

Following the River Vision for Corporate Worship

In a world that is increasingly fragmented and secular, the church needs to find ways to worship that are both meaningful and engaging. The River Vision for corporate worship is a comprehensive approach to planning and leading worship that flows from a biblical understanding of worship and seeks to lead participants into a deeper experience of God's presence.



Following the River: A Vision for Corporate Worship

by Bob Sorge

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This article will explore the River Vision in detail, providing practical insights and examples for how to implement it in your church. We will begin by examining the biblical foundation for the River Vision, and then we will

discuss the five key elements of the River Vision: gathering, singing, praying, listening, and responding.

The Biblical Foundation for the River Vision

The River Vision for corporate worship is based on a number of biblical principles, including the following:

- **Worship is a response to God's revelation.** When we worship, we are responding to God's self-disclosure in creation, Scripture, and Jesus Christ. Worship is not about us and our needs; it is about God and his glory.
- **Worship is a corporate activity.** We are called to worship God together as the body of Christ. Corporate worship provides an opportunity for us to express our unity in Christ and to encourage one another in our faith.
- **Worship is a transformative experience.** When we worship, we are transformed by the presence of God. Worship can change our hearts, our minds, and our lives.

The Five Key Elements of the River Vision

The River Vision for corporate worship is based on five key elements: gathering, singing, praying, listening, and responding. These elements are not meant to be a rigid formula, but rather a framework for planning and leading worship that is both meaningful and engaging.

1. Gathering

The gathering is the first step in the River Vision. This is a time for people to come together and prepare their hearts for worship. The gathering can

include elements such as announcements, a welcome, and a call to worship.

Example: A simple but effective way to begin the gathering is with a call to worship. A call to worship can be a short Scripture reading, a hymn, or a responsive reading.

2. Singing

Singing is a powerful way to express our worship to God. When we sing, we are not only offering our voices to God, but we are also joining with other believers in a corporate expression of praise and adoration.

Example: There are many different ways to incorporate singing into corporate worship. You can use a cappella singing, accompanied singing, or a combination of both. You can also use a variety of musical styles, from traditional hymns to contemporary praise songs.

3. Praying

Prayer is a vital part of corporate worship. When we pray, we are communicating with God and expressing our dependence on him. Prayer can be a time for us to confess our sins, to offer our thanks, and to intercede for others.

Example: There are many different ways to pray in corporate worship. You can pray out loud, pray silently, or use a combination of both. You can also use a variety of prayer forms, such as personal prayers, responsive prayers, and liturgical prayers.

4. Listening

Listening is an important part of corporate worship. When we listen to God's Word, we are allowing him to speak to us and to transform our lives. Listening can also include listening to one another, as we share our testimonies and encourage each other in our faith.

Example: There are many different ways to incorporate listening into corporate worship. You can read Scripture aloud, preach a sermon, or use a combination of both. You can also use multimedia elements, such as videos and music, to help people connect with God's Word.

5. Responding

Responding is the final step in the River Vision. This is a time for people to respond to God's Word and to make a commitment to follow him.

Responding can include elements such as giving, serving, and sharing our faith with others.

Example: There are many different ways to encourage people to respond in corporate worship. You can give people an opportunity to pray, to give, or to serve. You can also challenge people to share their faith with others.

The River Vision for corporate worship is a comprehensive approach to planning and leading worship that flows from a biblical understanding of worship and seeks to lead participants into a deeper experience of God's presence. The River Vision is not a rigid formula, but rather a framework for planning and leading worship that is both meaningful and engaging.

If you are looking for a way to improve the worship experience in your church, I encourage you to consider implementing the River Vision. The River Vision can help you create worship services that are both meaningful

and engaging, and that will lead people into a deeper experience of God's presence.

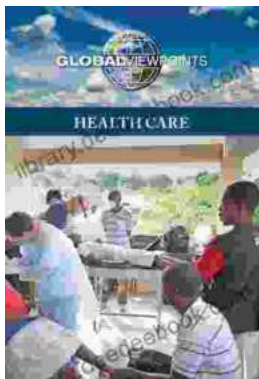


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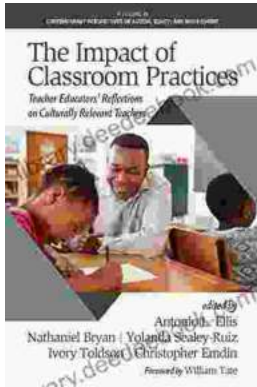
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