

# Top-10 Tips for Leading Children in Worship

## From Yancy



### 1. **Be Prepared.**

I've been around church world enough to know how much this very important statement is overlooked. It's not enough to try to learn the songs in the car on your way to church. Be prepared. Spend time learning and studying the songs. Let them sink in. Ultimately you want to know them like the back of your hand. Go ahead and plan out what you want to say to lead these songs too. What will you say before the song starts? How will you transition from one song to another? Think it through. Depending on your experience level you may even want to write it out to help you collect your thoughts. Do your part! When we do our part, it allows God to do His part to move and speak into the lives of the precious boys and girls that we get the privilege of ministering to. There is freedom in preparation.

### 2. **Be Bold.**

Remember you are the leader. If you've been given the job and task of leading the music then somebody thinks you should have the job. Sing and lead these songs knowing you've been entrusted to do this. Somebody believes in your ability. Don't be intimidated by the kids in the audience. (I promise they won't bite...most likely!) Sing and speak boldly! You are the leader of these songs so lead your audience to participate along with you.

### 3. **Make Eye Contact.**

Look at the kids. Open your eyes. Connect with them. It shows you do have boldness and aren't scared of the audience. When you look at them, they notice. Sometimes eye contact is the very thing that will encourage them to sing out or clap their hands. Good rule of thumb is look at someone until the line or thought is finished, then change your eye contact to someone else.

### 4. **Give Vocal Instruction.**

One of the best ways to get kids to sing and dance and participate is to tell them what you want them to do. Often times telling them one time isn't even enough. Think about an aerobics instructor or

coach and how they call out and encourage you in what to do. Things like “Sing it again, One more time, Let me hear you, C'mon clap your hands” are all great things to insert between lines or before a new part or repeat. Look at David's example in the Bible where he told us to “Clap our hands, shout to God with triumph or to sing a new song.”

#### **5. It's OK to Have Rules.**

Structure is a good thing. You can have fun and structure at the same time. Don't confuse kids having fun with allowing kids to be out of control. Not too long ago I was a part of a church event where the leaders had no control over the kids. They could be disruptive and distractions and no one stopped them. Nobody wins in this setting! Encourage your leaders to help the kids around them do the right thing. That means doing what is asked and expected of them at the appropriate times. Being a distraction to other kids that are trying to participate in the worship time just isn't acceptable. Teenage helpers doing more harm than good by encouraging disruptive behavior should not be tolerated. Help support your volunteers to lead well. 1 Corinthians 14:33 “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.” (NIV)

#### **6. Ask Questions That Demand a Response.**

A super easy way to initiate participation and get the kids involved is to ask questions of the audience that demand a verbal response. Repeat the question if needed to get the response desired. You can do the same with an action: high fives, arms in the air, etc. This is one of the easiest things you can do to engage your group and get them involved to join in the song.

#### **7. Define the Win.**

What's your goal for the music time? Hopefully this is a moving target in your ministries. As you grow and your kids develop the win can grow and develop too. What is something you'd like to see happen in your kid's worship this week? Define the win. What is a step you could take and work to accomplish with your kids in the area of worship? As you accomplish your goals keep raising and moving the bar of what your “win” will be. 1 Corinthians 9:24 “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.” (NIV)

#### **8. Control the Soundtracks. Don't Let Them Control You.**

Does the song you're about to do have a really long intro? Is there enough time to get up on stage, grab the mic and say something

to engage the audience if the sound guy starts the track immediately following the previous segment? If so, then do that. Don't waste time by getting all in place (in silence) and then once you're all set and have already talked to and exhorted the audience, start the track. Use the intros, turnarounds and instrumentals to engage those you are leading in worship. Instead of being up on stage looking like a deer in headlights, staring down the audience (probably awkwardly), use that music to LEAD your audience.

#### **9. Wear Bright Colors.**

We all know Johnny Cash was the man in black. I know black is slimming but save your all black wardrobe for other days. Color is happy. It looks like a celebration and brings joy. So as far as kids worship goes I think color will help you get the party started. Also keep in mind big, bold patterns translate better on stage than small patterns which wash out to a solid when you're far away. If you have team t-shirts also consider multiple colors to resemble confetti on stage vs. a sea of purple (or whatever color you have.)

#### **10. Become a Great Worshipper.**

You can't give what you don't have. If you want to have a ministry full of kids who worship and declare the praises of God then you need to be a great participator in worship. Throughout the week set aside time where you sing your praises to the Lord when no one else is watching. Demonstrate through your actions, words and countenance what it looks like. Also, when you attend a service you need to be a worshipper. Don't just expect others to do it when you're the leader. Worship when others are leading you. (Sowing and reaping!)

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