

PREPARE

WORSHIP MODULE #2

Competency: I am intentional in my preparation off stage both spiritually and musically so that I can lead with confidence on stage. (Sound check is not my rehearsal.)

Intentionality is important with our craft and leadership, as well as, maintaining the health of our own hearts. There's a reason Jesus stresses the importance of the heart so much in the Scriptures because it's the life and breath behind everything we do. Sadly, we may be able to fake things on the outside with talent or charisma, but the worship leader whose heart is far from God is of no value to the Kingdom.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Read Matthew 15:8 and answer the questions.

Assignment 2: Read article and answer the questions.

Assignment 3: Read through the list and answer the questions.

ASSIGNMENT 1

Matthew 15:8

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” Matthew 15:8

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it matters to God that your heart and lips line up?
2. Have you personally experienced these not lining up? Has it affected your ability to lead worship?
Explain:
3. What's one challenge that keeps you from keeping these lined up all the time?

ASSIGNMENT 2

Nothing is more vital for our churches, our families, our friends, those we serve, and those we serve with than for our hearts to be healthy.

The following are four vital practices we must have in order to make sure our hearts are constantly chasing after God.

1. Drink from the Well

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105 ESV)

Be in the Word, daily. While this discipline seems to be a no-brainer, it’s often overlooked among the many tasks, homework assignments, friends, and family functions we have on our daily plates. To have any strength and impact in ministry, our days must start with the self-care of being in the Word. It’s truly that simple. The inspired Word of God is “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12) and reminds us of who Jesus is and what He’s done for us. Run to His Word daily, and drink from the well that never runs dry.

2. Sit at His Feet

“And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching.” (Luke 10:39 ESV)

Jesus enters the house of Martha, and while she is consumed with serving, Mary just wants to sit at Jesus’s feet. It’s a familiar passage to most people, but it’s easy to overlook the simple concept that **sitting at the feet of Jesus through prayer is everything.** While God certainly calls us to do good works, above and beyond that, He wants us to remember that we are His sons and daughters first. He wants us to spend time with Him. He wants us to know and rely on Him more. We need to make sure that on Sundays we aren’t too occupied by serving to be taught.

3. Stop and Listen

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8 ESV)

One of the greatest detriments to our ministries and the people we lead is failing to rest from our work. I remember early on in ministry, I felt like I needed to be available every Sunday. This drove me far from my family, and most importantly, it drove me away from the Lord. **Taking a Sabbath day is not only good practice, but is a command of Scripture.** You must have it. God designed it to be this way! Take time to stop and listen. You need to take some Sundays off, and use that rest to recharge you and remind your heart that whatever ministry tasks you have are under the sovereign hand of God. Pastor your heart well by obeying the regular rhythm to Sabbath.

4. Be in Biblical Community

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2 ESV)

One of the best ways to grow as a believer, much less a worship leader, is by **being in solid biblical community.** This may look different depending on your age, but you need to surround yourself with people who will walk alongside you in the Christian life. This includes people who you give permission to call out sin in your life and see your blind spots. Being in biblical community is about being with people who know everything about you—your strengths, weaknesses, sin struggles, and pitfalls.

It's about constantly being "gospelled" by other people so that you can grow in Christlikeness. Take care of your heart by surrounding yourself with godly people and living in biblical community. This means spending time with other worship leaders and making sure your core friend group is a good one.

QUESTIONS:

1. What's one thing that stood out to you from the article?

2. Which of the four is the easiest for you to do?
(Drink from the Well. Sit at His Feet. Stop and Listen. Be in Biblical Community)

3. Which of the four is the most challenging for you to do?

4. Which of the 4 vital practices can you begin working on this week?

ASSIGNMENT 3

Read through the following list of helpful instructions on how to prepare musically for a worship set and answer the questions below.

1. Listen to the music. Spend time meditating on the songs. How are you identifying with the song and experiencing Jesus? For example: Is it moving you towards anything? Are you convicted, overwhelmed by his love, reminded of his faithfulness?
2. Know your role. What is your role in leading this song in the worship service? Are you singing BGV's or lead vocals? Where is this song in the service (coming out of something, going into something)? How can you intentionally lead the room through this song and what God is trying to say through it?
3. Practice. Spend time rehearsing your part throughout the week so that you show up to the service ready. The goal is to have everything memorized so that nothing is holding you back.
4. Remember your "why." Uphold the standard that you are here to worship and lead people closer to Jesus. This is not a gig.

Questions:

1. How do you typically approach preparing for a worship set?
2. Are any of the above steps challenging for you?
3. How can you incorporate more intentional preparation into your weekly routine?