

**RESOURCE MINISTRIES**  
**PRAISE AND WORSHIP SEMINAR**  
**Session 7 - PRAISE AND WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN**  
**By Jim Stephens**

**I. The importance of Praise and Worship in ministry to children.**

- A. Worship involves the development of reverence, honor, and respect for God. Without reverence for God (The fear of the Lord) respect and honor will vanish from society.
- B. Moses told Pharaoh that the whole family, the whole society, all ages must be involved in worship. (Ex 10:8-9)
- C. Jesus said that from the mouths of children and infants God has ordained praise. (Matt 21:16 Ps 8:2)
- D. Worship is coming into God's presence. Jesus said we must allow the little children to come to Him and not to hinder them. (Luke 18:16)
- E. Praise and Worship opens the heart and mind and prepares it like soil to receive the good seed. (Positive and negative power of music)
- F. Praise and Worship is ministry to the Lord, not performance or entertainment. We are leading the children to bless the Lord, not just to keep them occupied or to sing their favorite songs and choruses.

**II. How to work with children and young people in Praise and Worship**

- A. Get serious about Praise and Worship
  - 1. It is not merely the "preliminaries".
  - 2. Praise and Worship is not a "filler activity".
  - 3. Use your best, most committed people.
  - 4. It is a key to lasting success in Children's Ministry.
  - 5. Show the children your serious commitment to Praise and Worship.
- B. The Leader
  - 1. Must be a worshipper first, musician secondary

- a. Basic understanding of keys and chords helpful
  - b. Worship Leading is not "Song Leading".
  - c. Ability to play instrument is good but secondary.
- 2. Must be free from "embarrassment syndrome".
  - a. Child-like
  - b. Enthusiastic
  - c. Expressive
  - d. Active (bend, leap, march, clap, bow)
- 3. Must be willing to prepare in mind and heart.
  - a. Plan and prepare songs
  - b. Prepare in heart and attitude
  - c. Learn songs in advance; teach new songs

### **III. Praise and Worship Activity**

- A. Singing
  - 1. Enthusiastic (clapping, actions songs)  
Children must be under control
  - 2. Don't let it drag out  
Keep it bright and enthusiastic  
Caution about "Prayer Choruses", slow songs
- B. Themes for Praise and Worship
  - 1. Consult with Superintendent and Teachers concerning the theme of the lesson, message, etc.
  - 2. Look for the "flow" and the mood of the group.

3. Develop a sense of the direction and purpose of the Holy Spirit for the present meeting.
4. Possible Themes for Praise and Worship:
  - Thanksgiving
  - Exalting the Lord
  - Yieldedness
  - Rejoicing
  - Revival
  - Unity
  - Praising God for His Acts
  - Adoration
  - Victory
  - Spiritual Warfare
  - Comfort
  - Exhortation

C. Progression

1. Begin with Thanksgiving.. move to Praise.. flow into Worship.
2. Start with fast, action songs.. transition to slower worship songs.

D. Sing the Word of God.

1. Faith comes by hearing.. the Word of God.
2. Many "prayer choruses" and traditional songs have little bearing on scripture and little relevance to real worship.
3. Learn Scripture songs and develop your own. Many Scripture songs are available on cassette tape.
4. Encourage your people to develop choruses from the Word of God.
  - a. Melody and tempo: contemporary or traditional
  - b. Always be on the lookout for new songs and choruses with a message.. that could be used effectively in Praise and Worship
5. When teaching a new song or chorus
  - a. Make sure it has something to say.
  - b. Teach it thoroughly
  - c. Use it frequently for a time until all know it well.
6. Cultural expression of Praise and Worship

- a. Each culture has its own unique music style and form
  - b. Look for songs and choruses that express your cultural music or that can be adapted.
  - c. This is a place for creativity in developing songs and choruses.
  - d. Don't worship culture, but don't ignore it!
- E. Testifying...Speaking...Exhorting
  - 1. Keep it brief.. to a minimum
  - 2. Keep it positive.. don't browbeat the children
  - 3. Flow from song to song. Too much talking breaks the flow. Look for the "FLOW"!
- F. Songs for little children.
  - 1. Songs with a simple melody.
  - 2. Songs with a simple message.. positive, scriptural
  - 3. Action songs

#### **IV. Musicians and Instruments**

- A. Instruments for Praise and Worship must be secondary and supportive.
  - 1. Better to do without than to have instruments dominate the singing.
  - 2. No "show-off" musicians. Skill is important, attitude is even more important.
  - 3. No coming in late, tuning instruments, disrupting the flow and distracting the children.
- B. Make your own instruments.
  - 1. Develop a rhythm band or orchestra

2. Make tambourines, drums, sandpaper blocks, shakers
3. Look for talented, sensitive, willing people and challenge them to CREATE!