

Wasting our time on Jesus



Worship audit

How would you rate the health of the area “worship with children” in your ministry (out of 10)? _____

Now answer the following ten questions:

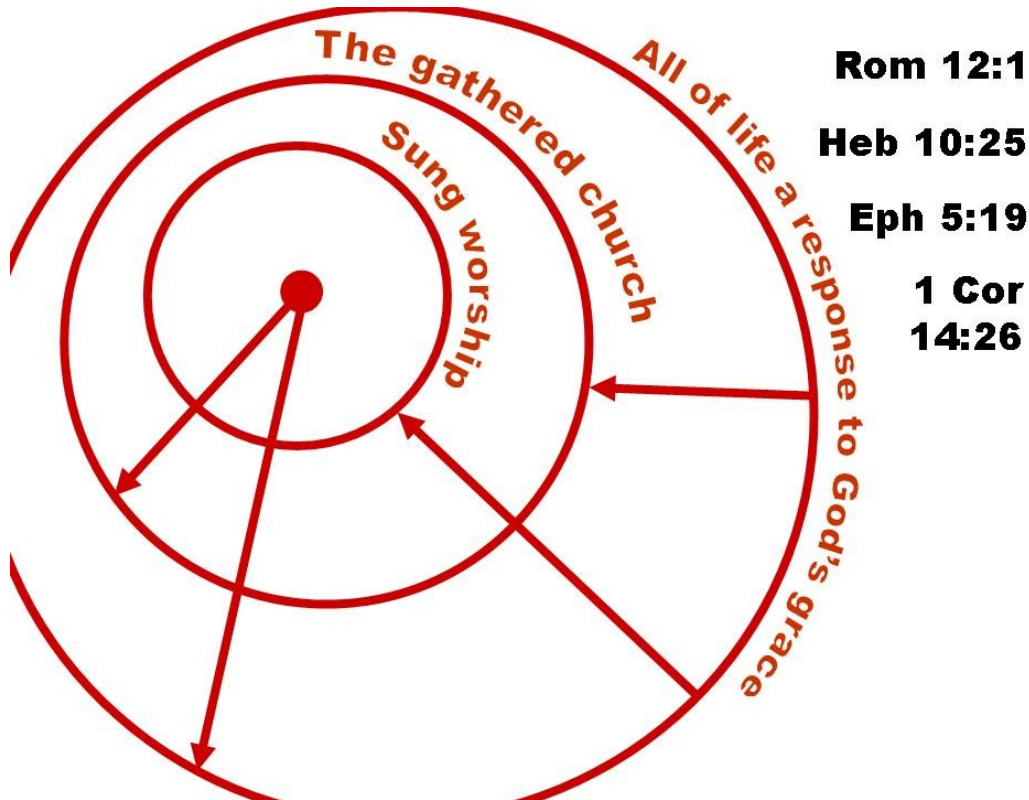
	true	not sure	not true
We regularly sing songs with children in our church.			
In the last three months we have learnt at least one new children’s praise song.			
We have at least two people in our church who are gifted children’s worship leaders.			
Our main children’s leader believes that corporate sung worship is an integral part of children’s ministry.			
When we sing with the children, most of the adult/teenage leaders/helpers join in.			
We are quite good at engaging the whole age range of children in our sung worship.			
The songs are an integral part of the whole Sunday morning programme for children, not add-ons.			
We have resisted the pressure from some leaders to pare down the amount of singing.			
In the last year I have heard from at least one child that they enjoy the sung worship.			
When we have leaders’ preparation meetings we often set some time aside to praise God together.			

Now give yourself one point for each tick in the “true” box and add them up: _____

Compare your two “marks”.



A model of worship



Children CAN worship

Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

When the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things Jesus did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these

children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," Jesus replied, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.'?" (Matthew 21:14-16)

“If we are serious about leading children into a life-long relationship with God we’ve got to be real about what we encourage them to do and how involved they are in the life of the church, and that includes real, powerful and active worship.

We have been deceived by those who would have us believe that children can’t worship properly or that they can only praise God through noisy “happy-clappy” songs with silly actions and trite words. We have convinced ourselves that it is only at some mythical magic age that

children become mature enough to learn more about and take part in real worship; until that point the adults should therefore never challenge the children and encourage their faith development. It is very hard for us children’s workers to accept that the children we work with may have a clearer and more meaningful faith than us, and that they may be able to teach us to worship! Let’s be willing to step out further in our worship, and lead, or even follow, our children.”

Nick Harding: Children can worship (Kevin Mayhew), p.13

Worship ABC: Elements of Sunday Worship

Altar Call

Blessing/Sending Out

Confession

Declaration of Faith (Creed, Psalm, Liturgy)

Fellowship

Gathering (Connecting with each other and God, preparing; putting at ease, slowing down from the week, quietening)

Hearing from God: Prophecy, response to teaching etc.

Lord’s Supper

Music

Offering

Prayer (intercession, prayer ministry for each other)

Quiet (filled stillness, silent prayer, being in God’s presence without doing anything)

Reading from God’s Word

Sermon: Teaching God’s Word

Testimony

Worship/Praise



Leading Worship at PromiseLand (Jan 2003)

Mechanics:

Prepare - (Leadsheets, drumloops, music stands, powerpoint lyrics, props, KNOWTHE SONGS!!!) >> pray, read Sunday's large group materials, get in touch with LGL, pray, select songs ["analyse words"- need to explain things? Opportunities for creativity?], song actions, think about transitions, prayers, props...

One leader easier than two (unless you know each other very well)
[This does not mean a one-person-show – you can delegate beforehand!]

Communicate with your band / the large group leader [conductor!]
Know what your (your band's) ability limits are – stretch them only a little bit!

Encourage (feedback, band)

Contents

Variety

Accessibility

Fun

Using all senses

Not another "sermon" – worship is the working out of our relationship with God

Spontaneity

Can flourish where there is "a feeling of safety from advance planning"

Learn from mistakes

Take in the situation!

Learn to listen to God's voice

Watch the time

ACTIONS:

free and/or prepared

not flippant (slapstick):

do they support the message of the song/help to worship?

dance (boys?)

posture (tie in with Bible message – e.g. Peter "Lord go away from me, for I am a sinful man (Luke 5:8))

