

Drawing Children Into Worship

Instead of just giving them a “show”

Steve Alley

Foundational Questions

1. Can we really “lead” people into worshipping God?
2. What makes the difference between someone who is “just singing” and someone who is worshipping?
3. What is our role in this challenge, and what is God’s role?



Scriptural Foundations

1. **Psalm 100** – We “come before Him” with joyful songs, thanksgiving, and praise. We are to “know that the Lord is God,” He made us, and we are His. The entire focus is on Him! Worship is about focusing on God’s goodness and His provision.

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

2. **Hebrews 10:19-25** – We “draw near to God with a sincere heart, and ...with full assurance.” We “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess.” Worship is about focusing on what Jesus did.

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

3. **Nehemiah 8:8** – The leaders of worship must interpret God’s Word, and His deeds, so that “the people understand...” When “the people” understand, they worship!

“They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear, and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.”

“As I’m standing in front of the church, leading them in songs, scripture reading, and prayer, my goal is not to ‘lead them into God’s presence,’ but to help them remember and celebrate what Christ has accomplished for them through his righteous life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection... Understanding this really brings freedom to me as a worship leader. I don’t have to try to pull off an impossible task. I don’t have to be anxious about whether people will “make it.” I simply must present what Christ has done in a clear and compelling way to encourage people’s faith. The Holy Spirit takes care of the rest.”

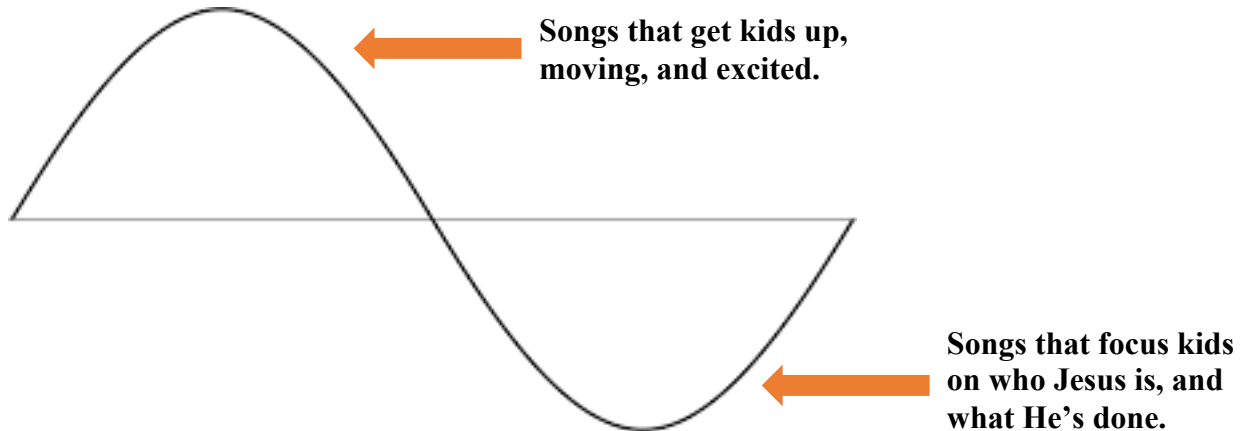
Bob Kaufflin

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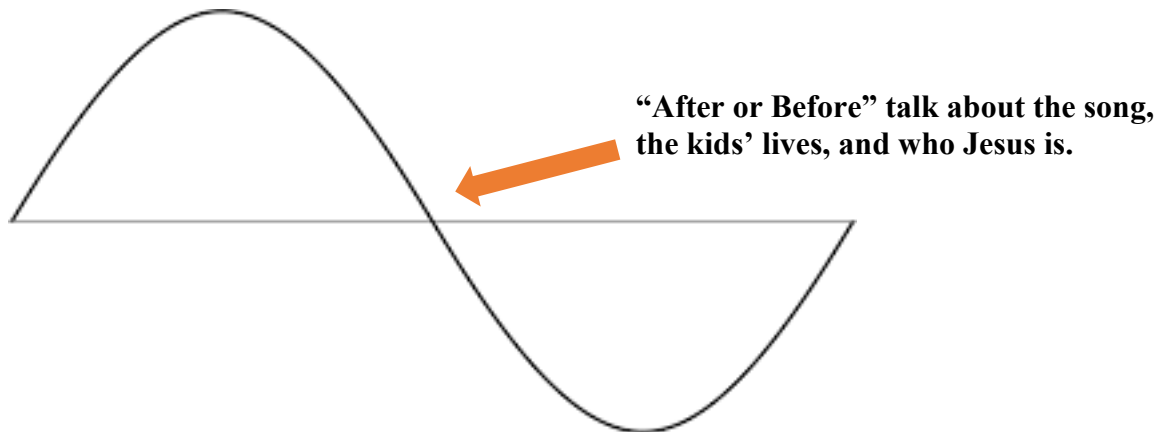
Practical Applications To Children's Worship

Even though it is not our “responsibility” to lead every child into “worship,” we can still create an environment that is conducive to a worshipful feeling. Worship leaders will agree that there is no “perfect” set of songs for the “perfect” worship service. What we can do is to regulate the “flow” of the music to include high intensity songs as well as thoughtful, contemplative songs.

1. Create a balance between “thrill” songs and “contemplative” songs



2. Talk to kids between, or during songs to focus their attention on God, what He's done through Jesus, and His power/provision for their lives.



3. Break the “invisible wall” between the worship team and the kids.



- **Get off stage / walk among the kids**
- **Stop playing, look directly at the kids.**
- **Ask them questions about their lives.**
- **Make comments about your own life.**
- **Tell them about God's goodness.**