

HOW WOULD JESUS LEAD WORSHIP?

USER GUIDE - ZOOM/LOCKDOWN VERSION

We launched our video course and book on 21st March 2020, the weekend when schools in the UK closed due to Covid-19 and life changed in unimaginable ways. Our dreams of people gathering in homes or at worship rehearsals to use the material were scuppered, but God seems to have had other ideas.

After a period of adjustment, church worship teams have begun to take advantage of the 12 videos, ordering the books or downloading the PDFs online, and in particular using the wonders of Zoom, Skype or other online chat applications to discuss the videos and book. We asked for their feedback and have heard:

“We are reading the book independently and watching one video per week. This is working very well over Zoom. So actually the course is a really great ‘lockdown’ resource.” Andy, Aberystwyth.

“The course and the new edition of HWJLW are brilliant. In a time where we have been forced to slow down a bit, this has been really useful for me to take stock and think again about worship in the church, reflecting on where we are as a church and I am personally.” Nick, Aylesbury.

“There has been positive feedback from those who’ve been involved. Some who I thought wouldn’t be very keen have joined us every time so far. It’s been very easy to lead. The notes are clear and there is a good variety of content.” Lesley, Derby.

Based on their feedback and our own experience of running Zoom discussions, we’ve revised this User Guide to specifically serve people using the material during lockdown.

The goal remains to help you learn from Jesus what it means to lead worship in your context. You will explore how to grow as a team, become more confident musicians and (most importantly) develop as whole-hearted followers of Jesus. And it’s available for free, for anyone in the world to use, thanks to our bunch of generous crowdfunders!

12 SHORTER SESSIONS

We designed the “normal” course so that you could gather six times, for about two hours each and watch two videos per night. Zoom discussions are much more tiring than physical gatherings, and most of the groups we’ve talked to have therefore decided to only discuss **one video per session**. Most people seem to think that up to 1 hour is about as much as is productive (the free version of Zoom currently cuts out at 40 mins, but some groups have taken this as an opportunity for a break and then started again, or even timed it so they pause to “clap for carers” on a Thursday!).

This extends the course to 12 weeks, about which one user fed back:

“...with the indefinite time period of lockdown, spreading it out felt like a good idea because I felt we needed to use this time as an opportunity to take stock, reflect and evaluate, in preparation for when we are able to lead our congregation again.”

As a result we’ve set up this Zoom/Lockdown guide to work over 12 sessions. If you think this is too long a commitment, we suggest reading ahead and deciding which weeks you might combine, or choose to postpone some weeks for when you are able together physically (for example, 3B, 4B and 6B are quite practical and may be of more benefit when you can meet and actually put the material into practise). In general, it is good to be aware that the “A” videos are more focused on Bible teaching and discussion, whereas the “B” videos are more applied and have more practical exercises linked to them.

PREPARATION

Most people seem to feel it is better to ask the group to watch the videos before you do your Zoom. Sharing video over Zoom can lead to glitchy visuals and unclear audio. Send the URL for that week’s video ahead of time so that people know what they are watching. Ask people to watch the video and note down anything which strikes them, any questions which come to mind, and any reflections which come from the discussion questions asked in each video.

In the guide below we have also specified which chapters people should read when. Spreading the course over 12 weeks means that you often get 2 weeks to read one chapter (the amount of reading decreases as you go through the course).

As the leader, we suggest that you read through the directions and questions for each week and adapt them to your context. We place a high value on this course being interpreted by you for your unique setting, so trust your instincts for what will work in your group and what needs adapting.

Ask people to have access to Bibles during the sessions, or if you think this might be an issue you may wish to prepare Bible readings on slides and “share your screen” so that people can see them.

ZOOM DISCUSSION

One of the people who have run this course for their team told us:

“Encourage good Zoom etiquette! Talking over Zoom doesn’t lend itself to bouncing off thoughts and ideas - as soon as anyone tries to talk over/respond to a point, Zoom can’t handle it very well and cuts off voices. A simple hand raise to indicate wanting to respond has been effective for us to make sure the discussion moves and is productive.”

We would encourage you as the leader to “chair” the conversation, explaining that Zoom does have its challenges when it comes to discussion and putting in house rules such as hand raising. It can help to ask everyone to “Mute” their own audio until they are asked to speak. As the “chair”, give space for people who haven’t spoken yet and try to avoid a situation where one or two people are dominating the conversation. You can also ask that if people have a question they write it in the “chat” box, which means you can get to it when a relevant time comes.

There are other creative ways to get people interacting, some of which we've spelled out in the guide below. For example, if you ask everyone to come with paper and a black marker pen, you can get everyone to write short answers to a question and then everyone can hold these up to the camera. If you are a larger group you can experiment with using the “breakout room” function in Zoom, where people are split into smaller groups.

MUSIC MAKING

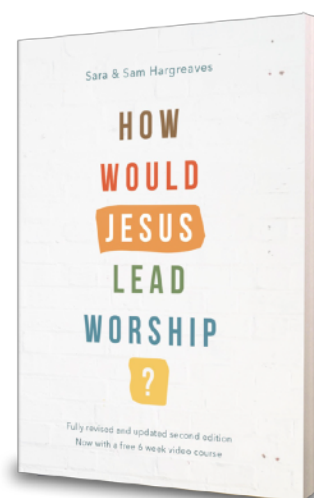
If you’ve used Zoom you’ve probably already discovered that it is almost impossible to play music together - or even sing along with each other - over a video chat due to the time lag. If you do plan to sing, have one home provide the instrument and lead vocal,

and make sure everyone else has their audio muted. For most of the musical exercises we've suggested alternatives to trying to play together.

USING THE BOOK

To get the most out of this course, make sure everybody in your group gets hold of a copy of our book *How Would Jesus Lead Worship?* (2nd edition). The videos are based on this text, and the book goes into greater depth with much more Bible content as well as practical ideas.

The book is available exclusively from engageworship.org, and you can get group discounts on both physical and PDF copies to make this accessible for as many people as possible. We are selling licences for the PDFs so you can legally share these with your group at reduced rates. (Note that the old edition, with the blue cover, is still available from some online shops, but a lot has changed and the chapter numbers don't line up, so we wouldn't recommend using this.)



SESSION 1.A - 'JESUS OUR WORSHIP LEADER'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 1A: "Jesus our Worship Leader", <https://youtu.be/1xhQlvasyWI>
 - read Chapter 1 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable; ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

On the first week, it may be that some people have not managed to watch the video yet. If so, message them the link and ask them to go and do that now during the ice-breaker. By the second week people will have got the message that this part is essential!

ICE-BREAKER

Ask each person in the group to share how they first got involved in worship ministry and what role models they based themselves on. If you have a large group you may want to split people into breakout groups of about 4 each, and then after 5 minutes bring everyone back together to briefly feed back what people in their group said.

DISCUSSION

It can be good to start with the question "what struck you watching the video?"

Ask people to respond to the question asked in the video:

What aspects of Jesus' life and character could inspire you as a worship leader or team?

BIBLE STUDY

This section of the session could work with smaller groups in breakout rooms. If so, make sure to put the reading information and questions in the chat box, so people aren't having to remember the questions.

Read: Hebrews 9:1-7 and Leviticus 16:2.

Discuss: How would you describe the worship that took place in the tabernacle and temple in the Old Testament? What seems difficult and what seems inspiring?

Read: Hebrews 10:19-25.

Discuss:

- How does Jesus fulfil the roles of priest / sacrifice / temple?
- What does this mean for our drawing near to God?
- Do you ever rely on other things, rather than the actions and person of Jesus, in order to come and worship? A test for this might be the question: Have you ever thought or said "I can't worship if I don't have: music / that person leading worship / the right technology..." or something similar?

After 10-15 minutes bring the groups back together and invite people to share what they discussed.

REFLECTION

Ask the group to close their eyes and hold their hands open before them in their laps, as if receiving a gift.

Without rushing, read John 6:1-10, and then Luke 9:14-17.

Lead the following reflection, pausing for people to engage with God:

Imagine that you are that child with a packed lunch. Imagine holding the lunch in your hands; enough for one person, enough for one meal. If you were that little boy, would you have believed that your small meal would ever feed so many? Now imagine instead that you hold your own resources in your hand. It could be your gifts and skills in music or leadership, it could be the songs you write, it could be your position in your church. Imagine these in your hands, and see how small they are compared with the need for the Church to enter into the presence of our Holy God. If you feel ready to, hold your hands up to offer what you have to Jesus. Ask him to "take, bless, break and give" your offering to his church.

PRAY:

You can read this prayer over the group, or put the text up on your shared screen so people can read it together.

Jesus, we bring you our gifts, our skills, our opportunities and our resources. We know that they cannot bring people to the Father in worship and we acknowledge their inadequacy. Please, take these small things and make them useful for your kingdom. Break and give and multiply our offering we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT TIME

Encourage people to read Chapter 2 which unpacks the Bible teaching in more depth, and to watch video 1B. Explain that the "A" videos are more about Bible teaching, and the "B" videos are more practical, which means next week's discussion will be more applied.

SESSION 1.B 'WHY DO WE SING?'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 1B: "Why Do We Sing?", <https://youtu.be/3ESdD4zvKwc>
 - read Chapter 2 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*.
- Send out a list of the core songs your church uses as a Word document, ready for the exercise, and ask people to have three different coloured pens ready.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

This week's video is about songs. Ask people to share the name of one of their favourite worship songs or hymns, and briefly why it is important to them.

DISCUSSION

Ask people what jumped out to them from the book chapter (this unpacked in more detail the theme from last week's video of Jesus making the way open for us to worship the Father by the Spirit).

Turn to talking about this week's theme - "Why Do We Sing?" Ask people what struck them from watching the video.

Sara and Sam brought out 3 points from Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-20. Do any other things from those passages help inform how you approach sung worship?

Ask for feedback on the three discussion questions from the video:

- Think through the last worship time you were part of; what truth do you feel the congregation gained from the songs? Are there gap areas in the themes you focus on?
- Which songs do you feel your congregation sings most confidently? How can you add more songs like that?
- How can you create space in your services for the congregation to be filled with the Spirit?

EXERCISE

This could work well with smaller groups in breakout rooms. Put the instructions in the chat box so everyone knows what they are doing.

Look at the list of songs that your church uses. Choose a colour for each of these headings:

- Truth-dwelling
- Unity-building
- Spirit-filling

Go through and mark out the songs that function particularly well for truth-dwelling (contains good truth about God) in one colour, the songs that are good for unity-building (makes people sing, everyone knows them well etc) in a second colour, and those songs that are good for Spirit-filling (less information, spacious, inviting the Holy Spirit) in a third. You may not have time to do all the songs, if so do this for about 20-30 songs in order to have the following discussion.

Look together at the results and discuss:

- Which function are we strongest at as a church?
- Which function do our songs serve the least?
- What can we do to address the imbalance?
- (if time) Look at your 'truth-dwelling' songs: do these cover a range of themes of God's character and our Christian story? If not, what gaps do we need to fill?

After maybe 15-20 minutes, bring everyone back together and talk about what you discussed. Reflect on your process for adding new songs into your repertoire, and how you might be more intentional about choosing and adding songs which balance out the kinds of songs you are singing.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for the songs you sing, and asking for his help to grow in choosing and leading songs which further serve your congregation.

FOR NEXT TIME

Encourage people to read Chapter 3 on being a *Humble Servant*, and to watch video 2A.

SESSION 2.A - 'HUMBLE SERVANT'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 2A: "Humble Servant", <https://youtu.be/QvVWiSaKjLw>
 - read Chapter 3 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*.
- Ask people to come with a piece of paper and a black marker or felt-tip pen.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Give people one minute to write on their piece of paper as many words as possible to describe Jesus. After the minute, hold up your papers and compare with the rest of the group. Any word which only features on one sheet gets a point. The person with the most points is the winner (it's probably not possible to do prizes, but they can just bask in being the winner!).

DISCUSS:

Ask people what jumped out to them from the video and book chapter.

Get feedback on the questions from the video:

What would developing Jesus' humility mean for:

- the way you choose songs?
- how you work with other musicians and leaders?
- your attitudes towards marginal groups in the church?
- and the way you approach menial tasks and difficult services...?

BIBLE STUDY

You could do this Bible study in breakout rooms. Make sure to put the questions in the chat box.

Read: Luke 18:9-14.

Discuss:

- What did the Pharisee base his righteousness on?
- What was the Pharisee's sin?
- Why do you think Jesus declared the tax collector justified?
- In what way do we tend to compare ourselves, or our churches against other churches, within worship ministry?
- What are you at risk of basing your righteousness on?
- Based on this parable, what ought to be our attitude towards our ministry?

After 10-15 minutes bring people back and ask them to feedback on their discussion.

Talk about what some practical applications of this teaching might be in your context.

REFLECTION

Ask the group to close their eyes, then read Luke 9:23-26 slowly out loud, three times. Ask them to pick out a word or phrase that jumped out, and to think about it reflectively for a few moments. What does the word or phrase say to them?

Have a time of open prayer, asking your group to respond in prayer to the words they've heard: does it lead to devotion, confession or prayer for someone else?

End with resting in the stillness of God's presence for half a minute or so.

Close the session in prayer.

FOR NEXT TIME

Encourage people to read the "Bonus" section at the end of the book on "Planning a Worship Journey", and to watch video 2B.

SESSION 2.B 'PLANNING A WORSHIP JOURNEY'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 2B: "Planning A Worship Journey", <https://youtu.be/pdpwSm-UxZ4>
 - read the "Bonus" section at the end of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship* - "Planning A Journey Of Worship" (pages 165-171).
- The video asks people to write down a typical service order. Ask people to do this on a piece of paper and have it ready for the session.
- Also send them out copies of the service planning sheet provided below (these can be downloaded separately from our website - engageworship.org/videocourse) If your services are very different to the ones we suggest, then you could make up your own "scenarios".
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Hold up your hands to the left and explain that the left side means you are a planner - you prefer to prepare, organise and be ready ahead of time. Then hold them to the right and say that the right hand side indicates you are an improviser - you prefer to wing it, go with the flow and see what happens. Ask people to indicate where they are on the scale - planner, improviser, or somewhere in between. Then have a little chat about the differences in your team.

DISCUSS

Ask people to hold up, or briefly share, the service plans they sketched out. Compare the similarities and differences. It can be quite revealing to see what comes out of this exercise: What are the elements that people remember? If we have a 'free' service

structure, how free are we really? Do different people major on different things in the service?

Ask people to share their thoughts from the discussion questions in the video:

- Think about the service plan you sketched out earlier. How could this kind of journey planning work out in your context?
- How can you develop the way you prepare worship so that your services flow as a meaningful journey?

SERVICE PLANNING EXERCISE

Make sure people have a copy of the two page service planning sheet. Get them into groups of twos or three, and use the breakout rooms to work on these in the groups. Each group should choose one scenario and start to plan a service using the format.

Scenario 1:
Type and theme of service: Messy Church special, theme: <i>"We all belong"</i> .
Bible readings: Ephesians 4:1-6.
Congregation present: Mix of ages, several families who don't normally come to church.
Extra elements required: There is also a baptism planned.
Any other info: Youth band leading, limited musical ability and repertoire.
Desired destination: God loves you (as he loves everybody).

Scenario 2:
Type and theme of service: Holy Communion service.
Bible readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9.
Congregation present: Normal mixed congregation, children going out to groups before sermon.
Extra elements required: Holy Communion and a fixture to pray for a missionary.
Any other info: There is an organist, one guitarist and one flute player on the rota.
Desired destination: You are sent to be God's hands in our community.

Scenario 3:
Type and theme of service: Sunday Evening Special Celebration, theme <i>"Encounter God"</i> .
Bible readings: Joel 2:12-29
Congregation present: Mostly young adults and some keen older people.
Extra elements required: The preacher is known to speak for a long time. There will be an expectation for prayer ministry towards the end.
Any other info: No real time limit.
Desired destination: Confession and receiving forgiveness.

Planning a service as a worship journey		
STEP 1: What external information do I have for this service? What is the basic structure ?	STEP 2: What does God want to achieve in this service? What should be the destination ? (For this exercise this has been decided for you - normally, pray and seek God).	
	STEP 3: Plan the journey. Which functions do we need?	STEP 4: Insert the media (songs, prayers, activities etc)

After about 15 minutes or so, get people to come back together and talk about their services and how they found this process. Talk about how you can adapt it to your context.

Close the session in prayer.

SESSION 3.A - 'LEADER WITH AUTHORITY PART 1'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 3A: "Leader With Authority Part 1", <https://youtu.be/492BqHO7X5E>
 - read the first half of Chapter 4, pages 77-93.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea..

ICE-BREAKER

Enjoy a silly game together: ask someone to describe an object they can see in the background of someone else's screen, without naming it or whose screen it is on. The rest of the group have to put their hand up to guess what object is being described. After a few rounds, talk about the importance of clear communication and guidance.

DISCUSS

Ask people for their responses to the discussion questions from the video:

- In the last two sessions we've looked at humility and leadership: Which are you (and your church) strongest at?
- How could you grow in the areas where you are weaker?

Christ-like leaders:

... know where they're heading.

... give clear directions.

... lead by example.

- In which of these concepts is your leadership already strong? Where is there room for improvement?

BIBLE STUDY

You could do this study in smaller groups using the breakout rooms. Put the instructions in the chat box.

Read Luke 9:1-7a.

This is Jesus sending out his team with the challenge to be the kind of leader he has shown himself to be.

Discuss:

- What words do you pick up in this text which seem to talk about leadership?
- Why do you think Jesus gives the instructions in verse 3?
- What is the relevance of verse 7a?
- Imagine that you are training a bunch of worship leaders in your church: you may not give the exact instructions as Jesus gave in verses 3-5, but how could you capture the meaning behind these verses in your instructions to your team?

Gather back together to talk about what you discussed.

Ask the group how they think your team can grow in Christ-like leadership.

REFLECTION

We've said that, like Jesus, a good leader knows where they're going. Many of us are too busy or distracted in our everyday lives to be silent and reflect, so give your group the gift of silence in this session.

Ask people to find a piece of paper and pen. Inviting God to come and nudge, speak and direct you by the Holy Spirit, and then let the group know how long you will leave silence for. Encourage the group to reflect, journal and listen to God for this question:

- What is God speaking to me about at the moment? Is there a particular direction he has for my life, or my worship ministry? What is his word to me in this season?

After the silence, give people space to share (if they want to) what they felt God say. Then pray for each other to move forward with the ministry and calling God has on each of our lives.

SESSION 3.B 'LEADING THE CONGREGATION'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 3B: "Leading the Congregation", <https://youtu.be/XefGXuN-XOo>
 - if they haven't already, read the first half of Chapter 4, pages 77-93.
- Find two live videos of worship leaders who your team connect with. Ideally these should be in "normal" church contexts rather than concerts or studios. Send the web addresses of the videos and explain that people don't have to watch them before the session, but they should have the videos open in their browser.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Everyone has the odd disaster when leading worship, and in hindsight these are often hilarious! Can you share a story of a time when your attempt at leading a congregation went wrong? Invite other people to tell any other stories of worship disasters which happened to them or people they know.

DISCUSS

What struck people from watching the video?

Review the video content:

- Can you remember the examples of different ways we can give cues to the congregation?

[There were visible cues: how we are positioned/if we are seen, stepping up and away from microphone, using facial expressions and keeping my eyes open.

Then there were audible cues: singing the tune clearly, speaking or singing where the song is going next (using words of song).]

- Can you remember the examples of different ways we can handle “junctions” within a worship service?

[We talked about speaking out simple instructions, reading some Scripture that links the two sections, praying a prayer that introduces the next song and doing nothing or just leaving quiet or music playing.]

Ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions:

- As a worship team, where can you grow in the area of guiding the congregation during the worship time?
- How could you move forward with that?

Also talk about the idea of teaching songs.

- What has been your experience of teaching songs before you use them?
- Can you see this being useful in your context?

EXERCISE:

If you were able to meet together, we’d suggest that the best exercise to follow this teaching is to try leading one another with visual and verbal cues, in the safety of a rehearsal setting (see this session in the regular User Guide on engageworship.org/videocourse).

In lockdown you can’t do this, and singing together over Zoom is pretty much impossible. So instead we suggest you invite people to watch the videos of the two worship leaders you sent earlier.

Ask them to look at how they communicate with the congregation. What do they say, or sing, or pray? How do they use body language, and facial expressions? What is helpful and what is unhelpful? Do the different leaders have different styles?

They can mute their mic and watch the videos for 10 minutes and then come back to the chat. Ask people to talk about what you could learn from these leaders, and what aspects wouldn’t translate so well into your own context.

Ask what you can put into practice as a team as you grow in leading the congregation.

Close in prayer.

SESSION 4.A - 'LEADER WITH AUTHORITY PART 2'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 4A: "Leader with Authority Part 2", <https://youtu.be/FkkXAJzhdmA>
 - finish Chapter 4 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*, pages 93-104.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Explain that this week is about team building, so you are going to spend a little time encouraging one another and building each other up. Make use of the chat box function in Zoom which allows you to write a message just to one person in the group. Invite everyone to write one direct message to each person in the group, just a sentence with one thing they appreciate about that person. After a few minutes invite people to read the things which have been written about them (this could be silently or taking it in turns aloud, we'll let you decide). Pray a prayer that you would continue to encourage one another in the days ahead.

DISCUSS

Ask people to feed back on what struck them from the video and the passage from the book.

Invite responses to the discussion questions in the video:

- *How well would you say you know each other in your worship team?*
- *How could you grow your relationships?*
- *Are there ways in which your church identifies, trains and releases worship team members?*
- *How could you grow in this area?*

BIBLE STUDY

Split people into small groups and give each group one of these passages. Use the “breakout rooms” for the small groups to read their passage and answer the question:

What can we learn about team building from Jesus in these passages?

- Matthew 17:24-27
- Luke 10:17-24
- Acts 1:4-9
- Mark 3:13-15

After a while bring everyone back and discuss how the example of Jesus can impact how you grow your team.

Move the discussion on from generalisations to specifics: are there practical ways you could actively recruit new team members, receive input and training, mentor people in their roles, and give constructive feedback to one another?

OPTIONAL

The book chapter ends by talking about when team building goes sour, and then has an exercise about reflecting on our roots and foundations. If you know some relationships are strained in your group, or that there are issues under the surface that people need to deal with, you may wish to use this as an opportunity to pastorally bring this up.

You could ask people to feed back their own reflections on those sections. You could lead people in the “Roots and foundations” Pause to Worship section from page 104, and give space for people to share as much as they want to. Or you could talk generally about the importance of each of us growing in our relationships and in the “hidden places”, and give some silence for people to reflect on where they might seek forgiveness from God and other people.

PRAYER

Give a little time of quiet for people to reflect on this question: what aspect of their involvement in worship would they like to see grow in the future? Then let people share the things which came to mind.

Give space for a few people to pray into the things that were shared. Pray that each person in your group would be empowered by God to lead, and find ways to encourage and mentor other people in their ministry.

SESSION 4.B 'ARRANGING SONGS AND LEADING MUSICIANS'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 4B: "Arranging Songs and Leading Musicians", <https://youtu.be/7ATewO4ayXU>
 - there isn't a specific section of the book related to this video, so people can catch up on any sections they didn't have time to read previously.
- Take a look at the Exercise below, and invite people to think about whether they can come prepared with a new song arrangement idea to share. Not everyone will feel confident about this, so make it optional.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

This session is about musical arrangements and playing as a band. Invite people to share their favourite experiences of hearing musicians playing well together in a live setting. That could be an orchestra, a choir, a jazz group, a rock band or something else. What skills did the musicians use in order to create a united sound?

DISCUSS

The video displays a list of instruments and the roles they can play in a band. Talk about the instruments you have in your church and how you might grow in playing together.

INSTRUMENT

Acoustic Guitar

Piano/keyboard

Bass guitar

ROLE IN BAND

Mid-or-high harmony, strummed or picking

Range of harmony (avoid clashing with others), block chords, arpeggios, lead lines

Bass notes, occasional riffs and fills

(and other bass instruments)

Drums/percussion	Percussive, beat, tempo, dynamics
Woodwind/strings/brass	Melody, Intro/link melodies, counter melodies, block chords, stabs
Electric guitar	Rhythmic chords, held chords, arpeggios, lead lines
Vocals	Lead vocal, harmony vocals, ad-libs, block chords, counter melodies

Review the video - what aspects of musical arrangements were talked about?

[We mentioned the role of each instrument; dynamics and shape; the feel and journey being set by lyrics and the kind of response we want; intros and endings and visual signals.]

Invite feedback from the other discussion questions in the video:

- What aspects of your musical arrangements could you develop as a team?
- Do you have agreed visual signals? How could you use these more effectively?

EXERCISE

Due to the time-lag on Zoom you can't have a rehearsal together via video chat. But what you can do is have individuals play ideas for new arrangements to one another. So before the session, invite people to think about whether they can come prepared with a new song arrangement idea to share. Not everyone will feel confident about this, so make it optional.

You won't fit all these in to one song, but here are some points to inspire your arrangements:

- Can you breathe life into an old song (such as a traditional hymn or an over-sung chorus) by changing the chords, or the feel, or the groove?
- Or bring a different function to a song (for example, some faster songs can be arranged in a slower, more reflective feel)?
- Can you add a new introduction to the song, a fresh way of starting the song or a link passage between sections?
- Can you come up with some alternative endings for the song: 1) a loud, confident ending, 2) a quiet reflective ending 3) a segue into another song... or something else?
- Think through the dynamics is for your chosen song: are there places that lend themselves to being quiet/loud/busy/simple? How can you arrange the song to bring these variations to life?
- Think about the instruments and voices you have available, and the different roles they can play. Can you write a part for a particular instrument, such as a flute counter-melody, a new bass line, a lead guitar part or a new percussion groove?

- Could you write an extra section for the song, such as a chorus or a tag, or an extra verse which relates to your own church situation?

As you listen to the arrangements people share, talk about:

- What do you like about the ideas?
- Can you think of where in a service you could use this?
- Are there ways you could see these ideas developed further?
- What parts could other instruments play in these arrangements?
- How can you make space for this kind of creative exploration in your regular rehearsals?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you grow as creative musicians who play well together.

SESSION 5.A - 'CREATIVE COMMUNICATOR'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 5A: "Creative Communicator", <https://youtu.be/RjOqtOlcM8k>
 - read the first half Chapter 5 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*, pages 105-120.
- Ask people to come with a lump of play-dough, or a piece of blue tack. If people have neither they could even make their own play-dough - there are plenty of good recipes online. If none of that is possible they can bring just a paper and pen.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Ask everyone to get out their lump of play-dough, blue tack (or if neither is possible they can draw this on paper). Ask each person to shape something that represents how they're coming before God at this time. Some will feel flat and exhausted and will make a flat blob, others might make tiny pieces to show how shattered they feel, whereas some will create a figure in some sort of posture before God - let people know that there is no right or wrong! If time, allow people to share what they've made and why, and then pray, accepting God's welcome to us all wherever we find ourselves.

DISCUSS

What struck people from the video, and the first half of Chapter 5?

Invite people to feed back their thoughts on the discussion questions from the video:

- When have you experienced creativity used effectively in worship?
- What was involved in that working well?
- Who is in your congregation that you could encourage and make space for their gifts?

BIBLE STUDY

Split into pairs or threes and share out the following Scripture passages about Jesus between each group (if you are a very small group, then just pick a couple of texts).

Luke 24:36-43

Luke 19:37-42

Luke 22:54-62

Luke 19:1-6

Luke 20:20-26

Luke 18:15-17

Use the breakout rooms for people so that each group can read their texts. Discuss these questions:

- Which senses are involved in this passage?
- How can you respond to this story and to Jesus using the same senses? Are there any art forms that lend themselves to use in worship as you reflect on this story?

After a while bring people back to the wider group. Invite them to share what they talked about.

Talk about how you could incorporate engaging with more of the senses and different learning styles within your worship services.

REFLECTION

Ask people to pick up their lump of play-dough from earlier. Think of what you've heard about Jesus today. God has seen and accepted each individual as they are, but now think about how you can change your shape, your sculpture, to respond to the Jesus you've encountered in Luke's gospel. Invite people to change their clay to become a prayer of response.

Close in prayer.

SESSION 5.B 'ADDING CREATIVE ELEMENTS IN WORSHIP'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 5B: "Adding Creative Elements in Worship", https://youtu.be/JC_2c7hkXUk
 - read the second half Chapter 5 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*, pages 120-132.
- Find three orders of service from the church you are part of (from before lockdown). If you don't have formal orders of service, you may need to sketch these out in retrospect. Send these out to the team beforehand and ask them to have them ready.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Ask people to think about which one of the VARK learning modes they connect with best - Visual, Aural, Reading/Writing, or Kinaesthetic (touching/doing)? Can they think of a time when they have engaged with one of these modes in a way that impacted them (it can be in worship, but it doesn't have to be)? Ask them to share with the group.

DISCUSS

Invite people's responses to the video and the book section

Invite feedback on these discussion questions from the video:

- How do you think your church would respond to adding creative art forms outside of what you usually do?
- What creativity might be "indigenous", springing from within the church, and an easy first step into new expressions?
- Are there ideas from this video you could use in your context, or that you could adapt to work?
- How can you develop a sense of leading creative worship as a team?

EXERCISES

Look at the services in your church, using the three orders of service:

- Is there one element in each service that could have been done creatively; using several senses or other art-forms?
- Is there one element in each service that was good, but would have been even better if you had added an extra sense or creative element (for example, a simple sign language response in a prayer, or pictures on the screen during the response etc.)?
- Consider the VARK learning modes: how much of your service time is directed towards the different styles of learning (visual, auditory, reading/writing, kinaesthetic)? Can you think of members of your congregations, or different age groups, that would be helped by expanding the learning style used?

Now split people into smaller groups using the breakout rooms, and set them the task to plan one creative element for the services you've looked at (imagining they can run them in the future). They can choose to do the welcome, children's talk, intercession, confession, reading, response, sending or any other element. Ask people to think about how they could use different art forms, appeal to several different learning styles at once and use at least two senses.

As you plan, keep in mind the principles shared in the video:

- Whatever you do, it ought to be indigenous.
- Make things accessible for everyone.
- Do this as a team.
- Keep things simple and sustainable
- Make sure to invite and encourage - don't order and demand!
- Be prepared to make mistakes.

After the small groups have had time to plan something, bring them all back together and share where you've got to. Ask people to comment on what they liked from the ideas, and how they could be developed further.

Finally, talk about how you can practically organise yourself as a team and as part of the wider church leadership, to facilitate further creative worship in your services after lockdown.

Close in prayer.

SESSION 6.A - 'RELIANT ON THE SPIRIT'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 6A: "Reliant On The Spirit", <https://youtu.be/HwxqaGvmQqQ>
 - read the first half Chapter 6 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*, pages 133-148.
- Ask people to bring some paper and a black marker or felt tip pen.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Ask people to write down on paper and then hold up the first thing which comes into their heads when you say these words:

- Spirit-filled worship.
- Hearing God's voice.
- Gifts of the Spirit.
- Spontaneity.

Talk about these immediate reactions - where do they come from? As a group do you have similar responses or is there a range?

DISCUSS

Ask people to share what struck them from the video and the book chapter.

Invite responses to the discussion questions from the video:

- What practices do you need in your life to keep "watering" yourself?
- How do you care for your soul and seek God's presence in the secret places?
- What do you rely on more than the Holy Spirit to make your worship "work"?
- Are there things you could simplify in order to put your focus back on God?

BIBLE STUDY

You can use the breakout rooms to engage smaller groups with these passages and questions (paste them in the chat box).

Read Luke 4:1 and Luke 4:14.

- What do these verses tell us about Jesus' relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- What situation was Jesus coming from in each of these verses?
- What situation was Jesus going into in each of these verses?
- How did Jesus need to be reliant on the Spirit for these situations?
- Can we learn anything from these texts for us?

Read Luke 5:42-44.

- What kind of day had Jesus had leading up to this moment?
- How do you tend to respond to similar kinds of days? What can we learn from Jesus here? What would that practically look like in our lives?
- What were the consequences of Jesus' early morning solitude?

Bring the group back together and ask them to share from their discussions. Ask how these passages can inform how you lead worship as a team.

PRAYER

When we pray for each other, we often speak more than we listen. But when Jesus spent time in silence and solitude, he seemed to be hearing the will of the Father. The more we listen in smaller settings the more likely we will be able to hear God in larger settings such as when we're leading worship.

Make use of the breakout rooms again so people can do this in groups of two or three. Take turns to listen to God for each other. Suggest a specific question to ask as you listen (for example, "God, what do you love about this person?" or "How did you make this person?"). Commit to having at least 2 minutes of silence per person as you ask God these questions. Remember that God can whisper words in your hearts, but can also just as well speak through nudges, senses and images. After the silence, allow the listeners to feed back briefly, and the person being prayed for might indicate if something rings true or not. Pray for the person you've been listening for, then do the same for the other one or two people in the group.

Bring the groups together to close in prayer.

SESSION 6.B 'LEADING SPONTANEITY'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Send a message to everyone, asking them to:
 - watch Video 6B: "Leading Spontaneity", <https://youtu.be/QpOk8ljiZU0>
 - read the second half Chapter 6 and the Closing Reflection of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship* pages 148-164. Ask them to fill in the Closing Reflection and come ready to share.
- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable and ask people how they are doing as they gather in the chat room. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Ask people to reflect back on the past 12 weeks, and bring to mind one challenge and one blessing from that time. Invite people to share their one challenge and one blessing.

You could also ask people to share if they have any stories of when they have sensed the working of the Holy Spirit in a service, or been in a meeting which included spontaneous offerings of worship.

DISCUSS

Recap the video - what kinds of things did Sara say spontaneous worship could include? [Giving an instruction, singing a song you hadn't planned, improvised songs or singing in the Spirit, unprepared instrumental sections, space for spontaneous prayer, prophetic words spoken, silence or space, or other things.]

Ask the group to reflect on this: if 1 is no spontaneity at all and 10 is completely spontaneous, what number would you give to your church? Ask people to hold up their

fingers to indicate what they think. If there is disagreement, discuss the differing points of view.

Ask people to share what struck them from the video and the book chapter.

Invite responses to the discussion question from the video:

- *How could you develop your abilities as musicians and leaders to be open and responsive to the Holy Spirit?*

EXERCISE

When you get back together, we encourage you to explore spontaneous singing and music-making in your rehearsals (see the regular User Guide on engageworship.org/VideoCourse). This will give you a readiness to do this in actual services. However, doing this over Zoom will probably not work!

Instead, in small groups using the breakout rooms talk about other factors relating to spontaneity. In the video we said spontaneity involves:

1. Hearing God speak into the moment by the Holy Spirit
2. Our ability to respond, communicate and act on that word.

Discuss which of these you think you are stronger in, and which you can grow in. As individuals and as a team, how can you be more open to God's voice and more able to respond, communicate and act on what God says?

Come back together and share your discussions.

AS YOU CONCLUDE THIS COURSE

Encourage the group to engage with the Closing Reflection on page 162 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*. Ask people to show the group what shape they drew on the diagram. Ask them to share one area where they've grown during this course, and where they feel God is leading them next.

It will be a little chaotic, but you could close by praying aloud together the prayer on page 164.