship will include confession of sin. When Isaiah saw the holiness of God, he fell on his face confessing his sinfulness: "*Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips*" (Isaiah 6:1-5). Every Sunday, corporate worship should include lamentation and confession of sin, that our broken fellowship with God and broken fellowship with one another may be restored. We may need to ask forgiveness of a brother or sister before we can worship as seen in the following Scripture. Jesus said, "*So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and*

¹⁰ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 26.

*remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God***" (Mt 5:23-24). It is impossible to worship with bitterness in my heart and unresolved conflict with others. Don't ignore the conflict. Deal with the issue while you can deal with it. Go to the person and make peace with them.

Deciding to admit to your mistakes and move forward means you say "I'm not going to be the person I once was." It means saying, "I was wrong; I am truly sorry. Will you please forgive me?" If you don't ask that question, you will not have the satisfaction that you have been forgiven. Today's standard does not include those phrases. However, to be used by God, we must die to ourselves and say no to the flesh. It takes a made-up mind. In order to offer acceptable worship there must be confession of sin.¹¹ This act of submission and repentance to God and to one another will bring about a purity of worship.

Making a decision says I'm going to be the man or woman of God He wants me to be. I'm making the decision that I am not going to watch those things. I am not going to go to those places. I am not going to participate in that activity. I have made a decision.

"...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Joshua 24:15 KJV)."

One can train themselves to be the best athlete, the best at their job...but what are they doing for the Kingdom? Are they putting in adequate time and energy to their craft and ministry as much as they are into their jobs and hobbies? God desires music ministers and worship leaders to make a decision that they are on the Lord's side and take the responsibilities that that decision requires. Making decisions to pray, fast, read God's Word, and even practicing developing their craft are decisions that may hurt and are not always convenient. It's saying no to the flesh and yes

¹¹ Dr. Keith Currie, *Acceptable Worship*, unpublished article, Liberty University.

to God. Making a decision is intentional. It's not involuntary. It doesn't come naturally. It's a conscious action.

2. God required them to kill what was dear to them.¹²

Exodus 32:27-28 reads, *“He said to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘Every man strap his sword on his thigh and go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and every man kill his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor [all who continue pagan worship]. So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people [of Israel] were killed that day. The Lord told Moses to instruct the Levites to kill the firstborn from the other tribes (Exodus 32:27-28 AMP).”*

The Levites were commanded to strap on a sword and go throughout the camp, killing their brothers, friends, and neighbors. These were people they were close to. Maybe even people they worshiped with crossing the Red Sea, or friends they hung out with or grew up with. Sometimes, there are situations when you will have to cut off relationships. Ministry can be lonely sometimes. But if you feel the call, you must stand alone at times. God's word is correct. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, *“He will never leave you, nor forsake you.”* Proverbs 18:24 reminds us, *“He sticks closer than a brother.”*

In addition to relationships with people, you may enjoy a hobby or something that will have to be removed. The hobby may not be sinful, but if it takes you away from your time with God, it becomes an idol. Jesus said in Matthew 5:29, *“If your eye offends you, pluck it out. If your arm offends you, cut it off.”* None of the disciples plucked out their eye, etc., but Jesus is asking us to be as drastic as necessary regarding sin in our lives. We should, in the power of the Holy Spirit, put to death deeds of the flesh. This is a daily process. Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15:31; we should *“die daily.”*

Growth is painful sometimes, but it's necessary. If you haven't gone to the gym in a long

¹² Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 28.

time and try to start lifting immediately, you will feel the pain for the next couple of days. But if you want to get stronger, the pain is necessary.

3. He instructed them that they must be thoroughly cleansed.¹³

After the Levites made a decision and killed what was dear to them, Moses instructed them to go through a cleansing process. He wanted them set apart from the other tribes. Throughout Scripture, we see the world and the Church were always meant to be separated. Separation should not be confused with isolation. Paul declares to the Church in Rome in Romans 12:2, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Numbers 8:6-7 says, *“Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them. And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean.”* This was a three-step process:

- The sprinkling of the water is symbolic of water baptism. It is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. This happened every time they entered the Tent of Meeting.
- The shaving of their bodies represented an outward sign of separation from the world. Paul is speaking to the Church in Corinth when he says in I Corinthians 6:17, *“Come out from among them and be ye separate.”* God is looking for a holy identity that is separated from the world.
- Washing their clothes was symbolic of the Levites cleaning the remnants of the world off of them. Before we can effectively minister, we must also be thoroughly cleansed. We are officially set aside, thoroughly washed, and anointed for service.

Two areas require constant purification. They are:

- Those things we think on or ponder in our heart
- The things we actually do¹⁴

¹³ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God’s Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 29.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 31.

Proverbs states “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...* (Proverbs 23:7 KJV)”

David asked the question, “*Who shall ascend in the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place* (Psalm 24:3 KJV)?” God responded with four answers.

- Those with clean hands - This what we do.
- Those with a pure heart - This is why we do what we do, or our motives.
- The man who does not lift his soul unto vanity - idols
- The man who has not sworn deceitfully represents the truthfulness of the vow we made to God.

That’s why it’s so important the musicians and singers pray before they are used for service in God’s house! If not, we are contaminating what God is trying to pour out.

4. Next, He required that they carry the burden.¹⁵

The Levites were responsible for setting up the tent of meeting, and all of its furnishings.

That included:

- The most holy things, which represent preserving the anointing and prayer.
- The curtains of the tabernacle and Tent of Meeting. Curtains here translates to being broken. This relates to our hearts breaking or being burdened for souls. Soul-winning should always be our focus.
- The tabernacle infrastructure, which relates to us working around the Church and taking care of what we have in the Church.

Before the Levites were to minister in the temple, they had to set up the tent and properly arrange the furniture. Some scholars say this roughly weighed 15-17 tons.¹⁶ God gave specific instructions on how he wanted things placed, and Moses appointed certain qualified people who were skilled in those areas to carry out the plan. For example, I Chronicles 15:22 says, “*And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful.*” When God calls you into ministry, and you develop a burden for it, you perform

¹⁵ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God’s Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 33.

¹⁶ http://www.altriocchi.com/H_ENG/pen4/ttm_eng/weights_lenghts.html, Accessed July 20, 2020

what is requested of you without questioning and with the right spirit. You carry the burden. Music ministers and worship leaders must carry the burden. Sometimes it will get heavy, the pain will come, but that doesn't mean we should put it on a cart because it's easier to transport. No, God wants us to carry the burden.

1 Chronicles 15:15 says, *“And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.”* “The Ark of the Covenant symbolized God’s presence¹⁷.” It is still our responsibility as ministers of music to carry God's presence into our services. We must always feel the weight and responsibility on our shoulders. That is carrying the burden. They didn't carry it alone! They were not by themselves. They had help. There are times we need to lean on each other and help carry the burden. In the gym, they call this a spotter. It's an encourager. It's someone who pushes you to achieve what you may not be able to do yourself. Proverbs 27:17 (AMP) declares *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens [and influences] another [through discussion].”* Carry the burden and run this race! 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (ESV), Paul declares, *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”*

We are not running the race for a prize or a ribbon. Our reward is in heaven. We need to get away from the "look what I did" mentality regarding the work of the Lord. The Bible says, *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father, which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward you openly”* (Matthew 6:6 KJV).

¹⁷ Pursue God, What Is the Ark of the Covenant?, Accessed July 22, 2020, <https://www.pursuegod.org/what-is-the-ark-of-the-covenant/>

“Do it for the cause, not the applause¹⁸.” Carry the burden!

5. Finally, the fifth requirement was that they must have the ability to minister.¹⁹

There is a difference between gift and skill. The gift is what God invests in us. The skill is what we invest in the gift. The Bible is clear that God wants us to be skillful. Psalm 33:3 states, *"Play skillfully with a loud noise."* The Bible also gives us examples of people that were chosen for positions because they were skilled. 1 Chronicles 15:2 says, *"And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful."* Chenaniah was placed over the worship because he was skilled.

"God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things²⁰." No one should ever feel inadequate in fulfilling their calling. God will never call you into something that you don't have the ability to follow through with. God has called you, and he will equip and empower you to do great and mighty things!

Biblical Purpose of Music Ministry

According to Munroe, the five aspects of purpose in Music Ministry are 'God is a God of Purpose,' 'Everything in Life has a Purpose,' 'Where Purpose Is Not Known, Abuse Is Inevitable,' and 'To Find the Purpose of a Thing, Don't Ask the Thing,' and 'Purpose is the Key to Fulfillment.'²¹ The first aspect of purpose is that God is purposeful and created everything required to meet His purpose. Isaiah 14:24 says, *"Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as*

¹⁸ <https://bemorenw.blog/2017/12/22/do-it-for-the-cause-not-the-applause/>, Accessed July 30, 2020

¹⁹ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 36.

²⁰ Dr. Jack Graham, God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things, Created November 14, 2016, Accessed July 27, 2020, <https://resources.jackgraham.org/resource-library/devotionals/god-uses-ordinary-people-to-do-extraordinary-things/>

²¹ Myles Munroe, "Understanding the Purpose and Power of Men," *A Book for Men and the Women Who Love Them*, (2001): 43-49.

I have purposed, so it will stand.” When we ignore God along with his ways, we lose our knowledge regarding God's purpose for ourselves and the world. The second aspect of purpose is that God created everything with the intention of its accomplishment. Thus, it determines design, features, and nature. Everything God created in life has a purpose. Nothing in life is without purpose. Everything you do in ministry needs a why. Why are you where you are? Why are you doing what you are doing? Why are you planning a specific event? Make sure you always answer your why and do it with a purpose.

The third aspect of purpose states that where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable.²². The fourth purpose states that to find the purpose of a thing, don't ask the thing. Don't ask the user of the equipment, go to the manual, which is the Bible, and the creator of the thing, which is God. It is risky to take name-brand equipment to an unauthorized dealer. The same holds true concerning your purpose. That is why you shouldn't surround yourself with people who don't know their purpose and drag you down. Surround yourself with positive people.

The final aspect of purpose asserts, “Purpose is the key to fulfillment”²³. Knowing your purpose will cause you to fall in love with where you are and what you are doing. Knowing your purpose will help you to fill the void when loneliness becomes imminent. It is not a matter of if loneliness will occur in your ministry; it is a matter of when it will happen²⁴. However, knowing your purpose, your calling to a specific place, and a particular role will give you the confidence and fulfillment, knowing you are in God's will.

²² Myles Munroe, *A Woman of Purpose, and Power: A 90-Day Devotional* (Pennsylvania: Whitaker House, 2019). 241-51.

²³ Myles Munroe, “Understanding the Purpose and Power of Men,” *A Book for Men and the Women Who Love Them*, (2001): 50.

²⁴ *i*Bid. 51.

Music Ministry focuses on perceiving each other as 'ministers of the gospel,' with the vision to attain their mandate instead of being entertainers²⁵. It is imperative to understand the purpose of the music ministry and how it relates scripturally to the Church's overall focus. Speaking a mission statement and vision to the music team establishes purpose and creates excitement in the department. It is also imperative for a minister of music/worship leader to develop a culture of Biblical principles when it comes to worship. Again, it's establishing purpose. Why do we do what we do?

For example, the four underlying Biblical meanings of the word 'singers' used in scriptural context include 'to sing or stroll like a minstrel'²⁶, 'to turn or travel about'²⁷, 'going around for inspection,' and 'a wall'²⁸.

The Attire of the Choir

Samuel 16:7 says, "*Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*" It is essential for a music ministry department to have guidelines in place regarding outward appearance. However, God is always focused, first and foremost, on knowing the human heart. A worship leader should possess a proper and pure inward attire.²⁹ The choir from 1 Chronicles 15:27 wore a "*garment made of white linen.*" This was a symbol of purity and integrity. The proper inward attire will assure the proper outward attire.

²⁵ Ossie X. McKinney, "Moving From Performance to Missional Worship: Five Biblical Principles and Practices to Infuse Discipleship Into Worship," *Doctor of Worship Studies*, (2017): 24.

²⁶ Byron L Spradlin, "Discipling Worship Leadership: Biblical and Theological Rationale for Discipling Worship Leaders," *Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary*, (2012): 64.

²⁷ David C Cook, *Explore Bible Stories: 52 Bible Lessons for Ages 4-6* (Ohio: David C Cook, 2018). 49.

²⁸ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 43.

²⁹ Stephen E. Danish, "Family Lessons on the Mirror of Truth," *MIRROR, MIRROR*, (2010): 1.

The Bible speaks several times of worshipping in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 96:9, David declares, *“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.”* 1 Chronicles 16:29 says, *“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”* Psalm 29:2, David also put those words into a song: *“Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (Psalm 29:2 KJV).”*

Holiness is more than just guidelines or standards one lives by to maintain the label of a Christian. The beauty of holiness means “to be set apart or consecrated, sanctified³⁰” not just in the outward appearance, but from the inside out. “Obedience yields holiness³¹.” 1 Samuel 15:22 states, *“Obedience is better than sacrifice.”* Obedience to His Word and the Man of God brings a beauty of holiness when we worship. When the Levites made a decision to step forward, they were deciding to be obedient to His Word. 1 Peter 1:15-16 declares, *“But as He which hath called you is Holy, so be ye Holy in ALL manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye Holy; for I am Holy.”* We should want to be like Him. We should want the things that He wants. We are to *want Him*. We should strive to seek His face, and the Bible declares that no man shall see the Lord without holiness. Paul wrote about true worship perfectly in Romans 12:1-2.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” NLT ends with, “This is truly the way to worship him (Romans 12:1-2 KJV).”

True worship is *in spirit and in truth*. In John 4, Jesus was speaking with the woman at the well, and he shifted the conversation to worship. The concern was not only where the

³⁰ <https://www.bibleinoneyear.org/bioy/commentary/804>, Accessed July 28, 2020.

³¹ Steward, Katie, The Beauty of Holiness, Part 1, July 14, 2000, accessed June 19, 2020, <https://whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/The.Beauty.Holiness.text.html.gz>

worshipping was done, but also how and in what spirit it was done. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, *"an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...an hour is coming and is now here when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."* He emphasizes it once more in the next verse when He says, *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:22-24)

What is it to worship in spirit? If God's Biblical plan is to worship him *"in spirit (little s) and in truth,"* then we must examine the state of our spirit. We should worship under the Spirit's influence, guidance, and promptings. Our worship is not only mental but spiritual. There has to be a spiritual connection. As previously discussed, the word "Levite" means intertwined or connected.

Philippians 3:3-13 says, *"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."* He goes on to say if anyone has a right to have confidence, it's me. The NLT version states, *"I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pureblooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin - a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law."* Paul goes on to say, *"everything else is worthless compared to the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For His sake, I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him."* He closes it by saying, *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the High calling of Christ."*

What Paul was saying is, "I haven't made it yet. I haven't arrived." There is never a time when we reach the place that we are good enough to do it without the Spirit of God. There is a danger in being talented. Because of our skill that we have perfected, we can easily disregard prayer and being sensitive to His Spirit. It's too easy to go to our instrument, pick up a mic, simply sing or play the song with ease, and move a crowd because we are operating in our gifting and have developed our craft. However, we must always remember who gave us that gift and why we are using it. It's for His glory, not ours.

Finally, what is it to worship in truth? We have already examined David's question in Psalm 15 when he asks, "*Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?*" Then the Lord qualifies it when he responds with, "*He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*" Psalm 24:4, God answers again, "*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*" Worship in truth can be defined then as honesty. It is a reflection of who I am on and off the platform. It is not masquerading a different individual in the house of God. Inside or outside of the Church, I am a worshipper. It is a lifestyle.

Jesus picked up on that when he was speaking to the Pharisees. Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus is furious when he says, "*You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'*" Jesus is speaking from a verse in Isaiah 29:13. The NLT puts it this way. "*And so the Lord says, these people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.*"

The way we live, dress, act, talk, and worship should be much more than just man-made rules learned by rote. We should have a love for truth and a passion for the things of God. We identify each other by our faces and how we look, but God identifies us by our hearts. A worship leader must ask, what is my heart's attire? Psalm 66:18 says, "*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*" Lori Hatcher said, "To cherish sin means to embrace it, to love it, to hold on to it, and refuse to give it up. This is vastly different from committing a sin that we regret, confess, and forsake as soon as the Holy Ghost brings it to our

attention³²." God's expectation of us is not to be sinless, but we must deal with our sin as soon as possible. David's point from this Scripture is that no one may simply barge in on the Lord. It takes a prepared heart.

Psalm 139:23-24 says, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*" Proverbs 4:23 declares, "*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*"

Psalm 78:72 speaks of David. "*He fed them according to the integrity of his heart, and led them according to the skillfulness of his hands.*" A worship leader should not just be concerned with leading the congregation. That's the skillfulness of our hands. What are we feeding our congregation? That comes from the integrity of our hearts.

Stop the Music

A music department in a church may not have to be literally stopped, but there are times when you need to stop and re-align some aspects of the music before you can continue in ministry. Moses stopped the music in Exodus 32:19, and so did Nehemiah in Nehemiah 13:7-9. There are lessons to be learned from both of those instances. When music ceases to be edifying, that's when the music should be halted.

Fruga outlines three reasons why the music department should be stopped. First is the wrong music director.³³ The music director sets the spiritual environment for a worship service.

³² Lori Hatcher, *10 Most Important Verses on Prayer in the Bible*, Created August 2016, Accessed June 20, 2020, <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/10-most-important-verses-on-prayer-in-the-bible.html>

³³ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 70.

The fall of Lucifer is an excellent example of having the wrong music director. Lucifer means *halal* - he was the praise of heaven. He had to be the most beautiful musical angel in heaven because of what he was made of (precious stones, pipes, and strings). He couldn't move without creating music. Ezekiel 28:14 says, "*You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you...*" We should never forget that talent and ability are not what got us to where we are. God has anointed and ordained you. Lucifer rebelled against God. He failed to submit to authority. True submission means you may not always agree with every decision your pastor makes, but you submit to His authority, and you make His vision your vision. You speak His vision. You live His vision. You promote His vision publicly. God will honor your submission and your obedience over any sacrifice you make. If your pastor is a man of God, he is your authority first and foremost. If not, you need to get out from under him.

Lucifer allowed his talent and ability to go to his head, and he questioned God and His authority. God eventually cast him out of heaven along with other angels (Isaiah 14:12, 15). He didn't just cast Lucifer himself out because he dragged others down with him. This is an example to everyone in a position that our actions are not only affecting ourselves, but they are affecting those who we are leading. Because of Lucifer's rebellion, God stopped the music in heaven. Fruga says it this way, "There is never an appropriate time to put talents and gifts above character and integrity³⁴."

The second reason the music should stop is the wrong choir member(s). People with wrong motives must first have the ability to be ministered to before they are ready to minister to others³⁵. There has already been discussion about one of the definitions of "singer" being "a

³⁴ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 75.

³⁵ *i*Bid., 77.

wall." When that wall starts to decay, and sin is allowed in, it will disrupt the worship service's entire flow. As a minister of music, one must continuously be aware of the things that can breach the wall and creep into the music department.

We can take a lesson from Nehemiah here. The enemies of God were Ammonites and Moabites. Nehemiah was over the construction of rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. Enemies of God who were against it were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem (Nehemiah 2:19). Nehemiah called for the Levite choir and band to sing and play. They started celebrating on top of the wall then they moved into the house of God. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were constantly ridiculing and tearing down everything Nehemiah was trying to build. Tobiah, the Ammonite, was the most outspoken of the three. Eliashib, the Priest, was a friend of Tobiah and allowed him in. He found a room loaded with articles of worship and removed them to make room for Tobiah. The worship articles included grain offerings and incense, temple articles, tithes of grain, and new wine and oil. We understand through Scripture the oil is indicative of anointing as found in Nehemiah 13:5. Eliashib substituted anointing for an idolatrous and rebellious spirit, rooted in sexual immorality. The word Ammonite means to overshadow by huddling together or to become dim. This is what we call a clique today. Watch for these cliques in the music ministry. They will blur out the vision of the music ministry and leader and will become divisive.

The Levites began to read the book of Moses, where it says no Ammonite or Moabite is permitted in the house of God, and Nehemiah stopped the celebration. He immediately took care of the situation. First, Nehemiah threw out all of Tobiah's *stuff*. Second, he ordered that the room be purified. Lastly, he put back the praise articles and anointing (Nehemiah 13:8-14).

A music director cannot allow sin to stay in the music department. It will mushroom into something that will overtake the department and even the Church if not attended to quickly. It would be better to have a vacancy on an instrument or vocal part than to allow sin to creep in. We cannot allow God to inhabit His people's praises when we have our *stuff* in the storeroom of our hearts.

The third reason the music should be stopped is if we have the wrong music³⁶. Music in the Church should serve two purposes. Glorify God & edify the body of Christ³⁷. When choosing songs for worship, a worship leader should not put themselves in a trap where they feel like they need always to choose the newest and greatest song that is 'relevant.' Also, they shouldn't feel pressured to copy someone else's setlist for their worship service. What works elsewhere may not be what God wants for another church. If a song doesn't connect the congregation to God, it should be removed from the setlist.

There is an occurrence in the Bible when the celebration should have been stopped because of the wrong song. David had just killed Goliath. Singers and dancers came from all over. The songs were praises to Saul and mostly David. None of the songs glorified the real hero of the battle - God. Because the songs did not glorify God or edify the people, it affected the entire region for years.

The final concept of this section is the 'wow' vs. 'woe' factor. The prophet Isaiah described in Isaiah 6 what he saw in the year King Uzziah died. He emphatically painted a description of seeing "*the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the*

³⁶ Alvin Fruga, *When They Began to Sing: Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry*, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). 84.

³⁷ Peterson, David, *Music, Praise, and Edification*, 2010, Accessed June 21, 2020, <http://davidgpeterson.com/worship/music-praise-and-edification/>

temple.” He goes on to say how he saw the angels crying “*Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*” He described the house being “*filled with smoke.*” This had to be an incredible sight. One would think it would cause Isaiah to step back and say, "WOW!" This is not the case. He had a different reaction—literally quite the opposite. Then Isaiah said, “*Woe is Me! for I am undone...*” (Isaiah 6:1)

Anytime the glory of the Lord is in the house, there is so much more than just a “WOW” factor. There is a “WOE” factor. “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psa 111:10 NKJV).*” When the glory of the Lord fills the house so thick it’s like smoke, there is a self-identification, and an inventory of the inner man is taken. It's not, WOW, look at the cool lighting - WOW, listen to that sound - WOW, what an incredible musical run or chord progression - It's WOE is me! Where the glory of the Lord is, there’s more than just great music - there’s repentance, there’s deliverance, there’s healing, there’s salvation, there’s power! That is why we can leave a concert a say, “WOW!” However, we will leave a service where there has been more than vocal and musical excellence, but an anointing, and we leave changed and moved to repentance. God does honor excellence and skill, as we have seen in Scripture. However, a worship leader should not strive for the WOW factor only, yet aim for the WOE factor!

Music is more than just a noise. God requires certain things to be present in order for him to accept it. If it is not edifying, then stop the music and get it right! God requires us to have the right music minister, the right choir members, and the right songs. If all of those things are in alignment, God can freely move, and the ‘woe’ factor will be present.

Relationships in Music Ministry

When working at the Church in any position, it takes a team effort. This leads to a discussion regarding relationships. Matthew 12:25 (KJV) says, *"And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."* It is vitally important to develop good relationships not only within the music department but also within the church body.

Relationship Currency is defined as "currency that is generated by the investments you make in the people in your environment³⁸". *No Deposit - No Return*. Relationship currency is created by spending time with people on staff, getting to know them, sharing ideas with them, and working with them on projects. There will come a time with you will need to make a withdrawal from your relationship currency investment. Will there be enough deposits to allow these withdrawals? Some relationship currency includes the following.

1. COMMUNICATION – "The Lack of Communication is the Breeding Ground for Negativity³⁹." Just stop talking as a staff and see if there are any positive results. Don't let misunderstandings fester into more significant issues. You should be the one to initiate the conversation. Sometimes the most considerable miscommunication is assuming that it has already happened. Just because you know it doesn't mean everyone else does.

2. UNITY - Ps. 133:1-2 (KJV) says, "A Song of degrees of David. *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his*

³⁸ Carla Harris, The Value of Relationship Currency, Created August 7, 2018, Accessed July 12, 2020, <https://carlaspearls.com/2018/08/07/carla-at-transformher-2018-the-value-of-relationship-currency/>

³⁹ Mickey Parsons & Carolyn Murdaugh, *Patient-Centered Care: A Model For Reconstructing*, (Gaithersburg Maryland: Aspen Publishers Inc., 1994), 280.

garments;” - Unity is as precious as the anointing⁴⁰. If we want the anointing of God in our services, we must be unified; unified in purpose, in worship, and in vision. Remember the discussions about the wall. A lack of unity will definitely create a breach in the wall. Matthew 18:15,19-20 (AMP) says,

“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens and pays attention to you, you have won back your brother. Again I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them.”

3. TRUST - “A Healthy Church Staff has a Trusting Leadership Culture⁴¹”

Cheri Walters said in her book, *Get a Giant Hat Rack*, that like a marriage, the staff relationship has to be based on trust⁴². Once trust has been betrayed, it takes a long time for the injured person to trust again. Mutual respect is the glue that holds a staff together. The one position you should trust the most is your pastor. Here are six steps to easily betray your pastor’s trust:

- Discuss disagreements between you and your pastor with members of the congregation.
- Challenge his leadership publicly.
- Spread abroad the news who came to see him for counseling, what was said in the staff meeting, and other areas of confidentiality.
- When you’re thinking of leaving, let the pastor hear it from friends, other staff, or congregation members before he hears it from you.
- When you have a confrontation with someone in the Church, don’t tell the pastor about it. Let him find out through the grapevine, or better still, in a board meeting.
- Don’t follow through on assignments or projects he asks you to do⁴³.

These are all ways not to build relationship currency.

⁴⁰ <https://biblehub.com/psalms/133-2.htm>, Accessed July 12, 2020.

⁴¹ Vanderbloemen, 20 Proven Ways to Improve Your Church Staff Culture, Created November 19, 2018, Accessed July 13, 2020, <https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/improve-staff-culture>

⁴² Cheri Walters, *Get a Giant Hat Rack*, (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994), 24.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 25.

4. SERVANT HOOD. "Relationship, Stewardship, and Servant Hood: They Go Hand in Hand"⁴⁴." God came to serve - Jesus said in Luke 22:27, "*I am among you as one who serves*" Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 4:1, "*Men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and those entrusted with [stewards of] the secret things of God*" Finally, David proclaimed in Psalm 100:2, "*Serve the Lord with gladness.*"

As per the report published by Razor Planet, even though the music team is perceived as a volunteer ministry, it is believed that it acts as a 'ministry unto the lord' along with the believers and the lost⁴⁵. Thus, as an essential section of the ministry, an individual is highly encouraged to become a part of covenant life. Therefore, by attaining these objectives, an individual agrees with the beliefs along with the Church's mission. As a worship leader, it is essential for being loyal to the Church in terms of support and tithes. On a similar note, as stated in the Calvary Pentecostal Church guidelines, a member of the Music Ministry is required to be filled with 'Holy Spirit'⁴⁶. Paul admonishes,

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God (Ephesians 5:18-21)."

It is also essential to maintain proper support with the senior pastor, along with the Minister of Music and other members.

⁴⁴ Ivery White, *A Journey Into the Family: Nine Steps to Successful Discipline*, Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse Publishing, 2011, 92.

⁴⁵ Razor Planet, "A Word from the Minister of Music," *Minister of Music*, (2010): 4.

⁴⁶ Calvary Pentecostal Church, Music Department Guidelines, Euless, TX, 2020

Organization of a Music Ministry

There are many hats a Minister of Music wears in their role. David Allen, the creator of *Getting Things Done*, is quoted saying, “You can do anything, but you cannot do everything⁴⁷.” Paul said in Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.*” However, if there is not a good team in place, everything will not get done effectively. Developing a music staff can help in alleviating a lot of busywork.

First, find a secretary who takes attendance, scheduling, communicating with the team, etc. Also, find a treasurer who can take care of all finances that come in and go out. An events coordinator can be a valuable leader in the music department. It's essential to be together as a music team outside of the rehearsal space to have fun and laugh together. Some ideas are a choir retreat, choir socials at a music team member's home or event center, *Deck the Malls*, *City Christmas Parade*, etc. A fundraising coordinator should be chosen to take care of raising money. Everything takes money. Find someone who has a knack for raising money. A historian should be considered as a person who takes pictures and videos throughout the year to capture the great moments. Finally, part leaders should be carefully and prayerfully chosen. These are singers who can help teach parts. This position assists the rehearsal to go quicker, especially when working on large programs such as Christmas when it is necessary to hold sectionals.

It is essential to constitute a Music Ministry team, which focuses on worship before the technical aspects of music are engaged. Furthermore, it is vital to instill culture within the team

⁴⁷ Adam Dachis, You Can Do Anything But Not Everything, Life Hackers, Created 8/20/12, Accessed July 24, 2020, <https://lifehacker.com/you-can-do-anything-but-not-everything-5936303>

and act as a servant leader, thereby recruiting team members⁴⁸. Therefore, a team can coordinate, evaluate, communicate, make decisions, plan annual ministry details, and educate⁴⁹.

According to Imbo, Christian worship does not only include ‘slow-paced songs’ along with slow beats; it is one of the critical aspects of worship⁵⁰. On the other hand, praise is not always “singing fast-paced songs, with dancing and jumping and doing all manner of things”⁵¹. Planning prayerfully and effectively is essential for the worship leader. Benjamin Franklin is quoted as stating, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail⁵².” The Bible also teaches this principle. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, “*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest*” (Ecclesiastes 9:10 KJV).

Chapter III: Research Question

The research question was identified as what, in addition to gifts and talents, make for a qualified worship leader? The sub-questions framed for this study are as follows:

What are the correct intentions for the music ministry?

Have the changes in musical styles and other significant church worship changes over the years altered the way we worship?

Answering these questions requires exploring the Biblical purpose of music, knowing the importance of planning, and developing effective relationships. It also involves examining the

⁴⁸James Imbo, “Music Ministry in the Local Church,” *Definition of Christian Worship* (2016): 2-4.

⁴⁹ Trinity Baptist Church, “Music & Worship Team,” *Charter, Policies, and Procedures* (2015): 1.

⁵⁰ James Imbo, “Music Ministry in the Local Church,” *Definition of Christian Worship* (2016): 2-4.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 4.

⁵² <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/460142-if-you-fail-to-plan-you-are-planning-to-fail>, Accessed July 23, 2020.

issue of dress codes and knowing when to stop the music and examine the heart. Music plays an integral role in edification and worship as it reinforces the scriptural truths within our minds while drawing our hearts closer to God. The challenges affecting Christian music are how worshippers can make it both functionally and Biblically effective such that it is both socially and musically acceptable without contravening the Biblical principles⁵³. Christ-honoring music should have a robust biblical standpoint while remaining aligned to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, there is a need to reevaluate our worship to ensure that worship leaders are unashamedly defending the truth. Music should not be separated from God's holiness, whereby it is degraded to a matter of preference and personal taste. In all aspects of the Christian walk, holiness should play a central role.

The present music ministry can be said to mirror the Apostle Paul's evangelistic strategy. He offered that some characteristics and foreign culture can be accepted so that there are more opportunities for evangelizing. However, Paul is not encouraging the faithful to act outside Yahweh's commandments. Instead, he asks them to find ways of lawfully evangelizing people from various cultural traditions but within God's Commandments. The problems arising from music in contemporary times can be attributed to over contextualizing. Such that how the church ministry is administered strays the message from its true intent. Therefore, worship leaders should strive to balance using technology to support their message instead of having technology distract them from presenting the Gospel. Over contextualization manifests when worship must have the latest look, the newest feel, or the trendiest beat to lure seekers. Overall, it is dangerous to focus on contextualizing instead of concentrating on the truth as it can adversely affect the purpose of worship music. For instance, Tshabalala and Patel explain that praise and worship

⁵³ Adedeji, F. "Christian music in contemporary Africa: a re-examination of its essentials." *Koers - Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* 72, no. 1 (2007). doi:10.4102/koers.v72i1.193.

have been used by young persons as a coping mechanism, transforming, uplifting, and creating a sense of connection among worshipers⁵⁴.

Understanding the Biblical history of music ministry can help identify the changes in musical styles and other significant changes in church worship over the years and how they have altered the way we worship. The music ministry traces its roots from the Bible, whereby music ministers share the same unique roles given to the Levites as outlined in the Old Testament. Thus, it is vital to consider the music ministry as a spiritual ministry instead of entertainment and social activity. The Biblical foundation of worship was designed by God to minister to Him first and foremost in the prescribed plan he placed in His Word. For instance, in the present day, some churches seek responses from the audience rather than focusing on worshipping God. Thus, a historical understanding of the biblical history of music ministry can provide an understating of how worship has changed across the ages. There is much to be learned from today's era of music and how it aligns Biblically.

Worship leaders are also confronted by dress code issues whereby it denotes both inward and outward appearances. In the Church, unique clothing has always been used to mark encounters with God. In various instances, Yahweh gave specific guidelines as to what religious attire would entail. The earliest instructions concerning symbolic clothing used in religious settings are found in Numbers 15:37-41, where God instructs Moses to tell Israelites to attach tassels along the hems of clothing.

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations

⁵⁴ Tshabalala, Bhekani G., and Cynthia J. Patel. "The role of praise and worship activities in spiritual well-being: perceptions of a Pentecostal Youth Ministry group." *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 15, no. 1 (2010), 73-82.

and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God. ” (Numbers 15:37-41)

These tassels served as reminders that they were to abide by the Lord's command and not their desires. Additionally, God gave instructions about the clothing of persons who served in his temple that would set them apart from other people. In Exodus 28: 2, he instructs that there should be special attire that would "dignify" his work. Most present-day ministry leaders, including worship teams, are required to wear modest clothing. It shows reverence to God, temperance of spirit respect for others and their cultures and humility. Concerning inner attire, the way we live, dress, act, and worship should not only be guided by human-made rules. Instead, worship teams should have a yearning for the truth and a passion for Godly things because God identifies us by our hearts. This way, worship leaders can always be wary of their heart's attire.

Many churches are now finding themselves gazing towards the sphere of popular music and popular culture as a possible means through which they can remain relevant and reconnect with younger generations. 1 Corinthians 9:22, Paul writes

"To the weak, I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means, I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22 KJV)

However, the music should remain inherently sacred. Sacred music has been described as functioning as cues associated with moral principles through ritual participation and cultural

socialization⁵⁵. Associative learning emanating from music means that it can influence behavior. Accordingly, music should be stopped or re-alignment when it ceases to be edifying.

The importance of positive relationships in the church ministry cannot be overstated as they can enhance the congregants' experience while generating positive spiritual outcomes. Excellent relationships can be developed through communication, unity, trust, and servant leadership. In his book on Christian servant leadership, Gary Roberts asks Christian leaders to embrace servant leadership as the God – endorsed and God – directed means of attaining the fundamental missions of Christianity⁵⁶. Servant leadership provides an excellent opportunity for honoring God as it is the only leadership style that balances between mission achievement, molarity, and advancing everyone's interests, including those of subordinates.

Concerning church organization, it requires well-coordinated teams. Chatira and Mwenje, in their article about church management, point out that support lines should be established, people selected and trained, and materials acquired to accomplish the Church's vision and mission⁵⁷. To that end, the worship leader should find a staff that can alleviate their workload, including secretaries, treasurers, and fundraising coordinators. Worship leaders are also required to plan effectively. Thomas advises Christian leaders to embrace Jesus' leadership, which was based on establishing close mentoring relationships, which helped them accomplish the tasks that

⁵⁵ Lang, Martin, Panagiotis Mitkidis, Radek Kundt, Aaron Nichols, Lenka Krajčiková, and Dimitris Xygalatas. "Music As a Sacred Cue? Effects of Religious Music on Moral Behavior." *Frontiers in Psychology* 7 (2016). 2.

⁵⁶ Roberts, Gary E. *Working with Christian Servant Leadership Spiritual Intelligence: The Foundation of Vocational Success*. (Basingstoke: Springer, 2016), 24.

⁵⁷ Florence, Chatira, and Mwenje Judith. "The development of management skills for effective church management in pastoral preparation programs in Zimbabwe." *African Journal of Business Management* 12, no. 5 (2018), 103-120

he purposed for them⁵⁸. Overall, making a qualified worship leader requires exploring the biblical purpose of music, knowing the importance of planning, and developing effective relationships. It also involves examining the issue of attire and knowing when to stop the music.

Chapter IV: Curriculum Design

The course, Biblical Principles of Music and Worship, will be designed for an eight-week online undergraduate course study in the Worship Studies degree plan. This course provides a broad overview of Christian worship and spiritual application, including biblical fundamentals for ministry through music, various practical, administrative, and leadership dimensions, as well as clarification of role, self-identity, and call in the life of a minister. The course objectives will include describing God's plan for worship in the beginning and how it relates to the church today, articulating the Biblical principles for worship leadership as emphasized in scripture, and exploring the facets of music ministry as it relates to skillfulness, integrity, and servanthood.

The required reading will be Alvin Fruga's *When They Began to Sing*. Additional resources will be assigned to the students, including a Complete Spiritual Evaluation Form and various other handouts. Biblical qualifications for a worship leader will be addressed. Such qualifications are worshipping in spirit and in truth, worshipping in the beauty of holiness, and living a consecrated life unto the Lord. Leading a church music ministry is wide-ranging. Instruction on church music administration, as well as rehearsal techniques, will also be discussed. Weekly discussion board posts, quizzes, journals, research paper, and a final project will assist in allowing the student to formalize the material, as well as their opinions on the

⁵⁸ Thomas, Matt. "The indispensable mark of Christian leadership: implications from Christ's methods of leadership development in Mark's gospel." *Perichoresis* 16, no. 3 (2018), 107-117. doi:10.2478/perc-2018-0019.

subject (see appendix). Also, collaboration will enable the students to brainstorm together on weekly content as well as the final project.

Week one will focus on the Biblical History of the Music Ministry. The learning objectives for week one include the following. The student will grasp a biblical history of music ministry. The student will explore the right motives and wrong motives of music ministry. The student will analyze the importance of the balance between vertical and horizontal ministry. The outline for week one includes the following. What is the Biblical history of music ministry? What are the correct motives for music ministry? How is the balance between horizontal and vertical worship created?

Week two will focus on the Requirements for Ministering in the Temple. The learning objectives for week two include the following. The student will grasp the requirements for ministering in the temple. The student will explore the motives of effectively leading in music ministry. The student will assess the weight of ministry responsibility as it relates to Christian identity. The outline for week two includes the following. What were the five requirements for ministering in the temple? What are the motives for effectively leading in music ministry? How do I assess the weight of ministry responsibility as it relates to a Christian identity?

Week three will focus on the Biblical Purpose of the Music Ministry. The learning objectives for week three include the following. The student will examine the biblical purpose of the music ministry (five principles of purpose). The student will analyze the focus and vision of music ministry. The student will explore the four underlying meanings of the word “singers,” as indicated by scripture. The outline for week three includes the following. What are the five principles of purpose? What is the focus and vision of music ministry? What are the four underlying meanings of the word “singers”?

Week four will focus on the Attire of the Choir. The learning objectives for week four include the following. The student will grasp the importance of inward and outward attire, as indicated by scripture. The student will examine the meaning of worshipping in spirit and truth. The student will explore the pitfalls of music ministry that does not operate in truth. The outline for week four includes the following. What is the importance of inward and outward attire? What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth? What are the pitfalls of a music ministry that does not operate in truth?

Week five will focus on when it is essential to Stop the Music. The learning objectives for week five include the following. The student will analyze three primary reasons that the music ministry should undergo re-evaluation. The student will discover and learn to protect spiritual boundaries that preserve church health. The student will examine three challenges that biblical leaders will face and address in music ministry. The outline for week five includes the following. What are the three primary reasons that the music ministry should undergo re-evaluation? What are the spiritual boundaries that preserve church health? What are the three challenges that biblical leaders will face in music ministry?

Week six will focus on Relationships in Music Ministry. The learning objectives for week six include the following. The student will understand the principles of relationship currency. The student will grasp the concept of a team approach in the music ministry and how that integrates with the overall church vision. The student will explore the importance of a leadership/followership relationship. The outline for week six includes the following. What is relationship currency? Why is team approach so important in the music ministry? Why is it imperative to have a leadership/followership relationship?

Week seven will focus on the Organization of a Music Ministry. The learning objectives include the following. The student will explore the steps of organizing a music ministry. The student will grasp effective rehearsal techniques. The student will analyze effective time-management methods in regard to the music ministry. The outline for week seven includes the following. What are the steps of organizing a music ministry? What are some effective rehearsal techniques? How do I effectively manage my time?

Week eight will focus on Wrapping it Up. The learning objective for week one is finalizing the music ministry portfolio, as indicated in the rubric. The instructor will state their final thoughts on music ministry. Also, clarity on finishing the final project will be discussed.

Chapter V: Conclusion

The demand for qualified, prepared, and equipped leaders has never been more prominent. In addition, worship leaders should possess the true integrity of the heart as defined in Scripture. When characterizing true worship, this aspect cannot be ignored. John 4:24 declares, "*God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*" Our body expresses the worship that is coming from our spirits. Worship that is according to the truth of our inward condition. It is imperative that the worship leader of the 21st century guard his/her heart. Biblical foundations, as well as practical purposes, are essential for feeding the congregation from the integrity of the heart.

This study entailed inquiring about the factors beyond gifts and talents that make for a qualified worship leader. Specifically, it involved examining what makes a qualified worship leader by exploring the biblical purpose of music, knowing the importance of planning, as well as developing effective relationships. It also involved exploring the issue of dress code and knowing when to stop the music. Worship leaders have a great responsibility of leading fellow

Christians into God's presence. However, their abilities should extend beyond their singing talent by having a deep understating of their role in worship and the present nature of worship.

Over the last two millennia, worship has changed considerably in terms of style, content, and the application of technology. The review started by exploring the historical background of worship starting in creation, whereby, according to the book of Isaiah, humanity was created for the purpose of worshipping God. The Worship Guidelines of the Old Testament are explored, starting with the era of the Exodus as Moses was taking Israelites to the Promised Land. The role of Levites as worship leaders is explored as they were willing to show total dedication in serving the Lord. David's era highlights the importance of obeying God's commands to the letter as Uzzah was struck dead for touching the Ark – a role reserved for the Levites. There is a similar case in the reign of Saul when his daughter, Michal, is rendered childless for mocking those who worshipped God. The Old Testament highlights the Biblical foundations of worship, designed only to worship God with strict adherence to his instructions.

Other Biblical perspectives from the Old Testament that were explored include vertical and horizontal ministry whereby Vertical ministry is our ministry to God in personal devotions and prayer outside of the Church while horizontal ministry is leading others with words, music, and example into the Holy Presence of God to worship Him. This section also outlines the requirements for ministering in the temple as instructed to the Levites including making a decision to turn from wicked ways, killing whatever was dear to them to eliminate obstacles to effective worship, thorough cleansing for purity, carrying out burdensome duties, and have the ability to minister. The article also explored the instruction of worship found in the New Testament, according to the Gospels of several Apostles, including John.

The review also explored the issue of the attire of the choir and stopping the music. In this context, the beauty of holiness is explained as not just in the outward appearance, but from the inside out because obedience yields holiness. The way we live, dress, act, talk, and worship should be extended beyond the socially accepted rules made by man. Instead, worship teams should have a yearning for the truth and a passion for Godly things because God identifies us by our hearts. Consequently, worship leaders should always be wary of their heart's attire.

In summary, a worship leader should not be focused on leading the congregation and instead concentrate on what they feed their congregation depending on their heart's attire. Further, stopping the music requires one to stop and re-align some aspects of church music to ensure that it is aligned to God's teachings. Generally, music can be stopped if the wrong music director is leading the worship service, wrong choir members, and in situations where the wrong type of music is used. God requires us to have the right music minister, the right choir members, and the right songs. If all of those things are in alignment, there's repentance, deliverance, healing, salvation, and power.

The article also explored relationships and organization in the music ministry. The relationships in worship are explored in terms of the need for team effort such that everyone in the church body develops relationship currency encompassing communication, unity, trust, and servanthood. Importantly, one should maintain proper support with the senior pastor, along with the Minister of Music and other members. The organization of the church ministry requires the minister of music to assign music staff various roles to reduce the work burden. This includes secretaries, treasurers, music teachers, and fundraisers. These helpers should be carefully and prayerfully chosen. It is vital to instill culture within the team such that it focuses on worship before the technical aspects of music are engaged.

This review can be used as a reference point for Bible colleges and churches. There is an urgent need to equip worship leaders with the necessary Biblical principles that will help them in effectively leading their congregants into God's presence.

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Appendix A

COURSE SYLLABUS

NAME OF COURSE: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad overview of Christian worship and spiritual application including biblical fundamentals for ministry through music, various practical, administrative, and leadership dimensions, as well as clarification of role, self-identity, and call in the life of a minister.

RATIONALE

The demand for qualified, prepared, and equipped leaders has never been more prominent. In addition, worship leaders should possess a true integrity of the heart as defined in scripture. When characterizing true worship, this aspect cannot be ignored. John 4:24 declares, “God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”. Our body expresses the worship that is coming from our spirits. Worship that is according to the truth of our inward condition. It is imperative that the worship leader of the 21st century guard his/her heart. Biblical foundations, as well as practical applications, are essential for feeding the congregation from the integrity of the heart.

I. PREREQUISITES

NONE.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE(S)

- Fruga A., *When They Began to Sing*, Understanding God’s Purpose for the Music Ministry, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). ISBN: 9781880809549
- Various handouts from instructor.

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- Internet access (broadband recommended)
- Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A.** Describe God’s plan for worship in the beginning and how it relates to the church today.
- B.** Articulate the principles for worship leadership as emphasized in scripture.
- C.** Explore the facets of music ministry as it relates to skillfulness, integrity, and servanthood.

V. DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

1. Reading Assignments

Reading assignments will contribute greatly to the students’ understanding and will supplement the instructor’s online presentations.

2. Lectures

The course includes audio/video lectures. Careful attention to the lectures and readings will prepare students to complete quizzes and other assignments included in the course.

3. Quizzes

Students must complete weekly quizzes based on the reading assignments and lectures. The quizzes are designed to hold students accountable for reading and absorbing the material presented in the lectures. Detailed instructions about the quiz will be given within the course.

4. Threaded Discussions

Threaded discussions focusing on topics related to the course are included each week. Students are not required to be online at the same time as their classmates. However, they should check in regularly (preferably at least once per day) to contribute to these ongoing discussions.

5. Journal Submissions

Journals are used as tools for student reflection. By consciously thinking about and comparing issues, life experiences, and course materials, students are better able to understand the links between theory and practice and to generate justifiable, well-supported opinions.

6. Research Paper/Project

Students may be required to write a research paper or complete a project. Detailed instructions will be given at the time the paper or project is assigned.

7. Final Exam

A final exam will be assigned during the final week of class.

VI. COURSE GRADING

Assignments	Points	Percentages
Quizzes	210	21%
Threaded Discussions	280	28%
Journal Submissions	210	21%
Research Project	150	15%
Final Exam	150	15%
TOTAL	1,000	100%

Letter Grading Scale

A	90-100	Superior work
B	80-89	Above Average Work
C	70-79	Average Work
D	60-69	Below Average Work
F	0-59	Failing Work

A grade of **C or higher** is required to successfully pass the course.

VII. LATE WORK

Course work should be completed and submitted by the posted deadlines. If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, they must contact the instructor by email prior to the due date.

- Assignments submitted one day late will receive an automatic 10% reduction in grade
- Assignments submitted two days late will receive an automatic 20% reduction in grade
- No assignments will be accepted three days after the due date
- Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) should be submitted to school administration and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

VIII. GRADED ASSIGNMENTS EXPECTATIONS

Please allow 4-7 days for graded assignments to be posted.

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students will be expected to stay current with all assignments and adhere to all assigned deadlines. *Readings, assignments, and papers are a vital component of this course.* Lectures and discussions will presuppose completion of the assigned reading requirements. Please do not request an extension because of busyness, overscheduling, or the like.
2. Students are expected to attend hybrid class sessions and be prepared to discuss the material. Engaging others in insightful conversation is an essential part of creating a successful classroom environment. Students should participate, but not dominate.

X. POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the classroom unless permitted by instructor.
- Students should make the instructor aware of any absences.
- Assignments must be turned in on time. One minute after the deadline will be considered late.
- Technology issues are no excuse for late assignments.
 - Equipment failures, user error, loss of internet access, or the inability to properly save, attach, and submit assignments are not valid excuses.
- No recording of the class is allowed without the permission of the instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Due Date
1	Biblical History of Music Ministry	Sunday at 11:59 pm
2	Requirements for Ministering in the Temple	Sunday at 11:59 pm
3	Biblical Purpose of Music Ministry	Sunday at 11:59 pm
4	The Choir's Inward and Outward Attire Begin Research Project	Sunday at 11:59 pm
5	Stop the Music Continue Research Project	Sunday at 11:59 pm
6	Relationships of Music Ministry Continue Research Project	Sunday at 11:59 pm
7	Organization of the Music Ministry Continue Research Project	Sunday at 11:59 pm
8	Submit Research Project	Sunday at 11:59 pm

Student: John Doe	Course for which you are creating curriculum: Biblical Principles of Music and Worship: A Curriculum for Teaching Biblical Foundations of Worship and Practical Applications for the Worship Leader.
<p style="text-align: center;">Required Textbook for Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruga A., <i>When They Began to Sing</i>, Understanding God's Purpose for the Music Ministry, (Winterpark, FL: Legacy Publishers, Int., 2005). ISBN: 9781880809549 • Various handouts from instructor. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Identify the problem: <i>(What does the student not know how to do? What is the student's gap in the training or experience?)</i></p> <p>The Student must learn Biblical qualifications for being a worship leader/church music director</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Who are the learners and what are their characteristics? <i>(Age, major, pre-requisites, residential, online, or a hybrid of the two)</i> College freshman worship arts majors</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">What is the new desired behavior? <i>(Overall, what is the main change or new addition to the student's demonstrated ability?)</i></p> <p>The student will be able to articulate clearly what worship is. The student will learn a broad overview of Christian worship and spiritual application including biblical fundamentals for ministry through music, various practical, administrative, and leadership dimensions, as well as clarification of role, self-identity, and call in the life of a minister.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">What are the delivery options? <i>(Explain the materials you will develop for the course.)</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">This course is online and includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eight-week course structure 2. Online lectures, discussion board, quizzes, journals, and other submissions 3. Final exam and research paper 	
<p style="text-align: center;">What are the pedagogical considerations? <i>(Describe your general content and methodology for the course.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe God's plan for worship in the beginning and how it relates to the church today. 2. Articulate the principles for worship leadership as emphasized in scripture. 3. Explore the facets of music ministry as it relates to skillfulness, integrity, and servanthood. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">What learning theory applies to your curriculum? Why?</p>	

Cognitive Learning Theory - “The cognitive theory understands that learners can be influenced by both internal and external elements⁵⁹.” Asking students to provide feedback on their experiences, encouraging group discussions, as well as asking students to demonstrate in their own words what they have learned will be the best approach for this course.

Curriculum Project: Analysis Chart

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. IDENTIFY the Biblical history of music ministry.
2. DEMONSTRATE the Biblical requirements for ministry.
3. ANALYZE the Biblical purpose of the music ministry.
4. CREATE Organizational strategies in music ministry relationships.
5. VALUE the Biblical qualifications of a worship leader

⁵⁹ WGU Texas, TEACHING & EDUCATION: The five educational learning theories, Created May 30, 2020, Accessed August 19, 2020, <https://www.wgu.edu/blog/five-educational-learning-theories2005.html>

Student: John Doe	Course: Biblical Principles of Music and Worship: A Curriculum for Teaching Biblical Foundations of Worship and Practical Applications for the Worship Leader.		
Concept Statement: This course provides a broad overview of Christian worship and spiritual application including biblical fundamentals for ministry through music, various practical, administrative, and leadership dimensions, as well as clarification of role, self-identity, and call in the life of a minister.			
Learning Outcomes	Content	Learning/Training activity	Assessment
<u>IDENTIFY</u> the Biblical history of music ministry	<u>Week 1:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1: Biblical History of Music History • Watch week 1 lecture 	<u>Week 1:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the conditions of Biblical personalities presented in the Bible, for example, Moses, Joshua, and David. • Explore the right motives and wrong motives of music ministry. • Analyze the importance of the balance between vertical and horizontal ministry. 	<u>Week 1:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative discussion forum #1. (In light of this week’s material, how would you respond today to Moses’ ageless question: “Who is on the Lord’s side”? Use scripture references when possible.) • Quiz on Ch. 1 • Journal #1 on the lecture material and Ch.1 of course book.
<u>DEMONSTRATE</u> the Biblical requirements for ministry	<u>Week 2:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2: Requirements for Ministering in the Temple • Watch week 2 lecture 	<u>Week 2:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasp the requirements for ministering in the temple and how they relate to today’s music ministry. • Explore motives of effectively leading in music ministry. • Assess the weight of ministry responsibility. 	<u>Week 2:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative discussion forum #2. (Discuss the five requirements which must be met to effectively serve. How relevant do you think these are today? Are there other requirements that you might feel are necessary to add to the requirements presented by Fruga?) • Quiz on Ch. 2

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal #2 on the lecture material and Ch.2 of course book.
<p><u>ANALYZE</u> the Biblical purpose of the music ministry</p>	<p><u>Week 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 3: The Biblical Purpose of the Music Ministry. (5 principles of purpose) • Watch week 3 lecture <p><u>Week 4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4: The Inward and Outward Attire (Integrity of the Heart) • Watch week 4 lecture • Begin Research Project Discussion <p><u>Week 5:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5: The Inward and Outward Attire (Integrity of the Heart) • Watch week 5 lecture • Continue working on Research Project 	<p><u>Week 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the meaning of human beings and the essential roles of music, biblical understanding to the music ministry, and the identification of a singer as per the scriptural context. • Students create a mission statement for a music ministry. <p><u>Week 4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the meaning of worshipping in spirit and truth. • Explore the pitfalls of music ministry that does not operate in truth. • Students will fill out a Spiritual Growth and Evaluation Form and Discuss in Journal <p><u>Week 5:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze three basic reasons that the music ministry should undergo re-evaluation • Discover and learn to protect 	<p><u>Week 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative discussion forum #3 (Based on Fruga’s analysis of the Hebrew word <i>shuwr</i>, translated as singers, discuss each of the four distinct meanings briefly and articulate their importance in the music ministry.) • Quiz on Ch. 3 • Journal #3 on the lecture material and Ch. 3 of the course book. <p><u>Week 4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative discussion forum #4 (Use some of the analogies presented by the apostle James to discuss the danger in not taming the tongue and the consequences that might occur in your music ministry as a result.) • Quiz on Ch. 4 • Journal #4 on the lecture material/evaluation form and Ch. 4 of the course book. • Fill out spiritual evaluation and be prepared to discuss <p><u>Week 5:</u> Formative discussion forum #5 (According to the reading this week,</p>

		<p>spiritual boundaries that preserve church health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine three challenges that biblical leaders will face and address in music ministry. 	<p>what are three basic reasons that the music ministry of the church should sometimes be stopped?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz on Ch. 5 • Journal #5 on the lecture material and Ch. 5 of the course book.
<p><u>CREATE</u> Organizational strategies in music ministry relationships</p>	<p><u>Week 6:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 6: Relationships in Music Ministry • Watch week 6 lecture • Continue working on Research Project 	<p><u>Week 6:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the principles of relationship currency. • Grasp a concept of a team approach in the music ministry and how that integrates with the overall church vision. • Explore the importance of a leadership/followership relationship. 	<p><u>Week 6:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative discussion forum #6 (Do you agree with Fruga when he states on p.92 of the text that “a praise team cannot take the place of or accomplish the same thing as a choir”? Defend your position using the text and biblical proof.) • Quiz on Ch. 6 • Journal #6 on the lecture material and Ch. 6 of the course book.
<p><u>VALUE</u> the Biblical qualifications of a worship leader</p>	<p><u>Week 7:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 7: Organization of the Music Ministry • Watch week 7 lecture • Continue working on Research Project <p><u>Week 8:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrapping it up. • Watch week 8: Thoughts from experienced 	<p><u>Week 7:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the steps of organizing a music ministry. • Grasp effective rehearsal techniques. • Analyze effective time-management methods in regards to the music ministry. <p><u>Week 8:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn strategies from experienced 	<p><u>Week 7:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative discussion forum #7 (According to the text, what are the four basic steps to organizing a choir ministry? Explain each step in your own words, and tell what you think is the most important aspect of each step.) • Quiz on Ch. 7 • Journal #7 on the lecture material and Ch. 7 of the course book.

	Church Music Directors	church music directors. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit Research Project.	<u>Week 8:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will take Final Exam.• Students will submit Final Project.
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Curriculum Project – Design Chart

Learning Outcomes <i>(List them in the order you plan to address during the 8 weeks of curriculum.)</i>	Rationale for Sequence <i>(Describe why you believe this sequence is the most effective.)</i>
8. IDENTIFY the Biblical history of music ministry.	Understanding the Biblical history of music ministry, including how it was setup, organized, and implemented, will help to establish a foundation for the course.
9. DEMONSTRATE the Biblical requirements for ministry.	The Biblical requirements of ministry are explained and demonstrated in how they relate to the 21 st century music ministry.
10. ANALYZE the Biblical purpose of the music ministry.	Without knowing the purpose of a thing, abuse is inevitable. Establishing purpose, a mission statement, as well as Biblical definitions of singers, will help assist the student when they feel burned out in their ministry.
11. CREATE Organizational strategies in music ministry relationships.	Building relationship currency and building a team approach is a must in ministry, as well as the necessity of having a leadership and followership relationship. Relationships can build or tear down a music department. It's important to create strategies in building up these relationships.
12. VALUE the Biblical qualifications of a worship leader	There are many things to consider when establishing a music ministry. We will discuss such things as auditions, rehearsal techniques, and effective time management, while maintaining the Biblical qualifications learned in previous weeks.

Curriculum Project – Learning Objectives

Week One

1. The student will grasp a biblical history of music ministry.
2. The student will explore the right motives and wrong motives of music ministry.
3. The student will analyze the importance of the balance between vertical and horizontal ministry.

Week Two

1. The student will grasp the requirements for ministering in the temple.
2. The student will explore motives of effectively leading in music ministry.
3. The student will assess the weight of ministry responsibility as it relates to apostolic identity.

Week Three

1. The student will examine the biblical purpose of the music ministry. (5 principles of purpose)
2. The student will analyze the focus and vision of music ministry
3. The student will explore the four basic meanings of the word “singers” as indicated by scripture

Week Four

1. The student will grasp the importance of inward and outward attire as indicated by scripture.
2. The student will examine the meaning of worshipping in spirit and truth.
3. The student will explore the pitfalls of music ministry that does not operate in truth.

Week Five

1. The student will analyze three basic reasons that the music ministry should undergo re-evaluation.
2. The student will discover and learn to protect spiritual boundaries that preserve church health.
3. The student will examine three challenges that biblical leaders will face and address in music ministry.

Week Six

1. The student will understand the principles of relationship currency.
2. The student will grasp a concept of a team approach in the music ministry and how that integrates with the overall church vision.
3. The student will explore the importance of a leadership/followership relationship.

Week Seven

1. The student will explore the steps of organizing a music ministry.
2. The student will grasp effective rehearsal techniques.
3. The student will analyze effective time-management methods in regards to the music ministry.

Week Eight

1. The student will finalize and submit the final project.

Week One

Week One Required Reading

Read chapter one of Fruga's book, "When They Began to Sing". Be prepared to discuss how the biblical history of music ministry relates to the church today.

Week One Narrative

Biblical History of Music Ministry

Hello, and welcome to week one of Biblical Principles of Music and Worship. This first week, we will look at The Biblical History of Music Ministry and how it relates to music ministry today.

The Bible outlines various era's that include practices of worship. Exodus outlines Moses' Era when he is leading the Israelites to the Promised Land. Moses left the Israelites for 40 days and 40 nights to go up the mountain to pray. In his absence, the Israelites, with the help of Moses' brother, Aaron, melted all of their gold and formed a golden calf to worship. As Moses was descending the mountain, Joshua met him halfway. Exodus 32:17 says, "*And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.*" Verse 18 - "*And he*" (Moses) "*said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.*" Why do you suppose they heard two separate things? Moses had an encounter with God himself. He understood the difference between the shout and cry of an overcomer and "just a noise of singing." This is because God had already told him what was happening in the camp. What a powerful illustration that prayer is a necessity before worship! God is not interested in just a noise of singing. Fast-forward approximately 40 years, and Joshua is face to face with the walls of Jericho. With the words of Moses echoing in his mind, Joshua knew he had to have more than just a noise of singing to bring the walls down. It would take a shout mixed with obedience to bring them down.

Back to the story in Exodus, Moses saw the idolatry of God's people, and while stopping the celebration; he did a few other things.

- 1. He broke the tablets of stone to let the people know they had broken God's covenant
- 2. He burned the golden calf, ground it into powder, mixed the powder with water, and forced the Israelites to drink it.
- 3. Gave the assistant pastor, his brother Aaron, a good talking to.
- 4. Finally, he asked, "Who's on the Lord's side?"

In response to the question, the Levites stepped forward. Moses had to be pleased, for he was from the tribe of Levi as well. For their willingness to make a stand, God had Moses place the Levites over the entire care of the Tent of Meeting. Their responsibilities included:

- Transporting the tabernacle and all of its furnishings
- Carrying of the Ark of the Covenant with poles
- Setting up and tearing down the Tent of Meeting
- Musicians and singers to lead praise and worship

- Doorkeepers and administrators
- They were paid by receiving tithes from the other eleven tribes

It is interesting to note that Levi means “to be attached, to twine, to unite, to remain, to join or be joined.” To effectively minister, there has to be a connection between you and God. We always think of the tribe of Judah as being the praisers, and that's true. However, they are paying their tithes to the Levites, who are leading in praise and worship.

Let's now fast forward to David's era. David has just assumed the throne as King, and he calls for them to bring the Ark of the Covenant back from Kiriath Jearim to Jerusalem. The Ark had been in Abinadab's house for twenty years. They placed it on a cart for more accessible transport. He asked Abinadab's sons, Uzzah and Ahio, to guide the cart back. The mistakes David made were:

- 1. He conferred with his officers and the people about how to bring the Ark back.
- 2. They placed it on a cart. God instructed the Ark should always be carried on the shoulders with poles.
- 3. Uzzah and Ahio were from the tribe of Judah. The transporting of the Ark was designated for only the Levites.
- 4. Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark, and God struck him dead.

This is another occurrence we see where the celebration stopped! David decided to stop the procession, change plans, and place the Ark in the care of Obed-Edom, where it remained for three months. During that time, David realized his mistake and remembered God's plan for transporting the Ark. He then called for the Levites to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem. This time he was determined to do it right! Observe the difference....

- 1. The Levites consecrated themselves before the Lord
- 2. The Levites carried the Ark on their shoulders with poles
- 3. Every six paces they stopped for sacrifice and worship

David then appointed musicians and singers to minister continually. This is the first biblical account of an organized music ministry. All of the musicians and singers were Levites. They were placed over the singing and playing due to their skillfulness. Generationally, every King after David followed suit in how to handle the presence of God. This is a beautiful demonstration of how our methods of worship and praise will have generational effects. King Saul was not interested in bringing back the Ark. Because of his disregard for the presence of God, his daughter, Michal, took it a step further. Not only was she uninterested in God's presence, but she also mocked it and others who worshipped.

So we see the Biblical foundation of worship was designed by God to minister to Him first and foremost in the **prescribed plan** he placed in His word. There was no congregation in the Tent of Meeting to minister to. They worshipped to an audience of one. That should still be true today.

So far, we have looked at Moses' and David's era. Now, let's look at today's era. Alvin Fruga outline's in another one of his books, *The Third Key*, that decade after decade, we see a decline in the churches today in the area of preserving the presence of God.

- The '70s brought about the charismatic movement.
- In the 80's-early 90's - We experienced the word movement.
- From the Mid '90s to present - We are experiencing the seeker-sensitive movement (Giving the congregation what it wants in order to invoke a response while sacrificing a response from God)
- We don't need another church movement unless it is saturated with God's presence
- Moses understood this when he said; I will not go another step forward unless I know Your presence precedes me.

Finally, I want you to think about the concept of vertical and horizontal ministry. The Levites were instructed to take care of His house and worship God as well as minister and lead the people of Israel into worship.

Vertical Ministry is our ministry to God in personal devotions and prayer outside of the church. We must be careful not to get carried away with vertical ministry during the church service, where we fail to minister horizontally to the congregation.

Horizontal Ministry is leading people in worship during the service. It is the worship team that carries the weight and responsibility of ushering in the presence of God on our shoulders, much like the Levites did so long ago. We learned from Uzzah and Ahio, the presence of God should never be forced or pushed. Worship should always be a positive experience.

As we close this week's discussion, I want you to consider your role as a worship leader, musician, singer, or minister of music in your local church. Are you carrying the presence of God on your shoulders? Are you going beyond just a noise of singing? God deserves our best, however, before we serve, there are some requirements that God prescribed, and we will talk about those next week. God bless!

Week One Quiz

1. Historically, what did the music in the Jewish temple center around?
 - a. The reverence to the Ark of the Covenant
 - b. The care of and worship in what is called the Tent of Meeting*
 - c. Sacrifices made on the brazen altar
 - d. The assembly and transport of the temple

2. What was the difference between Joshua's description and Moses' description of what was heard while descending down the mountain?
 - a. Joshua described it as a sound of war, while Moses described it as *"the noise of them that sing"*. *
 - b. Moses heard a sound of war, while Joshua heard singing
 - c. Joshua discerned the noise correctly, while Moses was confused about the sound.
 - d. Joshua and Moses didn't even acknowledge the sound and continued to descend down the mountain.

3. What people were so special to God that He gave them as a gift to Aaron, the priest, for the specific purpose of offering atonement for sin?
 - a. Tribe of Judah
 - b. Tribe of Benjamin
 - c. Levites*
 - d. Tribe of Issachar

4. Where is this act of God's gift to Aaron and its purpose recorded?
 - a. Numbers 3:11-13
 - b. Numbers 8:19*
 - c. Numbers 18:21-24
 - d. Numbers 18:6

5. What marks the beginning of what we know today as music ministry within the church?
 - a. Joshua led the people in the organization of worship.
 - b. The Tribe of Judah sang praises and worshipped God for the victory.
 - c. Judah appointed singers and praisers to usher in the presence of God.
 - d. The Levites recognized their disobedience, repented and returned to the Lord. *

6. When do the first choirs mentioned in the Bible actually appear?
 - a. In Abraham's day
 - b. During King David's reign. *
 - c. In Egypt during the reign of Pharaoh
 - d. During the reign of King Jehoshaphat

7. What lesson can we learn from David's mistake of allowing Abinidab's sons to guide the cart, which carried the Ark of the Covenant?
 - a. There is a specific way that God wants His presence handled and carried. *
 - b. It matters how many people are present when carrying the ark.
 - c. The ark can only be carried at a certain time.
 - d. The requirement of a pause of every six steps was established.

8. What passage in the Bible do we see the first organized choir and orchestra, along with a minister of music?
 - a. I Samuel 7:1-2
 - a. I Chronicles 15:12
 - b. I Chronicles 9:33
 - c. I Chronicles 15:16*

9. What appears to be David's sole purpose in establishing a music ministry?
 - a. To further his musical passion and abilities
 - a. To develop others to be used in their giftings
 - b. To provide a comfortable habitation for the presence of God*
 - c. To add another component to temple worship

10. How did King David ensure that the praises of God went up continually before the Lord?
- They were given specific instructions by David to sing before the Lord morning and night, as well as festivals and feasts.*
 - David provided a lamb sacrifice before and after every song.
 - David ensured that the curtain was open to the tent so the praises could be heard throughout the camp.
 - None of the above.

Week One Discussion Forum

In light of this week's material, how would you respond today to Moses' ageless question: "Who is on the Lord's side"? Use scripture references when possible.

Week One Journal

Discuss points you learned from this week's course material. Be sure to synthesize lecture notes and the book material from the book, *When They Began to Sing*. Consider how the biblical history of worship and music relates to the church today.

Week Two

Week Two Required Reading

Read chapter two of your text entitled, "Requirements for Ministering in the Temple". As you read, reflect on the responsibility that you have in carrying the spiritual load of the church.

Week Two Narrative

Requirements for Ministering in the Temple

Last week we discussed the biblical history of music ministry. We talked about Moses and how he asked the question, "Who's on the Lord's side?" After the Levites stepped forward, there were five requirements that God demanded of the Levites before they were able to minister.

1. He required them to make a decision.

This was a decision to turn from their wicked ways and turn back to God. It is important to note that this was not a decision to minister. God didn't ask, "Who would like to lead in praise and worship, or who wants to carry the Ark of the Covenant?" He simply asked, "Who's on the Lord's side?" In response to this inquiry, the Levites stepped forward. They simply made a decision to step forward. Because of their turning back to God, and their spirit of repentance, God knew He could entrust them with His house and with His presence.

Making a decision to admit to your mistake and move forward means you say I'm not going to be the person I once was. It means saying, "I was wrong; I'm sorry, please forgive me." Today's standard does not include those phrases. However, in order to be used by God, we must die out to ourselves and say no to the flesh. It takes a made-up mind.

Making a decision says I'm going to be the man or woman of God He wants me to be. I'm

making the decision that I am not going to watch those things. I am not going to go to those places. I am not going to participate in that activity. I have made a decision.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

One of the hardest things as a husband and especially a father is to make a decision not to do something as a family as you watch your kids pleading, saying things like, "That family is doing that...or PLEASE, daddy!" It's hard, but the scripture says *train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it*. One of the hardest things you may face as a music director is when someone in your church or team, maybe even someone close to you, is pressuring you to do a particular song, or make a specific decision that is contrary to what you feel in your spirit to do. Remember, you are not in a position to please anyone but God and the Man of God, your Pastor.

We can decide to train ourselves to be the best athlete, the best at our job...but what are we doing for the Kingdom? Are we putting in the adequate time and energy to our craft and ministry as much as we are into our jobs and hobbies? It's time we as music ministers make a decision that we are on the Lord's side and take the responsibilities that that decision requires. Making decisions to pray, to fast, to read God's Word, and even practicing developing our craft are decisions that may hurt and are not always convenient. It's saying no to our flesh and yes to God. Making a decision is intentional. It's not involuntary. It doesn't come naturally. It's a conscious action.

2. God required them to kill what was dear to them.

Exodus 32:27 reads, *"He said to them, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Every man strap his sword on his thigh and go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and every man kill his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor [all who continue pagan worship]. 28 So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people [of Israel] were killed that day. The Lord told Moses to instruct the Levites to kill the firstborn from the other tribes.'"*

The Levites were commanded to strap on a sword and go throughout the camp, killing their brothers, friends, and neighbors. These were people they were close to. Maybe even people they worshipped with crossing the Red Sea, or friends they hung out with or grew up with. Sometimes, there are situations when you will have to cut off relationships. I remember when I entered the ministry at an early age. I learned I would have to sever some relationships. Ministry can be lonely sometimes. But if you feel the call, you must stand alone at times. God's word is true; however, *"He will never leave you, nor forsake you. He will stick closer than a brother."* (Deuteronomy 13:6, Proverbs 18:24)

In addition to relationships with people, you may enjoy a hobby or something that will have to be removed. The hobby may not be sinful, but if it takes you away from your time with God, it becomes an idol. The Bible says, *"If your eye offends you, pluck it out. If your arm offends you, cut it off"* (Matthew 5:29). We should likewise put to death deeds of the flesh. This is a daily process. Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15:31, we should *"die daily."*

"It hurts!" - Yeah, it does. Growth is painful sometimes, but it's necessary. If you haven't gone to the gym in a long time and try to start lifting immediately, you will feel the pain for the next couple of days. But if you want to get stronger, the pain is necessary.

3. He instructed them that they must be thoroughly cleansed.

After the Levites made a decision and killed what was dear to them, Moses instructed them to go

through a cleansing process. He wanted them set apart from the other tribes. Let me stop here and just say, the world and the church were always meant to be separated. Separation should not be confused with isolation. We are in the world, but not of the world. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people that we should shew forth the praises of Him who brought us out of darkness into this marvelous light. Thank God that we look different!

Numbers 8:6-7 (KJV)

“Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them. And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean.”

This was a three-step process:

- The sprinkling of the water is symbolic of water baptism. It is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. This happened every time they entered the Tent of Meeting.
- The shaving of their bodies represented an outward sign of separation from the world. The Bible declares, "come out from among them and be ye separate." We should look different than the world.
- Washing their clothes was symbolic of the Levites washing the remnants of the world off of them. As I said before, “We are in the world, but we are not of the world. Before we can effectively minister, we must also be thoroughly cleansed. We are officially set aside, thoroughly washed, and anointed for service.

There are two areas that require constant purification. They are:

- Those things we think on or ponder in our heart
- The things we actually do

David asked the question, “Who shall ascend in the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?” God responded with four answers.

- Those with clean hands - This what we do.
- Those with a pure heart - This is why we do what we do, or our motives.
- The man who does not lift up his soul unto vanity - idols
- The man who has not sworn deceitfully - This represents the truthfulness of the vow we made to God.

That’s why it’s so important the musicians and singers pray before they are used for service in God’s house! If not, we are contaminating what God is trying to pour out.

4. Next, He required that they carry the burden.

The Levites were responsible for setting up the tent of meeting, and all of its furnishings. That included:

- i. The most holy things, which represent preserving the anointing and prayer.
- ii. The curtains of the tabernacle and Tent of Meeting. Curtains here translates to being broken. This relates to our hearts breaking or being burdened for souls. Soul-winning should always be our focus.
- iii. The infrastructure of the tabernacle, which relates to us working around the church and taking care of what we have in the church.

Before the Levites were to minister in the temple, they had to set up the tent and properly arrange the furniture. (10-15 tons of equipment) God gave specific instructions on how he wanted things placed, and Moses appointed certain qualified people who were skilled in those areas to carry out the plan. When God calls you into ministry, and you develop a burden for it, you perform what is requested of you without questioning and with the right spirit. You carry the burden. Music Ministers - we must carry the burden! Sometimes it will get heavy, the pain will come, but that doesn't mean we should put it on a cart because it's easier to transport. No, God wants us to carry the burden.

1 Chronicles 15:15 (KJV)

“And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.”

Remember, the Ark of the Covenant symbolized His presence. It is still our responsibility, ministers of music, to carry God's presence into our services. We must always feel the weight and responsibility on our shoulders. That is carrying the burden. They didn't carry it alone! They were not by themselves. They had help. There are times we need to lean on each other and help carry the burden. In the gym, they call this a spotter. It's an encourager. It's someone who pushes you to achieve what you may not be able to do yourself.

Proverbs 27:17(AMP)

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens [and influences] another [through discussion].”

Carry the burden! Run this race.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (ESV)

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”

I'm not running the race for a prize or a ribbon. Our reward is in heaven. We need to get away from the “look what I did” mentality when it comes to the work of the Lord. The Bible says, "whatever you do, do it in secret, and the Lord will reward you openly." *“Do it for the cause, not the applause⁶⁰.”* CARRY THE BURDEN!!!

5. Finally, the fifth requirement was that they must have the ability to minister.

I can just imagine some of the Levites. Some of them may have never had the opportunity to sing or be involved in leadership opportunities. God will never call you into something that you don't have the ability to follow through with. There is a difference between gift and skill. The gift is what God invests in us. The skill is what we invest in the gift. As a young boy, I was always the shyest kid in the class, never wanted to be called upon to talk or give a speech, and doubted myself when it came to making decisions. I was a follower. But at the age of 17, God had other plans when I was called into ministry. I had to overcome my fear of getting up in front of a crowd and the worry about what someone might think of my leadership. I know it's an old

⁶⁰ <https://bemorennow.blog/2017/12/22/do-it-for-the-cause-not-the-applause/>, Accessed July 30, 2020.

cliché, but God does not always call the equipped, but He always equips the called. I am a testimony to this! You may feel God's calling on your life, but not feel like you have what it takes.

Philippians 4:13 (KJV)

“I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.”

Remember, God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Don't feel inadequate to fulfill your calling. God has called you, and he will equip and empower you to do great and mighty things!

Make a decision

Kill what's dear to you

Be thoroughly cleansed

Carry the burden

And He will give you the ability to minister!

God bless you!

Week Two Quiz

1. Which answer below was not mentioned in chapter 2 as a requirement for effectively serving?
 - a. Make a decision
 - b. Be thoroughly cleansed
 - c. Have the ability to minister
 - d. Perfecting your skill *

2. What should be the foremost motivation for the decision to come to Christ or pursue ministry?
 - a. Being saved*
 - b. Using our talents and abilities
 - c. Developing others musically
 - d. Self-promotion

3. Why were the Levites commanded to kill their own brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors?
 - a. Because they were all plagued with leprosy.
 - b. They represented idolatry against God*
 - c. God wanted a superior race on earth.
 - d. None of the above.

4. What were the steps that the Lord delivered to Moses in order to purify the Levites to make them ceremonially clean?
 - a. Make a sacrifice, bow to the ground, and recite the law
 - b. Hollow a ram's horn and make seven distinct declarations
 - c. Sprinkle the water of cleansing on them, have them shave their whole bodies, and wash their clothes*
 - d. Confess their faults and sins to Moses and have him pray to God for their forgiveness
5. What are the two areas in our lives which require continual purification?
 - a. The purity of the mind and cleansing of the heart
 - b. Washed by the water of the Word and obey the God's voice
 - c. Things we ponder in our heart and the things which we actually do*
 - d. Guard the word's of our mouth and the meditation of our heart
6. What scripture enforces these two areas of purification?
 - a. Psalm 24:4*
 - b. Numbers 8:15
 - c. I Chronicles 25:7
 - d. Numbers 4:49
7. What were the Kohathites responsible for carrying?
 - a. Curtains
 - b. Items pertaining to the infrastructure of the temple
 - c. Pillars
 - d. Most holy things*
8. What is the purpose of an audition?
 - a. To see if an individual has any potential in the area of music*
 - b. To weed out bad singers
 - c. To identify good singers
 - d. To correct any mistakes in singing that an individual has
9. What might you do with a person that does not seem to have an ear for music or any music potential?
 - a. Let them join the music team anyway, regardless of their ability and potential to improve
 - b. Redirect them in the hope that they will discover their true call
 - c. Instruct them to work on something vocally and invite them to audition at a later date.
 - d. Both b and c*
10. Is this statement true or false? "You always want to be honest with people to avoid that person being misguided in his or her pursuit to fulfill the correct call on that individual's life."
 - a. True*
 - b. False

Week Two Discussion Forum

Based on your reading, discuss the five requirements which must be met to effectively serve. How relevant do you think these are today? Are there other requirements that you might feel are necessary to add to the requirements presented by Fruga? Don't forget to use biblical or outside sources to support your contributions.

Week Two Journal

Discuss points you learned from this week's course material. Be sure to synthesize lecture notes and the book material from the book, *When They Began to Sing*. Reflect on the requirements presented and give an example of how they relate to you in your ministry.

Week Three

Week Three Required Reading

Read chapter three of your text. While reading, focus on the four meanings of the Hebrew word, *shuwr*, and consider its importance to musicians and choir members.

Week Three Narrative

Biblical Purpose of the Music Ministry

This week we will discuss the biblical purpose of music ministry. Without knowing your purpose, you will simply drift aimlessly, and before you know it, you will enter a place called burnout. Myles Munroe lays out five principles of purpose.

1. **God is a God of Purpose.** Everything He does is on purpose and formed with a purpose. God never made anything by mistake. He is a God of purpose.
2. **Everything in Life has a Purpose.** Just because you do not know the purpose doesn't mean there isn't one. Everything in life has a purpose. If God created it, there is a purpose for it. No matter how small or insignificant something may seem, it exists to serve a higher purpose. It's like nose hairs or wax in your ears. Though these may seem unnecessary or even annoying at times, your health would suffer without them. Consider the food chain and food web. Everything God created in life has a purpose. Nothing in life is without purpose. Everything you do in ministry needs a why. Why are you where you are? Why are you doing what you are doing? Why are you planning a specific event? Make sure you always answer your why and do it with a purpose.
3. **Where Purpose is Unknown, Abuse is Inevitable.** Abuse occurs when we don't understand the purpose of something that it was initially created for. Either discover the purpose for it or don't use it until you figure out the purpose. The best way to waste time is by not knowing the purpose. You will just go through the motions, and your ministry will become just a job.
4. **To Find the Purpose of a Thing, Don't Ask the Thing.** When you need to know your purpose, go to the source of your strength. Don't ask the user of the equipment, go to the manual, which is the Bible, and the creator of the thing, which is God. It is risky to take name-brand equipment to an unauthorized dealer. The same holds true concerning your

purpose. That is why you shouldn't surround yourself with people who don't know their purpose and drag you down. Surround yourself with positive people.

5. **Purpose is the Key to Fulfillment.** Knowing your purpose will cause you to fall in love with where you are and what you are doing. Knowing your purpose will help you to fill the void when loneliness becomes imminent. It is not a matter of if loneliness will occur in your ministry; it is a matter of when it will happen. However, knowing your purpose, your calling to a specific place, and a particular role will give you the confidence and fulfillment, knowing you are in God's will.

Munroe Lays out Five Results of Purpose

1. Purpose creates a vision.
2. Vision produces goals.
3. Goals determine the necessary steps toward the desired end.
 - It is Goals that dictate companions.
 - It is Goals that determine decisions.
 - Goals predict choices.
 - Goals create priorities.
4. Goals provide a measure for progress and plan
5. A plan incorporates and unifies the designated steps toward the efficient fulfillment of purpose.⁶¹

As you can see, just as discussed previously, each of these things is connected to the previous things. They each have a purpose.

Remember this: *"Purpose doesn't make life easy - it makes it possible."*
(Munroe, 1992)

You want to have a purpose for the music ministry of your church and share that purpose with your team. I suggest writing a mission statement, a vision, and a yearly theme.

First, let's examine your Mission Statement. There are some things to remember when establishing this.

1. It should be clear and concise.
2. It should reflect the mission of the church.
3. It should not be too long.

Your vision should reflect your mission and vice versa.

1. It should include short-term goals and long-term goals. What is doable now, and what is within reach in the future?
2. I suggest you use scripture in your vision statement.
3. Finally, it should be communicated in a way your team can grasp and make your vision their vision. You want them to catch it, so they can assist you in fulfilling it.

When you have your mission and vision in place, this will help you establish a yearly theme.

Here are some suggestions for accomplishing that.

1. Should be no more than 3 to 4 words max. I recommend 1 to 2 words like "Beyond" or "Forward."

⁶¹ Monroe, Myles, *In Pursuit of Purpose*, Destiny Image Publishers: Shippensburg, PA (1992). 6.

2. Have 2 to 3 words that are subtopics of your vision. For example, for Beyond, your three words could be Beyond Normal, Beyond Requirements, Beyond Expectations.
3. Finally, pray about the season that God has your church in for that particular year. Allow Him to direct you to your theme. This is very important. It is more important than having a theme that is just catchy.

In discussing our purpose, Fruga outlines Four Basic Meanings of the Word “Singers” or the Greek word, *shuwr*.

1. **The first meaning is “to sing or stroll like a minstrel.”** So let's briefly break that apart. The first part is “**to sing.**” This is the most basic meaning of the word. This happens when someone opens his mouth to utter words with high and low musical sounds with the voice as his instrument. The second part of that meaning is “**to stroll**” or to “sing as you go or go as you sing.” It is the physical movement associated with music. It is also defined as the moving of the Spirit operated through the musician. The best biblical account of this is the story of David playing for Saul, and his music would drive the evil spirits away.
2. **The second meaning of the word “singers” is “to turn or travel about.”** It is to turn away from the world and the things of the world and turn our attention to Jesus. It also means staying focused on God and what He wants from us. It is also defined as traveling and ministering in song as they did in 1 Samuel 18:6. Finally, it is the ability to be sensitive in the Spirit and to adjust to what God is doing. This may imply us having a plan for our service, but turning or shifting our intention to meet His will. It's like an audible in a football game where they have a plan, but when they get to the line, and the quarterback sees the defense, he may call an audible, and the team simply shifts to another position. It is to turn or travel about.
3. **The third meaning is “going around for inspection.”** Now, this does not mean being the holiness police and going around inspecting everyone. This simply means to be spiritually alert and discern the spiritual environment around you. Matthew 26:4 in the New Living Translation, says, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” It is caring for the good as well as keeping a watch out for evil. It requires us to lift each other with encouragement and protection. It is taking a stand against evil and understanding, we are not fighting against each other, but against the evil spirits of hell. Finally, it means putting on the whole armor of God.
4. **Finally, the fourth meaning, and I love this one, is to be “a wall.”**
This means we must be strong to withstand the powers of hell. It indicates standing firm with unity as a protection from evil. It means that “we as the music ministry of this church, we are going to be a WALL.” Nothing can penetrate a wall strong in holiness, strong in doctrine, strong in prayer, strong in anointing, and strong in the gifts of the spirit. But it takes unified prayer, unified fasting, unified devotions, and worshipping together. Because, when one piece of the wall is broken, that makes it easy for the world to slip in. It doesn't even have to be a large piece that is penetrated. Minister of Music, be sensitive to the enemy trying to break a hole in the wall with carnality, gossip, worldliness, backbiting, egos, or jealousy. The choir should be a wall of protection for the Pastor. We are on the front lines. In 2 Chronicles 20, King Jehosaphat sent the

praisers before the army. Their job was to sing praises to God before the sword fell. Let's be a strong wall so that after the worship service is over, and the Man of God begins to preach, the sword, or the Word of God, will fall on good ground.

We have discussed many concepts today. Most importantly, you must discover your purpose. Then and only then will you be able to minister effectively. Remember these principles of purpose and revisit them when you are feeling burnout and confusion. See you next week!

Week 3 Quiz

1. Which statement does not apply to the Hebrew meaning of the word “singer”?
 - a. A wall
 - b. To turn or travel about
 - c. To sing or stroll like a minstrel
 - d. Continuous*

2. What brings about positive change when singing is going forth?
 - a. When a song is ministered in a right spirit*
 - b. When the notes are perfected and have been rehearsed correctly
 - c. When the song is in the correct tempo and the crowd can become involved
 - d. When the right dynamics are applied to the song

3. What scripture reference supports the idea that singing should include movement?
 - a. I Samuel 16:23
 - b. Psalms 41:10
 - c. I Samuel 18:6*
 - d. Matthew 26:41

4. It is the choir member’s responsibility to be spiritually alert in order to present a defense against the attacks and sabotage of the enemy.
 - a. True*
 - b. False

5. What does the word *resist* mean in the New Testament?
 - a. rebuke
 - b. stand against or oppose*
 - c. shun
 - d. none of the above

6. What is the main purpose that the congregation comes under attack from the devil during a church service?
 - a. Satan is trying to gain power from the saints of God.
 - b. The devil hates the praise and worship offered up to God.
 - c. The devil doesn’t want the Word of God to fall on good ground.*
 - d. The congregation has not been praying consistently.

7. How did Paul describe how we are to fight against the devil in Ephesians 6:13-18?
 - a. by singing praises and intensifying worship
 - b. testifying to others about the deliverance of God
 - c. by putting on the whole armor of God*
 - d. by getting more involved in the things at the church

8. Who did King Jehoshaphat instruct to march out first to meet the enemy in 2 Chronicles 20:21?
 - a. singers*
 - b. army commanders and those highest in rank
 - c. swordsmen
 - d. mighty men of valor

9. What does the story of Jehoshaphat teach us as musicians and singers in the church today?
 - a. It is the choir's responsibility to go before to go before the pastor with anointed praise to the Lord, so the word can fall on good ground.
 - b. As the praises go forth, God is the One who fights the battle.
 - c. The choir's job is to march forward toward the enemy.
 - d. All of the above*

10. What does the word "place" mean in Ephesians 4:27?
 - a. room
 - b. a location, opportunity, or license*
 - c. interest or entertainment of thoughts
 - d. credit

Week Three Discussion Forum

Based on Fruga's analysis of the Hebrew word *shuwr*, translated as singers, discuss each of the four distinct meanings briefly and articulate their importance in the music ministry. Use scripture(s) when necessary.

Week Three Journal

Discuss points you learned from this week's course material. Be sure to synthesize lecture notes and the book material from the book, *When They Began to Sing*. Ponder the principles of purpose and reflect on whether you can identify your purpose.

Week Four

Week Four Required Reading

Read Chapter four of your text entitled, "The Choir's Attire". As you read focus on what it means to worship and minister in truth.

Week Four Narrative

The Attire of the Choir

So far, we have grasped an understanding of the biblical history of the music ministry, the requirements for ministering, and the biblical purpose of the music ministry. This week we will examine the attire of the choir. This includes inward and outward attire. The inward attire will allow us to define the meaning of worshipping in spirit and in truth, as mentioned in scripture.

Let's first examine the Outward Attire.

First, you should have a platform policy in place that articulates clearly what is expected. You should be very clear and concise in this policy. Do you want them to match colors, will they wear robes, be specific on hair, makeup, jewelry, etc.? Be as detailed as you can and communicate effectively. I have placed a copy of a sample Music Ministry application packet that includes some expectations of outward attire in the files for this week. The choir should not wear anything that brings attention to themselves, nor should they wear anything that prohibits them from freely worshipping. If you do choir robes, I recommend Murphy's Choir Robes at www.murphyrobes.com. They have always treated us wonderfully. Whatever you decide for the outward attire, be consistent and overly communicate your expectations. What the choir wears on the outside will be a reflection of what they are wearing on the inside. Samuel 16:7 says, *"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

So, let's now look at the inward attire, which is reflected on the outward.

The choir from 1 Chronicles 15:27 wore a garment made of white linen. This was a symbol of purity and integrity.

The Bible speaks several times of Worshipping in the Beauty of Holiness

1. Psalm 96:9 – *"O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth."*
2. 1 Chronicles 16:29 – *"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."*
3. Psalm 29:2 – *"Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*

Holiness is more than just guidelines or standards we live by to maintain the label "Christian." The beauty of holiness means "to be set apart or consecrated, sanctified" not just in the outward appearance, but from the inside out—obedience yields holiness. Remember, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." Obedience to His Word and the Man of God brings a beauty of holiness when we worship. When the Levites made a decision to step forward, they were deciding to be obedient to His Word. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - *"But as He which hath called you is Holy, so be ye Holy in ALL manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye Holy; for I am Holy."* We should want to be like Him. We should want the things that He wants. We are to *want Him*. We should strive to seek His face, and the Bible declares that no man shall see the Lord without holiness.

Let's examine now what the Bible calls True Worship.

The apostle Paul described true worship perfectly in Romans 12:1-2.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to

this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

NLT ends with, *"This is truly the way to worship him."*

True Worship is in Spirit and in Truth

In John 4, Jesus was speaking with the woman at the well, and he shifted the conversation to worship. The concern was not only where the worshipping was done, but also how and in what spirit it was done. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, *"an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...an hour is coming and is now here when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."* He emphasizes it once more in the next verse when He says, *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:22-24)

What is it to Worship in Spirit?

If God's Biblical plan is to worship him "in spirit (little s) and in truth," then we must examine the state of our spirit. We should worship under the Spirit's influence, guidance, and promptings. Our worship is not only mental but spiritual. There has to be a spiritual connection. Remember, from our previous discussion; the word "Levite" means intertwined or connected.

Philippians 3:3 says, *"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."*

He goes on to say if anyone has a right to have confidence, it's me. I love how the NLT puts it. Verse 5 says,

"I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pureblooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin - a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law." (Philippians 3:5 NLT)

He goes on to say,

"Everything else is worthless compared to the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For His sake, I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him." (Philippians 3:6-7 NLT)

He closes it by saying, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the High calling of Christ."

What Paul was saying is, "I haven't made it yet. I haven't arrived." There is never a time when we reach the place that we are good enough to do it without the Spirit of God. There is a danger in being good. Because of our skill that we have perfected, we can easily disregard prayer and being sensitive to His Spirit. It's too easy to go to our instrument, pick up a mic, simply sing or play the song with ease, and move a crowd because we are operating in our

gifting. But please always remember who gave you that gift and why you are using it. It's for His glory, not ours.

We spoke about one definition of singers being to stroll about. Worship is never intended to be static or stale. An worship service should always be energetic and exciting. It should be spirit-filled! Our worship is an outward expression of an inward condition, which leads us to the second part.

Worship in Truth?

We have already examined David's question in Psalm 15 when he asks, "*Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?*" Then the Lord qualifies it when he responds with, "*He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*"

Psalm 24:4, God responds again, "*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*"

Worship in truth is honesty. It is a reflection of who I am on and off the platform. It is not masquerading a different individual in the house of God. Inside or outside of the church, I am a worshipper. It's a lifestyle.

Jesus picked up on that when he was speaking to the Pharisees. Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus is furious when he says,

"You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'" (Matthew 15:7-9 KJV)

Jesus is speaking from a verse in Isaiah 29:13. The NLT puts it this way.

"And so the Lord says, these people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote." (Isaiah 29:13 NLT)

The way we live, dress, act, talk, and worship should be much more than just man-made rules learned by rote. We should have a love for truth and a passion for the things of God.

Remember, we identify each other by our faces and how we look, but God identifies us by our hearts.

What is our Heart's Attire?

Psalm 66:18 says, "*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*"

Lori Hatcher said, "To cherish sin means to embrace it, to love it, to hold on to it, and refuse to give it up. This is vastly different from committing a sin that we regret, confess, and forsake as

soon as the Holy Ghost brings it to our attention⁶²." God's expectation of us is not to be sinless, but we must deal with our sin as soon as possible.

David's point from this scripture is that no one may simply barge in on the Lord. It takes a prepared heart.

Psalm 139:23-24 says, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*"

Proverbs 4:23 declares, "*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*"

Psalm 78:72. It speaks of David. "*He fed them according to the integrity of his heart, and led them according to the skillfulness of his hands.*"

Don't just be concerned with just leading the congregation. That's the skillfulness of our hands. What are we feeding our congregation? That comes from the integrity of our hearts.

As you can see, we have spent a lot more time this week talking about inward attire. That is because the inward is so essential to God. The proper inward attire will assure the proper outward attire.

I'm looking forward to next week when we discover that sometimes the music has to stop.

Week Four Quiz

1. In your reading, what does the author say could be the most important piece of spiritual armor?
 - a. breastplate of righteousness
 - b. helmet of salvation
 - c. belt of truth*
 - d. sword of the spirit

2. What scripture affirms that the congregation can experience deliverance while a choir operates in truth?
 - a. John 8:32*
 - b. Proverbs 18:21
 - c. James 1:19
 - d. Psalm 15:2

⁶² Lori Hatcher, *10 Most Important Verses on Prayer in the Bible*, Created August 2016, Accessed June 19, 2020, <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/10-most-important-verses-on-prayer-in-the-bible.html>

3. How can we be sure that God is receiving our praise? (Psalm 15:2)
 - a. when we work righteousness
 - b. when we are walking uprightly
 - c. when we are speaking the truth in our hearts
 - d. all of the above*
4. What does James compare the tongue to?
 - a. the helm of a large ship
 - b. knife
 - c. a fire that can burn the whole body
 - d. both a and c*
5. According to Fruga, it is more important to focus on the truth that the choir possesses as a whole, rather than focus on individual truth that each member has for one another.
 - a. True
 - b. False*
6. What scripture emphasizes the importance of watching the words that we say?
 - a. Psalm 15:2
 - b. Proverbs 18:21*
 - c. Proverbs 5:17
 - d. Psalm 17:6
7. What must be in operation if our collective praise is to be effective?
 - a. the gifts of the spirit
 - b. the truth of God between our fellow brothers and sisters*
 - c. unified and deliberate praise
 - d. none of the above
8. What does James suggest causes a person to deceive himself about being righteous?
 - a. If that person does not keep a rein on his tongue *
 - b. If he sears his conscience
 - c. If he worships while living a lifestyle that is unpleasing to God
 - d. When an individual succumbs to false doctrine

These two questions come from the additional reading entitled “The Heart of the Worship Leader” (Assigned in week 4 as a supplemental reading)

9. What does the Bible tell us to guard that literally affects everything we do?
 - a. our tongue
 - b. our attitude
 - c. the thoughts of our mind
 - d. our heart*

10. How did David feed the congregation according to Psalm 78:72?
- the skillfulness of his hands
 - his praise and worship to God
 - the integrity of his heart*
 - by instructing them with psalms and spiritual songs

Week Four Discussion Forum

This chapter discusses in detail the power of the tongue. Use some of the analogies presented by the apostle James to discuss the danger in not taming the tongue and the consequences that might occur in your music ministry as a result. Cite scripture(s) during your discussion.

Week Four Journal

Describe the results of your Christian Life and Growth Evaluation that you completed this week. What areas inwardly do you see that you need improvement, and what are your greatest strengths according to the evaluation?

Week Five

Week Five Required Reading

Read Chapter five of your text. While reading, consider a time when you felt like it was necessary to stop the music for the reasons mentioned by Fruga.

Week Five Narrative

Stop the Music

This week we will discuss when it becomes necessary to stop the music. You may not have to stop the entire music department altogether, but there are times when you need to stop and re-align some aspects of the music before you can continue in ministry. If you remember from our first time together, Moses stopped the music, and so did David. We can learn a lesson from both of those instances. When music ceases to be edifying, that's when the music should be halted.

Fruga outlines three reasons why the music department should be stopped.

1. The Wrong Music Director. The music director sets the spiritual environment for a worship service. We talked last week that there is a danger in being good. We, as music people, have the ability to sway a crowd because we have talent. Having a talent is not sinful. In fact, God wants our best. Psalm 33:3 says, *“Play skillfully with a loud noise.”* The danger is when we put our talents and abilities before prayer and seeking God's will.

The fall of Lucifer is a wonderful example of having the wrong music director. Lucifer means *halal* - he was literally the praise of heaven. He had to be the most beautiful musical angel in heaven because of what he was made of (precious stones, pipes, and strings). He couldn't move without creating music. Ezekiel 28:14 says, *“You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you...”* It wasn't a talent or ability that got you where you are today. God has anointed

and ordained you. Never forget that. Lucifer rebelled against God. He failed to submit to authority. Let me stop and say something about submission. True submission means you may not always agree with every decision your pastor makes, but you submit to His authority, and you make his vision your vision. You speak his vision. You live his vision. You promote his vision publicly. God will honor your submission and your obedience over any sacrifice you make. The man of God is your authority and your pastor first and foremost. We will talk more about this next week.

Lucifer allowed his talent and ability to go to his head, and he questioned God and His authority. God eventually cast him out of heaven along with other angels. He didn't just cast Lucifer himself, but he dragged others down with him. You are influencing those around you. Be careful about the way you act. Be cautious about what you say in small groups and one-on-one outside of the church. Are you lifting up your pastor and the church or questioning decisions?

Because of Lucifer's rebellion, God stopped the music in heaven! Fruga says it this way, "There is never an appropriate time to put talents and gifts above character and integrity."

Here are some ways the music director gets it wrong.

1. Immorality such as homosexuality or perversion
2. Arrogance and pride
3. Negative attitudes
4. Envy and jealousy
5. Ego. Rev. David Tipton, Superintendent of the TX District UPCI, said it perfectly, "*Anointing flows when ego goes.*"

As mentioned in a previous lesson, God creates out of nothing. Until we become nothing, God cannot make anything out of us. Sometimes that means you may even have to allow God to change your identity.

Abram, it's a good name. It means noble father, but your name is now **Abraham** (father of many) - Abram to Abraham was a 24-year process from age 75 to 99... but He believed as he waited. His soul fed upon the promises of God. He believed God in the face of long delays and difficulties that seemed impossible⁶³!

Simon, your name means "To Hear," and that's great, but you shall now be called **Peter** - For upon this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!

In Genesis 32:22, we see **Jacob** taking his wives and 11 sons and crossing the river. Once he got there, he sent for all of his possessions.

"This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." "What is your name?" the man asked.

⁶³ <https://www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/all-men-bible/2816/04/14>, Accessed July 29, 2020.

He replied, "Jacob." "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on, you will be called Israel because you have fought with God and with men and have won."
(Genesis 32:22-28 KJV)

Jacob - you can't be known as a "trickster, supplanter, and heel grabber any longer." I have greater things in store for you. You shall now be known as **Israel** "one who strives with God"!

Sis. Bobbie Shoemake, wife of UPCI Evangelist John Shoemake, once said, "*Many Jacobs will never become Israels, because they intend on walking with a swagger instead of walking with a limp.*" God wants your brokenness and your emptiness. Don't be so full of arrogance that there is no room for God. We, as music ministers, must always keep our hearts in check. Remember, God's plan was clean hands and a pure heart, and it hasn't changed.

2. The second reason the music should stop is the wrong choir member/s.

People with wrong motives must first have the ability to be ministered to before they are ready to minister to others. Last week we spoke about one of the definitions of "singer" being "a wall." When that wall starts to decay, and sin is allowed in, it will disrupt the worship service's entire flow. As a minister of music, we must continuously be aware of the things that can breach the wall and creep into the Music department.

1. Envy and jealousy
2. Gossip and backbiting
3. Low self-esteem
4. Carnality
5. The constant questioning of authority and rebellion

We can take a lesson from Nehemiah here. The enemies of God were Ammonites and Moabites. Nehemiah was over the construction of rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. Enemies of God who were against it were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem (Nehemiah 2:19). Nehemiah called for the Levite choir and band to sing and play. They started celebrating on top of the wall then they moved into the house of God. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were constantly ridiculing and tearing down everything Nehemiah was trying to build. Tobiah, the Ammonite, was the most outspoken of the three. Eliashib, the Priest, was a friend of Tobiah and allowed him in. He found a room loaded with articles of worship and removed them to make room for Tobiah. The articles of worship included:

1. Grain Offerings and incense
2. Temple articles
3. Tithes of grain
4. New wine and oil

Eliashib literally substituted anointing for an idolatrous and rebellious spirit, rooted in sexual immorality.

The word ammonite means to overshadow by huddling together or to become dim. This is what we call a clique today. Watch for these cliques in the music ministry. They will blur out the vision of the music ministry and leader and will become divisive.

They began to read the book of Moses, where it says no Ammonite or Moabite is permitted in the house of God, and Nehemiah stopped the celebration. He immediately took care of the situation. First, Nehemiah threw out all of Tobiah's *stuff*. Second, he ordered that the room be purified. Lastly, he put back the praise articles and anointing.

Don't allow sin to stay in the music department. It will mushroom into something that will overtake the department and even the church if not attended to quickly. It would be better to have a vacancy on an instrument or vocal part than to allow sin to creep in.

We cannot allow God to inhabit His people's praises when we have our *stuff* in the storeroom of our hearts.

3. The third reason the music should be stopped is if we have the wrong music.

Our music should serve two purposes. Glorify God & Edify the body of Christ.

Here are a few guidelines when choosing songs for worship.

1. Don't put yourself in a trap where you feel like you need to always choose the newest and greatest song out there.
2. Don't copy someone else's setlist for your worship service. What works elsewhere may not be what God wants for your church. If a song doesn't connect the congregation to God - ditch it.

There are many resources out there where you can find music for new songs. A few are.

1. www.ministrycentral.com
2. www.worshipclub.com
3. www.gospelmaps.com

There is an occurrence in the Bible when the celebration should have been stopped because of the wrong song. David had just killed Goliath. Singers and dancers came from all over. The songs were praises to Saul and mostly David. None of the songs glorified the real hero of the battle - God. Because the songs did not glorify God or edify the people, it affected the entire region for years.

There is a final concept that I would like to address this week that goes along with what we have talked about so far.

In closing, I would like to talk about The WOW vs. WOE factor.

The prophet Isaiah described in Isaiah 6 what he saw in the year King Uzziah died. He emphatically painted a description of seeing "*the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*" He goes on to say how he saw the angels crying "*holy holy holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*" He described the house being "*filled with smoke.*" This had to be an incredible sight. You would think it would cause Isaiah to step back and say, "WOW!" This is not the case. He had a different reaction—literally quite the opposite. Then Isaiah said, "*Woe is Me! for I am undone.*"

Anytime the glory of the Lord is in the house, there is so much more than just a "WOW" factor. There is a "WOE" factor. When the glory of the Lord fills the house so thick it's like

smoke, there is a self-identification, and an inventory of the inner man is taken. It's not, WOW, look at the cool lighting - WOW, listen to that sound - WOW, what an amazing musical run or chord progression - It's WOE is me! Where the glory of the Lord is, there's more than just great music - there's repentance, there's deliverance, there's healing, there's salvation, there's power! That is why we can leave a concert without anointing saying, WOW! Then, we can leave a service where there has been more than vocal excellence, but an anointing, and we leave changed and moved to repentance.

There's nothing wrong with striving for excellence. We have already quoted several times Psalm 33:3, which says, "*play skillfully with a loud noise.*" God wants and deserves our best. However, don't strive for the WOW factor only - aim for the WOE factor!

In conclusion, music is more than just a noise. God requires certain things to be present in order for him to accept it. If it is not edifying, then stop the music and get it right! God requires us to have the right Music minister, the right choir members, and the right songs.

If all of those things are in correct alignment with God, He will honor it, God's glory will abide in our services, and we will be in awe of His presence saying, "*Woe is me.*"

Week Five Quiz

1. What are three reasons that Fruga suggests the music ministry of a choir or band may need to be temporarily halted?
 - a. skill development, lack of spiritual maturity and poor song selection
 - b. the wrong music director, the wrong choir members, and the wrong music*
 - c. a change in leadership, disgruntled people, and financial difficulties
 - d. lack of volunteers, lack of commitment, lack of spirituality

2. Who, for the most part, sets the spiritual atmosphere for the service?
 - a. band
 - b. worship leader
 - c. music director*
 - d. praise team

3. Which passage of scripture gives a very detailed description of Lucifer?
 - a. Ezekiel 28:12-13*
 - b. Luke 10:18
 - c. Luke 6:15
 - d. Isaiah 14:15

4. Lucifer, in its original Hebrew form is the same Hebrew word that is used to define praise.
 - a. True*
 - b. False

5. What was the sin that ultimately caused Lucifer to fall?
 - a. vanity
 - b. pride*
 - c. disobedience
 - d. none of the above

6. What longtime enemy of Nehemiah was allowed to was allowed to secretly live in the storeroom in the house of God?
 - a. Eliashib
 - b. Sanballat
 - c. Geshem
 - d. Tobiah*

7. What storeroom was this enemy allowed to stay in?
 - a. The storeroom that held all the instruments
 - b. The room where the priests kept their scripture
 - c. The storeroom that was built to hold all the articles of worship*
 - d. The room where the priests' garments were kept

8. Which answer is not an action that Nehemiah took when he realized that this Ammonite had been allowed to stay in the house of God.
 - a. threw the Ammonite's belongings out of the room
 - b. gave orders to purify the room
 - c. put the equipment back that belonged in the storeroom
 - d. led the Ammonite to repentance and overlooked his wrong doing*

9. The song that was selected to sing as David came back from killing Goliath was apparently a bad choice. Why was the Lord displeased with the song?
 - a. It was not sung with enough enthusiasm.
 - b. It didn't give Him glory. They were singing to the wrong king.*
 - c. God thought that Saul should have gotten more credit than David.
 - d. God thought that David was too young to deserve that much recognition.

10. What scripture tells is that God inhabits the praises of His people?
 - a. Psalm 22:3*
 - b. Psalm 21:5
 - c. Psalm 119:2
 - d. Psalm 25:6

Week Five Discussion Forum

Based on your reading, what are three basic reasons that the music ministry of the church should sometimes be stopped. Expound briefly on each.

Week Five Journal

Discuss points you learned from this week's course material. Be sure to synthesize lecture notes and the book material from the book, *When They Began to Sing*. Examine yourself and determine if there are any tendencies in you that would mirror what caused Lucifer's downfall.

Week Six

Week Six Required Reading

As you read chapter six of your text, reflect in terms of unity rather than actual quantity of individuals.

Week Six Narrative

Relationships in Music Ministry

Chapter six in your text speaks of "Is there Really Strength in Numbers" as it relates to a choir vs. a praise team. We will speak of that, but I will mainly focus this week on relationships in Music Ministry.

There are Benefits of Having a Choir. There is definitely strength in numbers. The bible says if one can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand to flight. Yes, there is power in unified numbers and the devil is intimidated by it. Having a choir also enables you to teach repertoire that is geared more toward a choir. It allows more people the opportunity to be involved in a fun ministry and opportunities for development. I recommend you start with what you have and build upon it. We will talk more about how to develop a choir next week.

There are many hats you wear as a Minister of Music. Remember this, you can do Anything, but you Cannot do Everything. We can do all things through Christ, which strengthens us. However, if you don't have a team to help you get it all done, you will not be able to do everything effectively.

Develop a music staff that can help in the area of the following:

1. Secretary (attendance, scheduling, communicating to team, etc.)
2. Treasurer (take care of all finances that come in)
3. Events Coordinator. It's important to be together as a music team outside of the rehearsal space to have fun and laugh together - IDEAS: Choir Retreat, Choir Socials at someone's house or event center, Deck the Malls, City Christmas Parade, etc.
4. Fundraising Coordinator. Everything you do takes money. Find someone who has a knack for raising money.
5. Historian. This position includes taking pictures and videos throughout the year to capture the great moments.
6. Part Leaders are singers who can help teach parts. This position helps the rehearsal to go quicker especially when working on large programs such as Christmas when it is necessary to hold sectionals.

When working at the church in any position, remember you are working with others and it takes a team effort. This leads me to our discussion about relationships.

Matthew 12:25 (KJV) says *“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.”*

Relationship Currency is defined as currency that is generated by the investments you make in the people in your environment. *“No Deposit - No Return”*

Relationship currency is created by spending time with people on your staff, getting to know them, sharing ideas with them, and working with them on projects.

There will come a time with you will need to make a withdrawal from your relationship currency investment. Will there be enough deposits to allow these withdrawals?

Some relationship currency includes:

1. COMMUNICATION - The Lack of Communication is the Breeding Ground for Negativity. Just stop talking as a staff and see if there are any positive results. Don't let misunderstandings fester into bigger issues. You should be the one to initiate the conversation. Sometimes the biggest miscommunication is assuming that it has already happened. Just because you know it, doesn't mean everyone else does.

2. UNITY - Ps. 133:1-2 (KJV) says,

“A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;” (Psalm 133:1-2 KJV)

Unity is as precious as the anointing. If we want anointing in our services, we must be unified. Unified in purpose, in worship, and in vision. Remember the discussions about the wall. Lack of unity will definitely create a breach in the wall.

Matthew 18:15,19-20 (AMP) says,

“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens and pays attention to you, you have won back your brother. Again, I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them.”

(Matthew 18:15,19-20 AMP)

So, Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing. Keep these things in mind.

1. Who are we trying to please?" Ourselves? Our congregations? Our God?
2. Don't get caught up in trying to appease everyone in the church
3. Speak words of open support about other people to your congregation.
4. Remember we are on the same team!
5. Music Minister, frequently affirm your submission to your Pastor
6. Pastor, frequently express thankfulness for such submission.

3. TRUST - A Healthy Church Staff has a Trusting Leadership Culture. Cheri Walters said in her book, *Get a Giant Hat Rack*, that like a marriage, the staff relationship has to be based on trust. Once trust has been betrayed, it takes a long time for the injured person to trust again. Mutual respect is the glue that holds a staff together.

The one position you should trust the most is your pastor.

Here are six steps to easily betray your pastor's trust.

1. Discuss disagreements between you and your pastor with members of the congregation.
2. Challenge his leadership publicly.
3. Spread abroad the news who came to see him for counseling, what was said in the staff meeting, and other areas of confidentiality.
4. When you're thinking of leaving, let the pastor hear it from friends, other staff, or congregation members before he hears it from you.
5. When you have a confrontation with someone in the church, don't tell the pastor about it. Let him find out through the grapevine, or better still, in a board meeting.
6. Don't follow through on assignments or projects he asks you to do.

This is not a way to build relationship currency!!!

4. SERVANT HOOD. Relationship, Stewardship, and Servant Hood: They go Hand in Hand.

God came to serve - Jesus said in Luke 22:27, "*I am among you as one who serves*"

Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 4:1 "*Men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and those entrusted with [stewards of] the secret things of God*"

Finally, David proclaimed in Psalm 100:2, "*Serve the Lord with gladness.*"

I hope you have realized the importance of unity, servanthood, and followership this week. It is important to establish multiple levels of relationships in your ministry. You must invest in these relationships and create a currency with each individual. You may be thinking, "We are coming to the end of this class, and we still haven't learned anything about setting up a Music department." I hope you realize that all of the concepts we have talked about so far are the first steps and may even supersede all of the organizing that you can do. Next week, we will discuss some of the more technical steps of organizing a music ministry. It is my prayer that the material presented so far will get in your spirits as we prepare for that discussion.

Week Six Quiz

1. The lack of _____ is the breeding ground for negativity.
 - a. prayer
 - b. planning
 - c. communication*
 - d. trust

2. Relationship Currency is the currency that is generated by the investments you make in the people in your environment.
 - a. True*
 - b. False

3. As a Minister of Music in the church, what staff member should you be the closest to?
 - a. youth leader
 - b. worship leader
 - c. pastor*
 - d. sound engineer

4. Like a marriage, the staff relationship has to be based on _____.
 - a. trust*
 - b. discussions
 - c. finances
 - d. confrontations

5. Which of these is NOT part of the six ways to betray your pastor's trust?
 - a. challenge his leadership publicly
 - b. when you're thinking of leaving, let the pastor hear it from friends, other staff, or congregation members before he hears it from you.
 - c. don't follow through on assignments or projects he asks you to do.
 - d. All the above are correct*

6. What is the first step in the Music Director/Pastor Relationship leadership/followership model?
 - a. pray for each other
 - b. start with respect*
 - c. be a worshipper yourself
 - d. be flexible

7. Which step articulates you as the Music Director doing everything with excellence?
- exceed expectations*
 - accept his ideas and criticisms graciously
 - invest in yourself
 - be humble
8. According to Luke 22:27, Jesus came to what?
- be crucified
 - win the lost
 - serve*
 - that I may be forgiven
9. Although David set aside four thousand to praise the Lord with musical instruments, how many Levites ministered in song at the same time?
- 188
 - 288*
 - 2,480
 - 2,888
10. According to scripture, unity is as precious as what?
- strength
 - love
 - power
 - oil*

Week Six Discussion Forum

Do you agree with Fruga when he states on p.92 of the text that “a praise team cannot take the place of or accomplish the same thing as a choir”? Defend your position using the text and biblical proof.

Week Six Journal

Discuss points you learned from this week’s course material. Be sure to synthesize lecture notes and the book material from the book, *When They Began to Sing*. Identify some of the ways that you have tried to develop relationship currency with the people around you.

Week Seven

Week Seven Required Reading

Read Chapter seven of your text. As you read, think about what is important to you when establishing a choir ministry in your church. Reflect on your current choir ministry, if you have one in place, and consider if all the components are in place.

Week Seven Narrative

Organization of a Music Ministry

This week we will discuss the four steps in launching a music ministry. But first, know that preparation is the key to success when organizing a music ministry. Whether you're full-time, part-time, or volunteer, you need some organizational skills.

Be Prepared and Organized – Benjamin Franklin once said, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” Prepare everything in advance for every new rehearsal. Think of specific, detailed areas that you need to rehearse, and consider how those areas will be combined over time to make certain that the song is completely rehearsed by the time you sing it. Send out material at least a few days before the rehearsal. I suggest using an online communication platform of some kind. Planning Center Online is a wonderful resource. You can go to www.planningcenteronline.com for more information. Let the choir see your organization by sharing your rehearsal outline and priorities visually on a board or vocally share them at the beginning of the rehearsal. Don't miss any opportunity to organize and save time. Make sure all audio and other equipment/instruments are in working order before the rehearsal begins. Create count-down checklists for big projects that are on the horizon. If additional rehearsals are needed, make these “family friendly” by organizing childcare or other family assistance that allows a choir member's non-singing spouse to take care of family tasks or errands during the rehearsal period. Every layer of organization that you can add to your planning and projection for choir will pay dividends in this time-conscious culture that we live in.

Here are eight Tips to Time Management

1. Stay focused on the Goals. You will have short term and long-term goals.
2. Prioritize wisely. What is important now? Set reminders on your phone to keep you on task.
3. Just say no. Don't let something you agree to do interfere or overlap with your ministry. Keep your priorities in place.
4. Plan ahead. Use communication platforms such as Planning Center Online to plan sets and schedule teams. Also, look at the calendar and dates of your events. Work from the event backwards. This will help you in planning rehearsals and other items working toward a successful event. Also, be the first there. If you show up on time to a service, rehearsal, or event as the director, you're late.
5. Eliminate distractions. Turn off your phone. Get away from the noise.
6. Delegate more often. We said it last week, you can do anything, but you can't do everything. It's ok to get help. You are developing leaders this way.
7. Track your time. Layout what days you are doing what role. When are you teaching, planning, rehearsing, practicing, etc?
8. Finally, Number 8 is taking time for yourself. Take some “you” time. This will help to eliminate burnout.

4 Steps in Launching a Music Ministry

1. The Announcement. Announce at least one month in advance. Put the announcement in your weekly connection or church bulletin. Create a video announcement and/or announce it

yourself. The announcement should be done with excitement and be creative. It may be good to have a theme. It should get to the point and not be too long. Call or meet with people individually. Make a list of support ministries. Don't overlook non-musicians. You want creative people on your team! Announce the Recruitment Night.

When planning this recruitment night here are some things to consider.

1. Plan on a night that does not conflict with anything else at the church or other main holiday or event.
2. Everyone loves food! Make sure you put someone over the food that can also take care of the details of setting up and tearing down.
3. Give your vision for the upcoming year that they can see in a PowerPoint or other presentation. Show your short-term goals and long-term goals. Also, Create a Mission Statement.
4. Prepare a music ministry application packet. I have placed a sample music ministry application packet in the files for a reference. Include a Music Ministry Covenant that they sign.
5. Finally, plan 2-3 songs you will teach. Make sure at least one is easily sing-able and can be learned quickly.

2. The Auditions. I prefer to call these choir interviews. They should last no more than 10 min per audition. I recommend 5-7 minutes. This interview gives you a chance as the director to meet one on one with the person and find out more about them. Once you meet with them individually, go through the questions on the choir application with them.

1. What is your definition of a worshipper?
2. What is your favorite style of music?
3. What books are you reading?
4. Etc.

Voice them using vocal exercises then have them sing a worship song. Identify their voice part as Sop, Alto, Tenor, or Bass if you want a fourth part. Are they a leaner or a leader, weak or strong? This will be important when placing the choir. Maybe harmonize with them and see if they can stay on their part. Give your suggestions as you go. It's very important you be honest with them. Ask them if they have any questions for you. Keep it relaxed. Most will be very nervous when they come to the audition.

3. The Rehearsals. Once everyone is together for the first time, go through the choir guidelines. Be very detailed. Make sure everyone understands what is required. Things like:

1. Faithfulness
2. Rehearsals
3. Preparation
4. Dress code
5. Etc.

Have everyone sign the Music Ministry Covenant.

I would like to go over some Effective Rehearsal Techniques.

There is more to teaching parts than simply teaching parts!!

Remember this, the rehearsal is YOUR performance as a director. What they see is what you get. Allow the choir to Listen to examples from recordings of songs. Using multi-tracks enables you as the director to isolate the vocals so the choir can listen to just that stem. I highly recommend using Ableton Live. You can go to www.ableton.com for more information on this software. Use warm-ups at the beginning of rehearsal that will complement the song you will be reviewing or learning. When teaching a song, do not just teach the part. Teach using the correct dynamics, articulation, phrasing, vowel placement, breathing, posture, passion, style, and all the other components that a song may involve. Center your attention on the group and not the chart or sheet music. This means that the director must have learned the music BEFORE the first rehearsal and know the parts as well as the elements of the song. For example: dynamics, phrasing, articulation, vowel placement, etc. Do not repeat a phrase for notes only. All repetitions should involve working on the implications of text, dynamics, and tonal features, as well as musical style. If you sing the part as it is to be sung in performance while teaching, you will save time in the long run. Inject humor into your rehearsal. This is particularly important when tensions mount, as in the “home stretch” before an important appearance. Have on tap a fund of humorous stories relative to the choral art. ENCOURAGE! An overly critical, negative approach can lower the morale of the group and do immeasurable harm. This is not a plea for lower standards, but a suggestion that the director be fully aware of the effects of consistent and strong criticism. Sing for, but not with the group. Do not allow minor infractions to pass or they will mushroom into larger ones and become established habits. Remember, something learned incorrectly is difficult to unlearn. Study and mark your music thoroughly before the first rehearsal. Talk little, sing much! Teach principles and not cases. Finally, Demonstration is an efficient way to make a point.

Let’s talk now on the Method for Teaching Parts. Start with the part that has the melody. Sing the part twice by yourself. It is a good idea to teach the song to the cadential point of the song. *For example: You thought I was worth saving, so You came and changed my life. You thought I was worth keeping, so You cleaned me up inside. (Worth-Anthony Brown)* Next, have the section that you are teaching sing the part twice with you. Then, stop singing and LISTEN to the section. If you keep singing you will not hear where problematic areas are. After you have listened and corrected any errors, move to the next part and repeat steps 1-3. As you are teaching the next part, the other parts that have been worked with need to be audiating in their head. You want NO WASTED TIME!! Also, put the parts together as you go. DO NOT just cover material. Don’t move on until the section has it. Only after the concept is grasped and when you are satisfied with what you are hearing should you move on. Do not just settle. Remember, something learned incorrectly is difficult to unlearn. It is sometimes a good idea to have your different sections circle or face each other. This allows them to hear each other and know their individual role in the entirety of the choir. There are other Vocal Elements to listen to as the director such as Blending. We already discussed *Leaners vs. Leaders* - Do not place all of your strong singers together. Mix up parts during rehearsal to get voices listening to each other.

4. Finally, The Choir Debut. This should be announced to the choir in advance to give everyone a heads up on song/s, sound check time, etc. Make sure the choir is fully prepared BEFORE they meet for sound check. Communicate effectively if you want them to wear a

certain color. If this is the first time the choir has sang, make sure it's successful even if it has to be a very easy song. Make for certain it is done with excellence.

As you can see, there are many steps involved before the choir is ready to sing. It is crucial that everything is thought through and intentional. The announcement, audition, rehearsal and debut are all crucial beginning parts of a choir. Being involved in the Music department is a huge commitment, and it won't be for everyone. Try to keep that in mind. You want individuals in your team that are passionate about singing and God. We will wrap up next week by talking a little from the heart. Don't forget your final project is due next week, and you will also be taking your final exam. Do everything with excellence, and I will see you next week! God bless!

Week Seven Quiz

1. Which is not a step mentioned in the reading for organizing a choir ministry?
 - a. the announcement
 - b. the recruitment*
 - c. the auditions
 - d. the rehearsals

2. What is the most important thing to remember about an announcement?
 - a. It should be done in a way that creates excitement.*
 - b. You should make sure that everyone is given a personal invitation to join the choir.
 - c. It must contain all of the details about what it takes to join the choir.
 - d. Announce the choir at least a week before you have your first meeting.

3. Why is an audition needed?
 - a. To get to know a person better
 - b. To find out where an individually is musically
 - c. To have the potential member complete an application
 - d. all of the above*

4. Setting the audition up to be more like a choir "interview" will make it more of a laid back setting.

True*

False

5. About how long should you plan on auditioning each choir member?
 - a. At least 15 minutes
 - b. No more than 2 minutes
 - c. About 5 minutes*
 - d. You should let them take as long as they need

6. When teaching parts, start with the _____.
 - a. soprano part
 - b. highest part
 - c. lowest part
 - d. melody*

7. At what stage should you set forth your choir guidelines?
 - a. announcement
 - b. audition
 - c. rehearsal*
 - d. debut

8. What should the guidelines include?
 - a. information regarding choir officers
 - b. rehearsal schedules
 - c. choir uniforms
 - d. all of the above*

9. The most important part of the application is the _____.
 - a. declaration of faith
 - b. rehearsal dates and times
 - c. music ministry covenant*
 - d. basic information including their address and phone

10. The rehearsal is your _____ as the director.
 - a. performance*
 - b. moment
 - c. time
 - d. event

Week Seven Discussion Forum

According to the text, what are the four basic steps to organizing a choir ministry? Explain each step in your own words, and tell what you think is the most important aspect of each step.

Week Seven Journal

Discuss points you learned from this week's course material. Be sure to synthesize lecture notes and the book material from the book, *When They Began to Sing*. What are some things that you do that are effective in your rehearsals?

Week Eight

Week Eight Required Reading

Read chapter eight of the text, *When They Began to Sing*

Week Eight Narrative

Wrapping It Up

Well it's hard to believe we are already in our last week together. I hope this journey has been informative and enlightening. Now, more than ever, our churches need Ministers of Music who have excellence in their skill while also maintaining the integrity of their heart.

Please remember, your projects and final test are due this week. We have discussed some resources. I wanted to emphasize those as well as a few others.

BOOKS

The Third Key by Alvin Fruga. This is the latest book by Alvin Fruga.

Thriving as an Artist in the Church & The Heart of the Artist by Rory Noland

Called to Worship by Vernon Whaley

Leading on Empty by Wayne Cordeiro

TECHNICAL HELP AND RESOURCE

www.ministrycentral.com

www.hearandplay.com

www.worshipclub.com

www.gospelmaps.com

www.ccli.com/songselect

MULTITRACKS

Ableton Live is a multitrack recorder as well as a real-time player for all of the stems from a song.

www.multitracks.com

www.loopcommunity.com

If you choose to use any of these in your final project, please examine them thoroughly, so you will be able to write a description and tell how they would be useful to you. This is to benefit you in the future.

COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Planning Center Online allows you to schedule as well as store all of your files for individual songs. Go to www.planningcenter.com for more information.

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading your discussion boards and journals. I pray this course has been as much of a blessing to you as it has been for me.

God bless you as you go forward in your calling and gifting. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please stay connected. Now as we close this chapter, allow me to pray over you.

Lord, I want to first of all thank you for every student who was able to take this course and finish strong. I pray a special blessing and a covering over each of them. Continue to order their steps

and give them strength as they lead their ministries. Thank you for the biblical principles of worship you outlined in your Word. Help us to abide by these principles as we worship in spirit and in truth and lead with clean hands and a pure heart. Now as we depart, allow Your presence to proceed their every step. Lead and guide them as they lead their congregations into worship. Let your Glory fill their churches. In Jesus' Name I pray, amen!

Final Research Project/Paper

Choose **one** of the options below for your final project or paper.

OPTION #1 (Project)

The final project will be a compilation of evidence consisting of a display of knowledge that you have gained throughout this course. Your final project, to be submitted in week 8, will contain three parts. Each part will demonstrate practical application of the material learned in this course. It is important that you follow the guidelines for each component of the project. Use good time management to work on the assignment throughout the remainder of the course. Do not procrastinate, as many of the pieces of your final project will have to be planned and even scheduled. Use the rubric to make sure you have followed all the requirements before submitting your final work. Each part will be worth 50 points for a total of 150 points. I hope this practical piece will benefit you, not only now, but also in the future.

I. Create a Choir Enrollment Packet

The packet should contain an announcement, choir application, choir ministry statement of agreement or covenant, and a debut plan for the first choir performance. All of these components are explained in Chapter 7 of your text. An example packet has been placed in your files for chapter 7. You can use your text and/or outside sources to help compile this piece of your project. (50 points)

II. Interviews

You will be conducting four short interviews. This is based on Chapter 8 of your text when it addresses the four important parts of the music ministry. You will conduct an interview with a pastor, music director, singer, and musician. The interviews should be no more than 10-15 minutes and should address such things as challenges, relationships, processes and any other aspects of music ministry. Each interviewee will contribute a different perspective of the music ministry. You will submit this piece of the project in a question/answer format. You will be required to ask at least 5 in-depth questions to each interview participant. More questions may be necessary to acquire the information that you are seeking. (50 points).

III. Compile Resources

Throughout the course I will mention various resources for you to examine and add to your repertoire for future reference. It would be beneficial for you to write these down as you hear them mentioned. As lifelong learners, you should strive to read and gain knowledge in your

subject area. For this assignment you will submit a list of resources that you have collected throughout your music ministry and this course. The list should consist of books, articles, websites, video links or any other type of media that would help you in your pursuit of music ministry. It will be submitted as a word document with the source cited in APA style. Underneath the source, you will need to give a brief explanation of its contents and how it will benefit you in music ministry. Your list should contain at least 10 sources of various medias. (50 points)

OPTION #2 (Research Paper)

In order for a worship ministry to be effective, many elements and people have to work together. The priority of certain things varies depending on the role that an individual is filling. It is important to think about different perspectives when planning for a worship experience or church service. This assignment will involve interviewing four individuals that fulfill roles in the church and in a worship service. Based on these interviews, you will write an 8-10 page paper describing the roles of the participants and comparing the individual perspective of each as it relates to what he/she feels is most important. Some individuals that might be interviewed are a pastor, praise team member, music director, band member, worship leader, or soundman. This is not an exhaustive list, but it should be someone that is directly involved in a worship service.

The questions that should be asked are at your discretion, but they should be similar for all four interviewees. This will make it easier to compare different perspectives. You may also offer your perspective if you play a role.

Some questions that might be asked:

What do you feel your role is in a worship service?

What do you think makes a service flow or disconnect?

How important is communication between you and the other participants in a worship service?

What is the most frustrating thing for you as it relates to other members in a worship service?

How early should you know the basic layout and plan for a service?

These are just ideas. Your questions can be something totally different. Just make sure you design questions that help you collaborate and compare different roles and priorities.

Remember, these interviews must be compiled into an 8-10 page paper. They are not to be in a question/answer format.