HOW TO BUILD AN

Engaging Worship Culture

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THE CHALLENGE

If you're here because you think building an engaging worship culture is hard, you're right.

It is.

Unity and rapport are hard to achieve amid the many expectations and experiences people bring to a Sunday morning.

A. BUILD | *Building is different from maintaining*

What does "build" require? Being put out.

1. Time: building relationships.
2. Money: meeting musical and technical needs.

An engaging worship culture is rarely sustained by a maintainer. It almost always requires a builder—a leader who creates, envisions and implements a culture that resists the default drift toward disengagement.

A HARSH REALITY

It's always easier to be a spectator.

B. ENGAGING | *Choose the right "house" for your church*

- Ask what kind of "house" best suits your church.
- Does your model reflect your pastor, your congregation and, most importantly, you?
- Take time to understand your pastor and congregation and determine the most effective worship style to foster engagement—at a pace that fits naturally rather than being forced.
- Be careful who and what you choose to imitate. Copying the wrong model can lead to frustration and wasted effort building the wrong "house."

Building the Culture

The environment you create shapes how people experience worship.

C. CULTURE | *Build a God-centred, people-aware environment*

1. Worship God, not worship.

- Build a God-centric worship culture that:
  - **a.** encompasses the personhood of God.
  - **b.** Sing the truths of Scripture.
  - **c.** Sing prayers of thanks, wonder and supplication.

In building a mature, sustainable culture that fosters engagement, consider the "lyrical diet" we are feeding our people.

2. Consider the "dining experience."

- We are building an environment that can attract or detract from how others experience the presence of God.
- One of the greatest factors in building an engaging worship culture is ... us.
- After that, one of the most important groups to invest in is the worship team.

D. FINAL THOUGHTS | *Practical ways to nurture engagement*

- Smile.
- Don't berate people into engaging.
- Ask questions.
- Make it about the congregation—not about us.

THE SECRET SAUCE

These practices help build unity and rapport—the secret sauce in building engagement in worship.

CONCLUSION. THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE WITH YOU

THE HOUSE	Is the worship culture we are building the best fit for our pastor and people?
THE DIET	Are we feeding people "sugar & white bread," or offering a well-rounded meal?
THE EXPERIENCE	Are we building trust / rapport through the experience we provide?