

# **MILESTONE WORSHIP**

**HANDBOOK + DEV GUIDE**





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# 01 TEAM COMMITMENT

## **Our Lives**

- We desire to honor and worship God with our lives.
- We are committed followers of Jesus Christ.
- We are committed to His mission.
- We are committed to grow through the study of the Bible, personal worship, and prayer.
- We are committed to participating with our local church through weekend services, the Growth Track, and Small Groups.
- We are committed to being generous givers, because we follow the example of Jesus.

## **Our Service**

- We are honored to serve God using the gifts and talents He has given us.
- We are committed to giving God our BEST, because He has given us everything.
- We are committed to preparation, both spiritually and musically.
- We are committed to having a teachable spirit and humble heart.
- We are committed to having a positive attitude.

## **Team Culture**

- We are better together. It's WE, not me.
- We value, honor, and respect each other.
- We build up and encourage each other.
- We choose unity because the Lord blesses it. (Psalm 133:1-3 ESV)
- We walk in accountability because we need each other.
- We choose to work through offenses quickly with forgiveness and reconciliation.
- We love to have fun!

# 02 WORSHIP OPERATIONS

**We will communicate to you primarily through Planning Center Online. It is important that you check your email and your Planning Center account in order to stay informed of important information.**

## **Availability + Block-Out Dates**

We want to accommodate your schedule as best we can, so please utilize the Planning Center block-out dates feature. We schedule several weeks in advance, so please update your block-out dates monthly.

*NOTE: The fewer dates you are available, the more difficult it is to fit you in the schedule.*

## **Scheduling Rotation**

Because of the size of our team and our desire to include you, we must stay on a rotation for all musicians and vocalists. We will do our best to make sure you are scheduled on a regular basis.

*NOTE: Occasionally, there are unforeseen circumstances that require us to rearrange the team for any given service. Please note that this is never personal. Please reach out if you have any questions. We are happy to talk about it!*

## **Confirmations**

Once you are scheduled for a service, you will automatically receive an email from Planning Center. In a timely manner, click “Accept” or “Decline”. In the event that you have to decline, please give a brief description with your response. Keep in mind that since we ask for your block-out dates in advance, a decline should not happen frequently.

## **Participating in Services**

If you’re scheduled to serve on a weekend, we ask that you attend at least one sermon. If you’re not scheduled on a particular weekend, come to church anyway. You are a part of this spiritual family!

# 03 DRESS CODE

As worship leaders, we want the focus to stay on Jesus—not on us. Even though “the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7), people naturally notice what they see first. The guidelines are there to serve people, deflect attention from us, and point others to Jesus. This can absolutely be expressed through your unique style—we’re not aiming for uniformity, but for unity. Dressing with care helps us avoid distractions, honor the role we’ve been trusted with, and bring our best to God.

## General Guidelines for All Services

### **Modesty is key.**

We want the focus to be God, not us. Modesty helps to prevent distraction.

### **Always do a final “worship check.”**

Before you finalize an outfit for service, raise your arms as high as you can and swing them in all directions. Look in the mirror and check yourself from all angles. Kneel down, and lean forward to make sure your pants don’t slide too low. If anything is revealed during this process, adjust your outfit accordingly.

### **Look your best.**

We lead multiple generations in worship and want to be relatable to all. If you’re ever unsure about an item, always err on the dressier side. Leading congregational worship is not about our own personal artistic expression—it’s inclusive to everyone. If your outfit does not meet the guidelines set in this handbook, you may be asked to change.

### **Make personal hygiene a priority.**

Spend the appropriate amount of time getting ready for service. Always be clean, have your hair fixed, and facial hair groomed appropriately. Women need to apply make-up for stage lighting. All clothing must be clean and pressed.

### **Be platform-ready when you arrive for rehearsal.**

There are weekends that we capture photos and video during rehearsal, so please arrive fully dressed and platform ready.

### **Seasonal Color Palette**

This can be found in the ‘Notes’ section of the Planning Center plan you are scheduled on for weekend services.

# GUIDELINES FOR MEN

## Top Half

1. Dress shirts or nice pullovers with blazers, nice casual (denim-type) jackets or shackets, pressed neatly.
2. T-shirts are acceptable under a jacket or shacket. No t-shirts with words.
3. Wear an undershirt of an appropriate color if needed. Undershirts should not be seen.
4. Make sure your shirt is buttoned at an appropriate place. No chest hair should be seen.
5. Make sure your shirt isn't too tight, and that it is appropriate in length (doesn't show your stomach or undergarments if you raise your hands).
6. Stay away from hoods on platform.
7. Avoid tight checked patterned shirts. It creates a weird moving pattern on the screen.

## Bottom Half

1. Jeans are acceptable. Modern dressier styles, no holes.
2. No "too-tight" pants. Make sure that pants don't cup or conform too much in the front, or that they are too tight in the rear area.
3. No joggers, casual pants, or shorts.

## Shoes + Hats

1. No flip-flops, sandals, athletic, or casual shoes. Wear dress shoes or boots of a matching or complementary color to your outfit. Plain, white leather dress sneakers are acceptable. **Please avoid wearing any other type of sneaker on platform.**
2. Hats must be approved by the worship staff. No caps or beanies.

# GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN

## Top Half

1. No cleavage. Be very conscientious about this. The more you have, the more modest the neckline must be. Your neckline should be no more than the span of a 4-finger width from your collarbone.
2. Bras must be inconspicuous and serve you well. Your bra cannot be seen under any circumstances. The thickness of your bra must protect for all room temperatures.
3. No shirts or jackets that bring focus to the chest. No shirts that are tight and tightly cup under the chest.
4. If wearing a shirt without a jacket, it must be cut in a modest way.
5. No sleeveless tops. The sleeve length must be appropriate for your arms, keeping in mind that all arms are different. We suggest the length to be halfway to your elbow or lower. If you shake your arms and there is a lot of movement, adjust your sleeve length closer to your elbow.
6. No t-shirts, unless they are dressy and paired with a jacket.
7. No skin showing around the midriff/waistline. Raise your arms straight up to ensure your top doesn't show any skin. If ever in doubt, wear a tank top underneath your top to make sure that when you jump, there isn't a lot of movement.
8. No see-through tops. If it's see-through stylistically, make sure that the undershirt still meets the guidelines and is not nude in color.
9. If you wear skinny jeans, the top must cover the crotch and bottom when hands are raised, or must have a tank top underneath that is the appropriate length.

## Bottom Half

1. Skirts and dresses should extend below knee or lower.
2. Skirts + dresses must not be see-through. Wear a slip or pants underneath if there's any chance of light showing through.
3. No holes in jeans.
4. No "too-tight" pants. No pants that cup around your rear or bring focus to your rear.
5. No pants that focus on your front. Some pants are too tight in this area or have stylistic stitching or coloring that draws the eye there.
6. No leggings.

## Shoes + Jewelry

1. We encourage wearing heels on platform. Flat shoes can look too casual.
2. Shoes should be appropriate to the outfit. Make sure that you are able to move freely in worship. We suggest breaking in heels before a weekend service.
3. No flip-flops or everyday casual sandals. Close toed shoes are generally preferred.
4. Keep jewelry simple. Make sure the pieces don't cause unnecessary noise or unusual movement



# GUIDELINES FOR WEEKDAY + SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## Weekday Services

1. Attire is more casual depending on the service (i.e. Youth can look more “youthy”).
2. There is no color palette.
3. Same rules as weekend services apply with the following exceptions:

### Top Half

- T-shirts are acceptable. Make sure that wording and design placement is appropriate and the shirt isn't too tight.
- Stay away from character or band shirts.

### Bottom Half

- Jeans are acceptable, but must not be too tight.

### Other

- Hats are acceptable for youth services, but must be approved by worship staff in other environments.
- Casual shoes are acceptable. No flip-flops.

## Special Events

Easter, Christmas, Women's Events, etc.

1. Generally, attire is more dressy than casual.
2. You may be asked to bring your clothing for a dress rehearsal check prior to the day of the service to make sure all team clothing is holistically cohesive.

# 04 PREPARATION + REHEARSALS

**Preparation makes way for God's presence.**

## **Preparation**

### **1. Prepare Spiritually**

Spend time with God. Pray for the people who will be attending services. A practical way to prepare your heart is by worshiping the Lord with the worship set you are listening to for rehearsal.

### **2. Practice**

Memorize your lyrics and chords to the best of your ability before rehearsal.

### **3. Planning Center**

Check throughout the week for updates. From time to time songs will change later in the week.

## **Rehearsal**

### **1. Be early**

If you're on time, you're late. Be ready to rehearse and in position before all scheduled rehearsal and service times begin. Official rehearsal and service times are listed on Planning Center.

### **2. Be flexible**

Be prepared to make any changes to the arrangements and production of all songs on the set list. Be willing to work with music/vocal directors while exhibiting a positive attitude.

# 05 PLATFORM PRESENCE

## **Your platform presence is as important as your skill.**

### **1. Use appropriate body language.**

Body language is a huge form of communication. We all know what it is like to say one thing with our mouths while our body language is actually saying another. When you are on the platform, your presence is as important as your skill. Your platform presence is simply an outward expression of what is happening on the inside of your heart. Determine to communicate your heart effectively through your body.

### **2. Smile and be joyful!**

We're taking people somewhere in worship, and we want to look like we're happy to go there. It's not mandatory to always smile, but a "lit up" face goes a long way from the platform.

### **3. Seek out and welcome coaching from your leaders.**

Our team is a coaching team. Your leader may ask you to adjust something with your platform presence. For instance, you may be asked to open your eyes more during worship or move around your area a bit more. When you are asked to modify something, please do so. Your leaders care about you and want you to lead others well.

### **4. Watch yourself on an online service.**

There is always room for growth, and one of the best ways to grow is by observing yourself.

### **5. Make appropriate eye contact.**

Always make an effort to look at people as you lead. Sometimes we get insecure or uncomfortable on the platform and we close our eyes to check out. Be aware of this. It's good to see and engage with people while you worship. Don't stare at the confidence monitor because it hinders engagement.

### **6. Be a tone-setter.**

Do not let the perceived engagement level of the congregation determine your level of expression. Sometimes they will not appear engaged in worship. As leaders, we stay engaged anyway. Show them an example of how to express worship. Most of the time, they simply need to see worship in order to learn how to express it on their own. Also, God is at work whether we see it or not.

## **7. Be sincere.**

Worship from your heart. We are leading people from all different circumstances, so remember that a genuine spirit ministers more than you realize.

## **8. Use proper microphone etiquette.**

- When there is an extended period of time in which you're not singing into your microphone, move it away from your face but still continue to sing and worship.
- When you're singing into your microphone, keep it within two inches of your mouth. Trust the audio tech to adjust your volume level in the house mix.
- We are a spirit-filled church, but the platform is not the appropriate place to pray in tongues out loud because we lead both believers and non-believers in worship. Stay in an attitude of prayer and connection to God throughout worship.

## **9. Express worship.**

Move around your area and use your space to the fullest. When there is no movement, the platform can look stagnant. Whether you're singing or playing an instrument, sing along.

## **10. Be aware of your facial expressions.**

Be aware of your "listening face" and "resting face" on the platform. When someone is speaking on the microphone, be sure to watch them and agree with what's being communicated, staying authentic and engaged in the moment.

# 06 MORAL + PUBLIC GUIDELINES

**This is not to be considered a complete rulebook for all personal activity of our team members. It is, however, a document that provides specific guidelines and communication items that we address.**

## **Alcohol + Drug Policy**

Team members should not be involved with the unlawful use, possession, sale, or transfer of drugs or narcotics. While alcohol consumption and tobacco use are not prohibited, consumption/use must fall in line with the biblical standard of Christian living. Consuming alcohol in excess is strictly prohibited. Always expect that you are being observed in public and have a “live above reproach” attitude toward alcohol and tobacco.

## **Sexual Purity**

The Word of God is clear that any sexual relationship outside the biblical covenant of marriage between a man and a woman is strictly forbidden. We believe that God has called us to a standard of high accountability when it comes to the relationships we are involved in with other members of the team and with people outside of our team. This high standard requires us to set forth certain guidelines that will ensure that we avoid immorality and the appearance of immorality. For clarification, here are several standards we are committed to:

- We commit to keep our eyes pure and will not allow pornography, inappropriate media, etc, to contaminate our hearts and spirits. (Psalm 101:3)
- We acknowledge that romantic relationships glorify God, and we commit to being accountable to those around us, not engaging in sexual activity that is reserved for the institution of marriage between a man and a woman, and not being behind closed doors with someone of the opposite sex.

# Social Media

As someone on the platform at Milestone Church, please keep the following in mind when using social media and interacting with the public on your personal time:

- You are a representative of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.
- You are a representative of Milestone Church.
- What you post online has the potential to unite or divide, lead or destroy, encourage or discourage.
- Expect everyone to see what you post or comment on.

Milestone Worship Team Members are expected to adhere to our social media policies:

- No nudity or inappropriate pictures.
- No posts that compromise your Christian witness.
- No posts with profanity or comments that contradict Biblical truths.
- No controversial opinions. If it causes conflict or could be a stumbling block, it's not worth posting.
- Be mindful of your followers and who you follow.
- Don't post or say something in the heat of the moment "to make a point".
- Don't engage in political one-sidedness.
- Don't criticize others.
- Don't post negative or embarrassing stories about your spouse or children. Honor your family.
- Don't engage in debates that can be destructive, divisive, hurtful, etc.

**You may be asked to take down a questionable post by our worship staff, knowing that they are looking out for your best interest.**

**Milestone Worship**  
**worship@milestonechurch.com**  
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COME AND CHANGE US

# 07 DEV CONTENT

## Week 1 WHO WE ARE

These values not only shape who we are as worship leaders, they define the culture of our entire team.

But even more than that—this is the culture of Milestone Church.  
From the beginning, the vision has always been clear:  
Reaching People. Building Lives.

As a worship team, we carry that same vision—by creating moments that point people to Jesus in every environment, from Milestone Kids to every campus weekend service.

### WHO WE ARE AS A TEAM

We're Here to \_\_\_\_\_

1. Serve \_\_\_\_\_

First and foremost, we honor and bless the Lord—not just with our songs, but with our lives.

- Worship is to God and for God.
- It's not a performance, it's a posture.

2. Serve \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage and add value to one another. We don't just sing together—we build together.

- We strengthen each other through our words and actions.
- We create a culture of honor and encouragement.

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

3. Serve \_\_\_\_\_ -

It's not about our preferences—it's about serving our church family in every season.

- We steward the songs we sing carefully.
- The lyrics we choose help shape the theology people remember.
- We don't just want to sing what's popular; we want to sing what's formational.

In Scripture, the most powerful worship moments aren't about a great band—the most powerful instrument is the engaged voices of the Church (the Body of Christ) in the Presence of God.

We want to help people join in the worship that's already in progress.

Week after week, we join the eternal worship already happening—and we testify to the promises of God and what is to come.

#### Revelation 7:9–10

“...a great multitude...from every nation, tribe, people and language...standing before the throne and before the Lamb...they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God... and to the Lamb!’”

### We Build Like \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible shows us that God builds through family—both natural and spiritual.

#### Psalm 68:6 – “God sets the lonely in families...”

God has never been about building a religion, a philosophy, or a movement, He's building a family. A spiritual family is made up of God's children, coming together to love God, worship, sacrificially give, and serve one another. Jesus said that the world would know we love Him by the way that we love each other.

### We Walk in \_\_\_\_\_

#### Psalm 133:1,3 (ESV)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! ...For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

We want God's blessing, so we work hard to walk in unity together.

- Prefer one another
- Assume the best
- Forgive quickly
- When conflict arises (and it will!), we go directly to each other, not around each other.

#### Matthew 18 – Go to your brother when there's an offense.

Ask yourself:

Am I talking to someone who can actually help bring resolution?

Am I choosing peace as much as it depends on me?

Don't let offense fester—process it with the right person, and deal with it in love.

## **We Build \_\_\_\_\_ With Each Other**

We're not just a team—we're a spiritual family of like-minded people, planted together in the same house. We want to know and love each other accordingly!

- Show up for people in life's big moments
- Pray for one another
- Join groups together
- Intentional conversations while we serve

## **We \_\_\_\_\_ and Add \_\_\_\_\_**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (MSG)**

**So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind.**

There are enough voices in the world telling us what we're NOT. We want this team to be a place where people hear who God says they ARE.

Encouragement doesn't cost anything—it just requires intentionality!

### **Some practical ways we do this:**

- Give someone a hug or a high five.
- Ask someone about their week.
- If you see it, say it. If you see a teammate winning in an area, tell them. It's not an encouragement until you say it out loud!
- Talk to someone on the team you haven't met before.
- Pray for a teammate when you serve together.

# Dev Week 2

## WHO WE ARE

### PT. 2

**We recognize that hearts and lives aren't changed by our gifts—they're changed by**

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John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- **Our role isn't to impress or perform—it's to set up a meeting place for people to encounter the living God.**

Think of the tent of meeting in the Old Testament—it wasn't about the tent, it was about the Presence inside. That's where life-change happened. In the same way, every time we gather, we help create a space where people can meet with Jesus. That's our purpose.

- **Because we know that God is the One who changes people, our posture is humility. And humility is a choice—something we put on daily.**

Colossians 3:12–14 (MSG)

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline... Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you.

- **The Bible tells us that it's the anointing that breaks the yoke.**

Isaiah 10:37 (KJV)

...and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

**There's a difference between being \_\_\_\_\_ and being \_\_\_\_\_:**

Talented = having a natural skill for something. God gives us talents and abilities but talent needs purpose. Without purpose, talent just impresses, entertains and performs. Talent draws attention to itself.

- Anointed = Set apart for a particular purpose and given an ability beyond our natural ability - it comes from God. Anointing transforms, heals and inspires through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

#### Psalm 40:3

He has put a new song in my mouth, many will see/fear/put their trust in God

#### Luke 4:18 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

You don't earn anointing—you receive it as you consecrate yourself to God.

Consecration means willingly choosing to be set apart for God's purposes—pursuing holiness, purity, and a godly lifestyle.

**We are always \_\_\_\_\_.**

We value a lifestyle of worship that leads to the ongoing process of development in the life of every believer. We're all works in progress. We're not who we once were, and we're not yet who we will become...When we fully engage with God, when we give our whole hearts and every area of our lives, we don't just "worship" during a service, we live a lifestyle of worship. Whatever we do, we do it to honor God and to show Him that we love Him. When we live this way, we'll never stop growing.

#### **Growing in the house of the Lord**

- You attend weekend services when you aren't scheduled on the worship team.
- You serve on other teams within the church. Worship rotation can be broad, so it's important that you have other ways that you contribute to the body!
- You participate with our spiritual family in serving the community through events like Serve Day.
- You are a giver with your time, talents, and treasure.
- You are involved in small groups.
- You have accountability in your life- someone who knows where you are at.
- You're taking next steps. (Baptism, joining a small group, leading a small group, completing the Growth Track, etc.)

#### **Growing in Leadership**

- You lead yourself—spending time with Jesus, reading the Word, worshiping privately
- You cultivate a "one version" life—living with integrity
- You invite feedback
- You remain coachable
- You pursue growth opportunities (masterclasses, dev times, etc.)

**We like to \_\_\_\_\_!**

- We want our team to be life-giving.
- We celebrate each other's wins
- When we see something, we say something! (it's not an encouragement until you say it out loud)
- We don't take ourselves too seriously
- We laugh a lot
- We focus on the good!

**Proverbs 17:22**

**A merry heart does good like a medicine!**

# Dev Week 3

# WORSHIP LEADERSHIP 101

## What is Worship?

Worship is giving worth, honor, and reverence to something or someone. As followers of Christ, we worship God—not just with our voices or talents, but with our entire lives.

We understand that worship is more than just music in a service.

Worship is our lives lived to \_\_\_\_\_

### Romans 12:1–2 (MSG)

“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.”

Worship isn’t confined to a service or a setlist. It’s a daily lifestyle that honors God through our thoughts, actions, words, and attitudes.

## What is Worship Leadership?

When leading worship, we worship God, while we bring \_\_\_\_\_ with us.

### Deuteronomy 10:8 (NIV)

“At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to **carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord**, to stand before the Lord to minister and to **bless the people in his name...**”

A way we say this is—keep one eye on \_\_\_\_\_, and one eye on the \_\_\_\_\_.

Worship leadership is the unique balance of worshiping God and leading/serving people.

- If we have both eyes on God, we can easily get lost in “our moment” and we leave people behind.
- If we have both eyes on people, we can get stuck in performance.

When we prepare to lead people in worship we need to ask ourselves some questions:

- Am I more about performance or presence?
- Am I more into style or spirit?
- Am I leading FOR acceptance or FROM acceptance?

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PERFORMANCE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Focuses on the stage, lights, and self-expression</li><li>-Shows off talent</li><li>-”Up there doing my thing”</li><li>-Draws people to self</li></ul>                                               | <b>PRESENCE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Focuses on ushering people into God’s presence</li><li>-Offers talent back to God as worship</li><li>-Leading people to something greater than yourself</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>STYLE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Only interested in playing and leading according to your preferences</li><li>-More concerned about the latest style/ expression of worship than leading the people of your congregation with you</li></ul> | <b>SPIRIT:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Be more about the spirit of worship than the latest style of worship.</li><li>-Worship isn’t a trend, it’s eternal.</li><li>-More concerned about bringing EVERYONE along in the worship journey - meeting people where they’re at instead of playing what you think is cool and hoping people come along.</li></ul> |
| <b>FOR ACCEPTANCE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Insecurity-driven</li><li>-What can I get from this?</li><li>-Does everyone like me?</li><li>-How did I sound?</li></ul>                                                                          | <b>FROM ACCEPTANCE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Knowing you are a loved son or daughter of God</li><li>-”For some reason, God placed me here—so I will lead with God-confidence”</li><li>-Not worried about what people think</li><li>-More concerned with what God thinks about the posture of your heart in worship</li></ul>                             |

Worship leadership is a holy calling.

It’s not about being the most impressive—it’s about being the most surrendered.

# Dev Week 4

## NEXT STEPS / RECAP

### GROWTH TRACK

- We require everyone on the Milestone Worship Team to complete all 3 steps in our Growth Track process. (Discovery 101, Serve Team 201, Values 301) The Growth Track is essential for aligning all of us with the heart and vision of Milestone Church. This creates unity and ensures that we all believe and are building towards the same thing.
- We are happy to help you take your next step in the Growth Track. Just ask any of our staff team and we can get you started.

### HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

- Moral/Public Guidelines (p. 13)
- Preparation (p. 10)
- Team Commitment (p. 3)
- Platform Clothing Guidelines (p. 5)

### NEXT STEPS

- At the end of our time next week, each of you will sync up with a staff member to discuss what your best next steps will be.
- This could be going through Dev again to continue developing in a skill, being placed on a next gen team, being placed in our Milestone Choir, or being placed on an active weekend team.
- **It's important to note that if you are placed on our active team, you will be asked to serve at any/all of our local campuses.**



# KEEP GROWING

## Words of Praise

*In the original text of the Bible, there are several words that each translate to English as “praise”, but they each have specific meanings when you trace them back. All of these are ways we express praise to God.*

### **YADAH**

To revere or worship with extended hands. To hold out the hands. To throw a stone or arrow.

#### **Psalm 67:3 (NIV)**

May all the peoples praise (yadah) You, God; may all the peoples praise (yadah) You.

#### **Psalm 138:2 (NIV)**

I will bow down toward your holy temple, and will praise (yadah) your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.

#### **Important details:**

- Yad-ah is found 111 times in Scripture.
- Explained those times when the Hebrew people were so overcome by the glory of the Lord that their hands shot up in praise.

#### **Questions:**

- Did you grow up in a tradition where the lifting of the hands was normal?
- Remember the first time you raised your hands in worship. What was it like?
- What is a song that represents this form of praise well?

### **HALAL**

To praise the Lord by celebrating, by dancing and shining forth, by acting clamorously foolish.

#### **Psalm 150:1-2 (NIV)**

Praise (halal) the Lord. Praise (halal) God in his sanctuary; praise (halal) him in his mighty heavens. Praise (halal) him for his acts of power; praise (halal) him for his surpassing greatness.

#### **Psalm 149:3 (NIV)**

Let them praise (halal) His name with dancing and make music to Him with timbrel and harp.

#### **Important details:**

- Halal occurs 99 times in Scripture.
- Word from which we get Hallelujah
- True halal contemplates laying aside your inhibitions and killing your self-consciousness
- “The most valuable thing the psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance.” –C.S. Lewis

**Questions:**

- Why do you think some people are hesitant to express their celebration in a church gathering?
- When you praise God in a public setting, how conscious are you of others around you?
- What are some songs that fit this form of praise?

**ZAMAR**

To make music. To praise the Lord with the playing of an instrument.

**Psalm 108:1 (NIV)**

My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will (zamar) sing and make music with all my soul.

**Psalm 144:9 (NIV)**

I will sing a new song to you, my God; on a harp of ten-strings I will (zamar) make music to you...

**Important details:**

- Zamar appears 41 times in Scripture.
- Music is powerful – reaches places in the human soul mere words can't reach.
- Music calmed Saul's tormented soul.
- 2 Kings 3:15-16 - Elisha asks for a harpist before he spoke his message.

**Questions:**

- When was the last time I simply played my instrument for God alone?
- When was the last time I felt the power of God in my music, even when no words were sung?
- What song comes to mind that fits this form of praise?
- What role has music played in your walk with God?

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.” – Martin Luther

**TOWDAH**

Thanksgiving. A confession. A sacrifice of praise. Thanksgiving for things not yet received. A choir of worshippers.

It also means an extension of the hand.

However, the difference between YADAH and TOWDAH is: YADAH is a reaction to God's glory, TOWDAH is a response to what He has done or we believe He will do.

**Psalm 50:23 (NIV)**

Those who sacrifice thank offerings (offer towdah) honor me, and to the blameless I will show my salvation.

**Psalm 56:11-12 (NIV)**

In God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me? I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings (offer towdah) to you.

### **Important Details:**

- To thank God for what He has done, but to also offer a sacrifice of praise for things not yet received.
- Praising God with expectation – a way to convey trust in the goodness of God.
- We must remember to have a heart of thanksgiving but also a heart of expectation in worship.

“True worship that is pleasing to God creates within the human heart a spirit of expectation and insatiable longing.” – Tozer

### **Questions:**

- What song comes to mind in relation to this form of praise?
- Think about and discuss a time when you have seen God answer a specific prayer or need that you had.
- Is there something that you are currently asking God for? Have you offered praise (towdah) in faith that He would answer you?

## **BARAK**

To kneel. To bless God (as an act of adoration and humility). To praise. To salute. To thank.

### **Psalm 95:6 (NIV)**

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before (barak) the Lord our Maker.

### **Psalm 72:11,15 (NIV)**

May all kings bow down to him (barak) and all nations serve him.; Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

### **Important Details:**

- Barak embodies the notion of recognizing one's position in relation to God. It's the moment when we see God for who He truly is...in all of His splendor and glory. This is a word demonstrating humility. This is also when we must see ourselves in the correct light: sinners in need of a Savior.
- Used 289 times in the Psalms.
- On each occurrence, it's used to describe worshippers falling on their faces before God in reverence, adoration, and thanks
- Scholars believe this Hebrew word in its original context did not simply mean to bow down. Instead, it carried the connotation of bending low while keeping one's eyes fixed on the king.
- It means to be transfixed.
- Psalm 103:1-2 - Bless the LORD, O my soul; all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all His kind deeds.
- Psalm 103:20-22 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all His kind deeds—; Bless the LORD, all His angels mighty in strength who carry out His word, who hearken to the voice of His command.
- David uses the word as a repetitive hook.
- He commands all things to “barak” the King.

### **Questions:**

- Do you remember the last time you “baraked” before the Lord?

## **TEHILLAH**

A hymn. A song of praise. A new song. A spontaneous song.

### **Psalm 22:3**

But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises (tehillah) of Israel.

#### **Important Details:**

- God loves your new song of praise- the song that comes from your inmost being.
- A new song is evangelistic:
- Psalm 40:3 - He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

#### **Questions:**

- Have you ever sang out loud your own song to God?
- What are some examples of this form of worship that you have heard before?

## **SHABACH**

To address in a loud tone. To shout. To commend, glory, and triumph.

### **Psalm 145:4**

One generation shall praise (shabach) Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

#### **Important Details:**

- A shout of praise is also connected to breakthrough- a triumph.
- The Bible instructs us to shout joyfully. It also expresses exuberance and excitement.

#### **Questions:**

- What events have you shouted at and who was it for?
- Have you ever shouted in church?

