



CCN LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERIES  
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# Worship in the Emerging Church: What Resonates with Post-Christian Generations

Featuring:

**Dan Kimball**

*Pastor, Vintage Faith Church  
and*

*Author, The Emerging Church, and  
Emerging Worship*

**Sally Morgenthaler**

*Founder, Sacramentis.com  
and*

*Author, Worship Evangelism*

## I. WHAT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING

- A. Defining “worship” so we have a framework of discussion
- B. What changes are happening in our emerging culture which changes how we worship
- C. A look at various expressions of emerging worship in a weekend service

## II. DEFINING “WORSHIP”

A. Old Testament =

B. New Testament =

Emerging Worship =

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### III. WHAT IS CHANGING IN OUR CULTURE WHICH CHANGES HOW WE WORSHIP

“Culture” = The patterns of values, meaning, beliefs and ideas of a particular time period, class, community, or population

We are moving from a Judeo-Christian Culture to Post-Christian Culture

Generational Gap:

Worldview Gap:

*This means there will be changes in how we express our love and worship for God as well as in how we learn...Changes that go way beyond just adding some candles and singing some David Crowder songs.*

1. Modern Christian Worship Culture. Values are:

- Excellence and tightly run worship service
- Cognitive learning through one-way preaching
- In many contemporary churches = the removal of the ancient and spiritual
- Going to church

2. Emerging Worship Culture. Values are:

- Avoiding the slightest sense of “performance”
- Experiential learning through various forms of teaching and interactive expressions of worship
- In many emerging churches = the desire for history, roots and the supernatural
- Being the church

## IV. EMERGING WORSHIP GATHERINGS BEYOND PREACHING AND SINGING



The “Brushes” we use to design and express our worship from:

**PRAYER:** Colossians 4: 2

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 119:9-16

- This does not require a big budget (most things are from garage sales and flea markets).
- This does not require lots of paid staff or is only for big churches. Most emerging churches have very small staffs, but instead they develop a volunteer worship team who designs and expresses worship from their local context and using their giftedness (Ephesians 4:11-12).



### PREACHING:

*“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage —with great patience and careful instruction.” - 2 Timothy 4:2*

*“preach” = Greek: kerusso “to be a herald,” or, in general, “to proclaim”*

The question is: *In our worship gatherings are we 'proclaiming' and 'heralding' the Scriptures?*

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING

There are many ways researchers are categorizing the various ways people learn.

**Tactile / Kinesthetic** - *learn by doing/touching*      **Visual** - *learn by seeing - words and pictures*

**Auditory** - *learn by hearing*      Fleming's *VARK* approach adds "**Writing/Reading**"

By the 6th grade, children have usually developed a "learning style" that will generally remain constant the rest of their lives. According to Marlene LeFever (in the book *Learning Styles*), for every ten students in an average 6th grade class you will find:

- 2 auditory learners
- 4 visual learners
- 4 tactile kinesthetic learners

Yet 90% of all teaching in churches is auditory (preaching through words). That means 8 out of 10 people are not being taught in the way they best learn.

An old Chinese proverb expresses this: "I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand."

If our culture is shaping how emerging generations learn growing up absorbing image-driven media, internet usage etc. this could even impact these statistics further. If we are serious about preaching and teaching, perhaps we need to rethink the most effective approaches to "preach".

What % of worship and communication would you say your church currently is using in worship gatherings:

Tactile/Kinesthetic \_\_\_\_\_ %      Visual \_\_\_\_\_ %

Auditory \_\_\_\_\_ %      Writing/Reading \_\_\_\_\_ %

**PREACHING:**

- moving the preacher from the centerpiece to the cross and the risen Jesus as the centerpiece
- creating a culture of dialogue instead of only presentation

*“I came to quiet my heart, pray and connect with God. But instead, it felt like a Tony Robbins business seminar with a few Bible verses thrown in.”*

- A girl in her young twenties visiting a large contemporary church

- Moving away from the Bible-answer-man mentality and motivational presenter with all the answers to a spiritual director and guide who admits the Bible, and the Christian life is messy and mysterious:
  
- Creating a culture of questioning and dialogue instead of a one-way format (Acts 17:11-12 and the example of the Bereans) :
  
- Empowering women up front, no matter your theology of women in ministry is
  
- Involving other people besides the pastor/minister in Scripture reading and other ways of teaching:
  
- Teaching depth and theology and setting the personal example of the joy of studying the Scriptures for life transformation:



### **SACRED SPACE:**

*We can worship anywhere. But as we gather to worship in community weekly, the space we meet in does reflect values and something about our community and theology.*

#### Worship spaces in the Bible:

- The beauty of the Garden reflecting the creative wonder of God
- Memorial stone piles anointed with oil Genesis 28:18
- The Tabernacle
- The Temple
- The House

Post-Biblical spaces of worship:

- The First “official” Christian spaces for worship based on the Roman Basilica - the “table” was the center
- The Reformation put the pulpit as the center of the church
- Early nineteenth-century revivalism used auditoriums - raised platforms, lighting, more able to control audience
- 1980’s – non-religious architecture - movie theater

Future Biblical Worship:

- Future worship (Revelation) vivid descriptions and colors and symbols used - eventually a garden is the space for worship once again

Question: What values and theology does the place you choose to worship weekly in reflect?



**MUSIC:**

“When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” - Matthew 26:30

“Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, - Psalm 150:3-5

- Some of the subtle dangers of the more recent musical worship emphasis:
- Solving this possible danger:
  - a) Redefining “worship” (*we now worship through music*):
  - b) Disappearing as you worship through music - not becoming a pop-star:
- Worship-teacher using Scripture:

- Spontaneous Worship:
- Paying attention to lyrics and theology of songs:
- Introducing ancient songs and hymns



## **PRAYER STATIONS AND INTERACTIVE RESPONSE:**

"Once we were going to the place of prayer..." Acts 16:16

- Not just teaching the importance of prayer - but providing the time and place to do it
- Creating prayer stations based out of Scripture which further enhance the teaching
- After the sermon, giving time for people to respond, to pray, to interact



## **ART AND VISUALS IN WORSHIP:**

"Then the LORD said to Moses... "I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts - to make artistic designs..." - Exodus 31:1-4



## **VIDEO/FILM IN WORSHIP:**

### **SOME FINAL THOUGHTS**

- If you begin experimenting, make sure you are teaching others the “why’s” and the theology behind it. If not, it can be trendy and shallow
- Doing this as a team based out of volunteers (Ephesians 4:11-12) who don’t just copy another church, but create local unique expressions of worship
- You don’t have to have big budgets or be a big church to do this with lots of technology
- Experimenting little by little to see what God may want you to do, or not want you to do, for your church. Some churches make subtle changes, some churches start alternative worship gatherings once a month or weekly.
- May we be careful to not create another generation of worship consumers by focusing too much attention on the worship gathering.
- May we never push Jesus to the sidelines in the midst of planning creative worship gatherings.
- May we be prayerful about how much money and time we spend on creative worship vs. what we are doing with social justice and the poor and needy.

## EXAMPLE LAYOUT OF A WORSHIP GATHERING

*(this is not as a pattern or something to copy, this is just to give you an idea of a how Vintage Faith Church generally structures a worship gathering. The gathering is around 1 hour and 30 minutes)*

### Pre-Gathering

Prayer Team meets to prayer for the evening an hour before

Hospitality Teams welcome and greet people as they enter and hang out

Art Tables set up and Art Area for children

Mission words and Scriptures are on the front screens

### The Worship Gathering

Video of image sides projected on side walls tying into the teaching

Worship Music Begins - generally 3-4 songs, quite often with choir and Taize song. Scripture readings occur quite often during songs

Responsive Reading

2 Spontaneous Worship Songs selected by people there to allow people to participate.

Prayer

Community Announcements

Community Group Sharing - each week there is one of our Community Groups (home churches) who share what God is doing in their group. This also communicates weekly that this larger worship gathering is not the "church" but is where lots of mini-churches gather.

Dismiss Children to classrooms

Message (35-40 minutes)

Artists sometimes painting on the side of rooms Scripturally based artwork - Art tables for adults also are there for people to create during message

Scripture Readings During Message by Community Group Members

Contemplative Musical Worship (20-30 minutes) - Prayer Stations and Prayer Cove open during Worship where people can walk around if they want to stations, or sit and sing or pray behind curtains

Offering led by Community Group Member

Wrap up and Open Prayer or Prayer Postures or Benediction

**Post-Gathering:** Prayer Times/Post-meeting Think Tanks/other activities in coffeehouse on occasion

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## Resources:

### **The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations**

By Dan Kimball

### **Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations**

By Dan Kimball

**www.VintageFaith.com** - Sign up for free e-zine with articles about emerging worship and emerging church issues

### **Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God**

By Sally Morgenthaler

**www.Sacramentis.com** -Worship resources for the emerging church

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## Contact Information:

### **Dan Kimball**

Vintage Faith Church  
440 Frederick St.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
**Email:** dan@vintagefaith.com  
**Web:** www.vintagefaith.com

### **Sally Morgenthaler**

Sacramentis.com  
**Phone: 303-870-0970**  
**Web:** www.sacramentis.com

### **Church Communication Network**

PO Box 1718  
Mt. View, CA 94042  
**Phone:** 800-321-6781  
**Fax:** 650-745-0660  
**Email:** ccninfo@ccnonline.net  
**Web:** www.ccn.tv

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