



GUIDE TO CELEBRATIVE WORSHIP

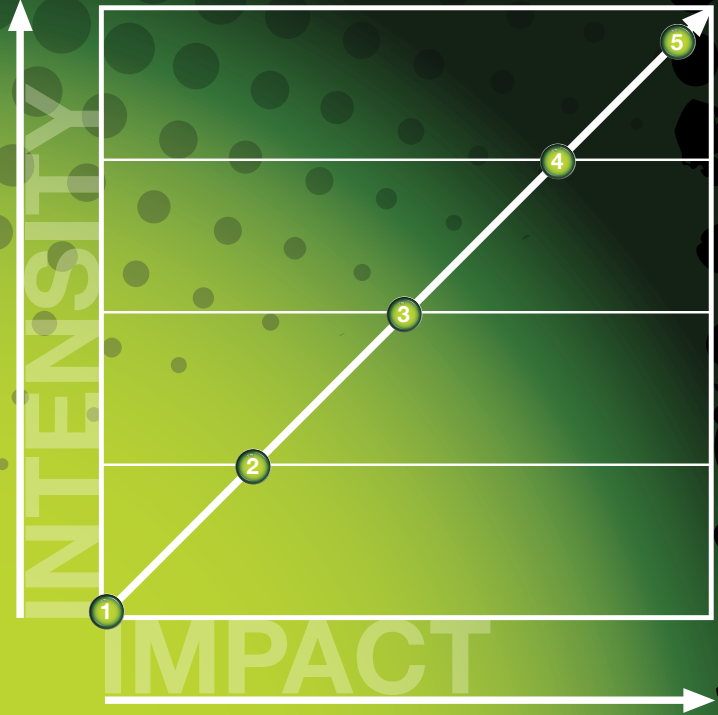
Level 1: Expand the Understanding of and Vision for Biblical Worship

Level 2: Develop a Plan for Worship Ministry

Level 3: Plan to Do Something Different

Level 4: Seek Powerful Worship Experiences

Level 5: Celebrative, Participatory Worship



In recent years, several studies have been published summarizing some common characteristics present in growing, healthy churches. Virtually all of them include the renewal of worship as a major influence on church health, a catalyst for growth, and a key to breaking out of a long season of plateau. Words such as “celebrative”, “inspiring”, “God-exalting”, and “renewed” are used to describe worship in churches that have experienced renewal and growth.

Through this design guide, you will:

- Create a personal and church definition for worship, including the biblical principles that will be used to define practice and evaluate results.
- Develop a priority list of worship elements and practices that will lead your church to worship in a way that is consistent with your principles.
- Learn to value creativity and worship services that seek an encounter with God above personal style, preferences, and comforts.

Level 1: Expand the Understanding of and Vision for Biblical Worship

- Leaders must engage in Scripture to determine the principles that will govern worship practice and evaluate results.
- Use personal study, conversation, and other resources to develop a definition of worship for the church.
- Create and lead a series of worship services/sermons that lead your church to affirm the definition of worship.
- Consider how your definition of worship can be applied to reaching the unchurched in your community.

Level 2: Develop a Plan for Worship Ministry

- Conduct a honest evaluation of what has taken place over the last 3-6 months in your worship services.
- Compare your current practices with your stated principles and definitions for worship.
- Consult with worship leaders in other churches to determine how they lead in worship.
- Create a priority list of action steps with “Intensity vs. Impact” in mind.

Level 3: Plan to Do Something Different

- Plan services using your action steps, being mindful of the principles that have been affirmed.
- Focus on directing more of what happens in worship directly to God.

- Look for intentional ways to add variety and creativity into worship.
- Elevate the role of prayer in a significant way.

Level 4: Seek Powerful Worship Experiences

- Work to plan out a large part of the worship services at least one month in advance.
- Increase the frequency of new worship practices and experiences (not necessarily singing new songs).
- Involve more and more people into worship leadership – increasing the role of the choir, small groups, testimonies, prayer leaders, etc.
- Find ways to communicate how to be a “lifestyle worshiper” outside of the Sunday gathering.

Level 5: Celebrative, Participatory Worship

- Embrace a mindset that rejects personal preference and adopts creativity, freedom, variety, and the presence and power of God as the goal of worship.
- Continue to elevate the presence of direct praising of and responding to God in worship.
- Increase the presence of prayer.
- Celebrate the participation and response of people.

For specific information about implementing the recommendations listed here, download the complete version of the “A Guide to Celebrative Worship” Design Guide at www.revitalizearkansas.com.