

# **Worship Matters Study Guide For Leaders**

Based on a study guide by Peter Turnbull  
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## **Week 1 | Chapters 1-2**

### **Launch...**

Spend a few moments praying before you begin this first week's worth of reading. Pray that God might use the time, both now and over the next 13 weeks, to increase your wonder at the gospel, your ability and willingness to serve your church in music and worship, and your integrity in doing so.

### **Chapter 1 | *The Important Things***

- a) What do you see as the challenges and the joys of being involved musically at your church?
  
- b) What is worship about?

### **Chapter 2 | *My heart: What do I love?***

- a) Study Romans 1:18-22. According to this passage and the chapter, what is idolatry?
  
- b) Referencing page 26, what God or gods do you worship?
  
- c) After you have played music on a Sunday morning, what is it that captivates your thoughts?
  
- d) Bob wrote that when he made the gospel his foundation, it caused him to love Jesus even more than he ever thought he could or would. (pg. 25) In what ways are you seeking to love God's grace?

### **Summary...**

As worship leaders we face many challenges. Sometimes we go through seasons of feeling that all our work is empty, dry, and pointless. Sometimes we struggle with idolatry and who/what we love the most. But, as worship leaders, we must never forget that we have the privilege of leading others to encounter the greatness of God and that we are completely hopeless without the gospel.

## Week 2 | Chapter 3

### Launch...

Read and study all of Titus chapter 1. Spend a few moments praying before you begin this week's worth of reading. Pray that God would cultivate gratefulness in your heart through the knowledge of who He is and what He has done.

### Chapter 3 | *My Mind: What do I Believe?*

- a) What two reasons does Paul give for being an apostle? Why is he concerned with their knowledge as well as their faith?
- b) How does Bob's analogy about his son Jordan help us to understand the importance Paul gives to knowledge? (pg. 27)
- c) Why is it so important to "hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught"? (Titus 1:9)
- d) What are the consequences of teaching false doctrine? Relate the consequences in Titus 1:10-16 to the consequences of today.
- e) Bob suggested several misconceptions about studying theology and doctrine. Which of these is a particular temptation to you? Why?
- f) What are you doing practically to grow in your knowledge of God? What more can you do? Make a plan and implement it.

### Summary...

Theology and doctrine are important. They are especially important for worship leaders because authentic worship is not possible without a right knowledge of God. As you move forward, make sure that theology and doctrine are close to your heart.

## Week 3 | Chapter 4

### Launch...

Read I Peter 4:10-11. Then spend a few moments praying over this passage, asking God to cultivate in you a greater desire to serve his church with the gifts he has given you and a greater desire to bring Him glory above yourself.

### Chapter 4 | *My Hands: What Do I Practice?*

- a) Looking back at the chapter, why is it important for you to develop skill?
- b) On page 37 we see that it is beneficial to cultivate more than one skill. Are there any skills that you can develop beside the main instrument you play on Sunday mornings?
- c) In pages 38-41 Bob talks about 4 specific skills to that should be developed. What skills do you need to develop? *Leadership, Musicianship, Communication, Technology*. How are you going to do that? Be specific.
- d) If you truly desire to glorify God and serve his church, then you will seek the constructive comments and evaluation from others. How do you respond when others criticize your skill or even compliment your skill? What can you do to receive more constructive feedback from others concerning your skill?

### Summary...

While skill does not determine true worship and does not somehow make our worship more acceptable to God, it is, nonetheless, very important. If utilized properly, it will bring more glory to God, serve the church better, and free us to worship God without distraction. We should allow ourselves to be seeking to improve and expand our skills.

## Week 4 | Chapter 5

### Launch...

Spend a few moments praying before you begin this week's worth of reading. Pray that God would show you areas of your life that do not match what you proclaim in public.

### Chapter 5 | *My Life: What Do I Model?*

- a) Take some time to think about how your life reflects each quality Paul listed in I Timothy 4:12 *speech, conduct, love, faith, purity*.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Use these passages to further your study of each quality. Allow God's Word to reveal your sin and teach you how to live a life of integrity.

Speech | *Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6; Titus 2:7-8; James 3:7-12*

Conduct | *I Timothy 3-4; I John 3:18*

Love | *I Corinthians 13; I John 3:16; I John 4:7-21*

Faith | *Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 11*

Purity | *II Corinthians 11:2-3; Titus 2:14*

### Summary...

In popular culture today, it is common to see celebrities or even famous Christians proclaiming something in public but living something completely different in private. As worship leaders, our worship is defined by our lives, not by our songs. If we are not exemplifying a genuine yearning to bring glory to God that touches every aspect of our existence, then we have no business leading worship.

## **Week 5 | Chapters 6-9**

### **Launch...**

Spend a few moments praying before you begin this week's worth of reading, asking God to conform your understanding of worship and worship leading to what he says about it in his Word.

### **Chapter 6 | *So What Does a Worship Leader Do?***

- a) What does Bob mean when he uses the term "Worship Leader"?
- b) What are some positive or negative implications of the use of this term?

### **Chapter 7 | *A Faithful Worship Leader...***

- a) What temptations do worship leaders face?
- b) What is the fruit of faithful leadership?

### **Chapter 8 | *...Magnifies the Greatness of God...***

- a) Is it important to see and help the congregation see how great God is? Why?
- b) How does music and singing help us understand the greatness of God?

### **Chapter 9 | *...In Jesus Christ...***

- a) What does it mean to worship "in spirit and in truth"?
- b) What makes your worship acceptable to God? How?
- c) What implications does this have for your song choices, service planning, and leadership? (see pages 77-79)

## **Week 6 | Chapters 10-13**

### **Launch...**

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### **Chapter 10 | ...Through the Power of the Holy Spirit...**

- a) What are the three indispensable attitudes that Bob describes in this chapter? Think about how (or if) your life exemplifies those attitudes.
- b) How can you be dependent on the Holy Spirit? (page 82-83)
- c) What are some examples of the Spirit's work?

### **Chapter 11 | ...Skillfully Combining God's Word...**

- a) Carefully study Colossians 3:16, thinking specifically about what Paul says concerning how the Word of Christ should be used in music.
- b) How can you increase in your treasuring, singing, reading, showing, and praying of God's Word both in your private and public worship?

### **Chapter 12 | ...With Music...(Part One: What Kind?)**

- a) If used properly, what are some benefits of music in worship?
- b) What are some principles for how music should be used?

### **Chapter 13 | ...With Music...(Part Two: Planning Sunday's Songs)**

- a) Look through the ten principles given in this chapter and evaluate your process of planning services. Does your process align with these principles?

## **Week 7 | Chapters 14-17**

### **Launch...**

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### **Chapter 14 | ...Thereby Motivating the Gathered Church...**

- a) Read Psalm 96. What reasons (or motivations) does the Psalmist give for praising God?

### **Chapter 15 | ...To Proclaim the Gospel...**

- a) Look again at Psalm 96, specifically verses 2-3. Notice the command to proclaim God's salvation continually. Notice also the connection between that proclamation being the reason and motivation for our praises.
- b) What are some ways that you could proclaim the glories of the gospel in your leading?

### **Chapter 16 | ...To Cherish God's Presence...**

- a) Reread pages 137-139, allowing them to shape your understanding of God's presence.
- b) How are you pursuing God's active presence? If you're not, what can you do?

### **Chapter 17 | ...And to Live for God's Glory...**

- a) Look back through each quality that worship should produce in us. Does worship produce these qualities in you? If so, why? If not, study this chapter again and try to understand why worship produces certain qualities.
- b) How can you seek to produce these qualities in others as you lead?



## **Week 8 | Chapters 18-20**

### **Launch...**

Spend a few moments praying before you begin this week's worth of reading. Ask God to give you humility and discernment as you read these chapters. Pray that God will show you weaknesses in your ministry and give you wisdom with making changes.

### **Chapter 18 | *Guiding Principles***

- a) What can you do to learn from other churches and pastors?

### **Chapter 19 | *Transcendent and Immanent***

- a) On which of these two tensions does your church focus most? If both are not emphasized, what can you do to change that?
- b) What is the best way to maintain these two tensions? (page 162) How can you do that?

### **Chapter 20 | *Head and Heart***

- a) Which of these two tensions most characterizes your church?
- b) Read Psalm 145. What are some examples of the "works of God"?
- c) How do the "works of God" relate to the responses of praise? How would you describe the praises? (Notice that praise rises from the truth of God's works.)
- d) Read Jonathan Edwards' quote again on page 166. Notice the emphasis Edwards puts on emotion. What is the foundation of these emotions?

## **Week 9 | Chapters 21-22**

### **Launch...**

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### **Chapter 21 | *Internal and External***

- a) On page 173, Bob wrote, "We're to pursue theological depth *and* passionate expression." What can you do to ensure the pursuit of both in your church
- b) As a leader in your church, how are you personally modelling the pursuit of both to your congregation?
- c) If you needed to move your church toward more expressiveness, how would you do that?
- d) If you needed to move your church toward a more limited practice of expressiveness, how would you do that?

### **Chapter 22 | *Vertical and Horizontal***

- a) Read Ephesians 5:18-19. Notice the vertical and horizontal aspects in this passage.
- b) Does your church model both of these tensions? If not, what can you do to change that?

## **Week 10 | Chapters 23-25**

### **Launch...**

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### **Chapter 23 | *Planned and Spontaneous***

- a) What are some benefits of planning? How can planning benefit your church?
- b) What benefits can spontaneity provide in worship?
- c) Looking at the list of ways to grow in spontaneity (pages 185-187), in which of these can you or your church grow?

### **Chapter 24 | *Rooted and Relevant***

- a) What are some benefits of being rooted? Specifically, what is the value of hymns? (page 190)
- b) Read the Os Guinness quote on pages 192-193. Spend some time thinking about the relationship of relevance and faithfulness. Where do you and your church fall on the spectrum? Have you or your church put an imbalanced emphasis on relevance? (You can use the questions on page 193 to help you as you think through these questions.)
- c) What does it mean to be relevant?

### **Chapter 25 | *Skilled and Authentic***

- a) Which is more important, skill or authenticity? Why or why not?
- b) What does it mean that "skill and excellence are functional"? (page 196)

## Week 11 | Chapters 26-27

### Launch...

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### Chapter 26 | *For the Church and for Unbelievers*

- a) Bob wrote, "The first priority of our Sunday meetings is strengthening the church." Why is that important? (Think about the illustration he gave at the beginning of the chapter.)
- b) How are you assisting your pastor in his role of insuring that the church is growing in maturity?
- c) Bob listed three things that affect unbelievers. How does your leading represent them?

### Chapter 27 | *Event and Everyday*

- a) What does it look like to worship God all the time? (page 207) What does it look like *in your life* to worship God all the time?
- b) Take some time to study Romans 12:1-2, asking questions like "What is our spiritual act of worship," "What Old Testament imagery is Paul picking up on here," or "What does it mean for our worship to be in view of God's mercy?"
- c) Why is corporate worship crucial to God's purposes for his people?

## Week 12 | Chapters 28-29

### Launch...

Spend a few moments praying before you begin this week's worth of reading. Pray that you will recognize your need for his grace, that you will have fresh vision to serve others, and that with one voice you, your pastor, your team, and your church will increasingly glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Chapter 28 | *Always People*

- a) Why do we need to work through relational difficulties?
- b) Read I Corinthians 12:12-31. In what way can the idea of one body made up of different parts be applied to your role in your church and the roles of others? How do they fit together?
- c) According to verse 13, what were you made for? What does that mean?

### Chapter 29 | *Your Church*

- a) What is the value of prayer for a worship leader? How can you make prayer a more integral part of your ministry?
- b) What practices does Bob suggest for receiving encouragement? Would it help you to practice any of them in your life?
- c) Look over Bob's list of ways to handle criticism. Which one(s) can you implement in your life? How is learning to respond well to criticism rooted in the gospel?

## **Week 13 | Chapters 30-32**

### **Launch...**

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### **Chapter 30 | *Your Team***

- a) What kind of cultures does Bob suggest you should be producing?
- b) Using the content from this chapter, how can you implement those qualities in your ministry?

### **Chapter 31 | *Your Pastor***

- a) Who has been given the ultimate responsibility for the direction of the church, you or your pastor?
- b) How can you submit to and serve your pastor? How can you make his job a joy?
- c) Have you been honestly listening to your pastor?