

FORMULA TWELVE

The Formula of Life-Giving Worship Experiences
Leader's Notes



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

There is something special about a worship experience that engages everyone, has passionate moments of worship and leads people to a deeper relationship with Christ.

We have come to call services like these 'Life Giving'.

By understanding the *Formula of Life Giving Worship Experiences* and building a worship service that targets *The 10 Responses* you want from attendees, your church will experience services like that every week.



Imagine Attending A Worship Service Without Life

Speaker Note: People may not understand the term 'Life giving', this slide defines that in reverse.

- Unfriendly People
- The environment is dated
- People seem frantic and unprepared
- The start time is different each week
- The sound is terrible and the voices are worse
- Seems to be no order to the service
- Announcements are so long I have become bored
- They care a lot about money, the first sermon was on giving
- They asked guests to raise their hand which is uncomfortable
- The Pastor is very intelligent but way over my head
- The sermon is so long
- I would get involved but I'm not sure how

Every worship experience should help attendees believe and understand John 10:10.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

The everyday struggles of life give:

- Frustration
- Loneliness
- Purposelessness

Life Giving Worship Experiences give:

- Peace & Joy
- A loving community
- Connection to our purpose



First Step To Life Giving Worship

The road to life giving worship experiences begins by asking the question, “Why do we do the things we do?”

For most churches, the answer is not tied to a goal or purpose but tradition.

Too many of us are working on ‘inherited’ models instead of one that sees the most lives transformed.

Note: use an example of an inherited practice that makes no sense but is continued. (Penny March, Birthday Song, etc.)



Relieving Tension

Have you ever bowled into a 7-10 split? You are placed in a situation that requires you to hit two targets with one ball. It creates a scenario that is nearly impossible to win. Many pastors feel that same tension every week because they feel like they have to choose between two targets in the room: a worship service for believers or nonbelievers.

It is a false notion that you have to choose between growing believers and reaching nonbelievers. Both goals can be accomplished by creating intentional environments for both.

The Apostle Paul addressed this tension...

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the mystery of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature...”

- I Corinthians 2:1-2; 6

Notice how Paul created an experience for the immature that only focused on Christ and not the mysteries yet. For the mature, he created an experience that the wisdom of the mysteries can be shared.

By purposing experiences (Sun.AM) that address broad spiritual issues (Love, forgiveness, purpose, etc.) and experiences (Sun. PM or Wed.) that address deep spiritual issues (prophecy, deep theology, etc.) Paul was able to help people grow deeper while maintaining a wide reach.



Worship Experience Win

The 'win' for any worship experience is the level of response from the attendees. Unfortunately, many churches are not aware that there is more than one response that contributes to a worship service win.

Every church should prepare and execute with the goal of meeting 10 Targeted Responses for Life Giving Worship.

Remember the first 'response' starts when attendees step on your property...



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

I. People Genuinely Enjoy One Another.

A gauge of health for every church is the amount of fellowship before and after the worship service.

Remember, your first 7 minutes are extremely important but a church only becomes 'friendly' when everyone is trained to connect with others. Consider using the '10 foot' rule to accomplish this.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

2. The Environment is Perceived as Relevant.

Environments help to nurture desired emotional responses. (Example: when you want to be romantic, you change the light from a bulb with candle light to accomplish your goal.)

Each day, people in our congregations connect, are inspired by, and live with technology, yet churches don't maximize the use of technology. This can paint a church in the same light as a museum, showcasing a style of life that has become extinct.

Does our lighting and decor represent the target audience we want in our church? If not then consider looking at environments that do attract that target audience (hotels, restaurants, etc.). These environments are often designed by professional designers and can be easily duplicated.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

3. A High Percentage of People Become Involved.

Placing as many people as possible in serving roles on Sunday accomplishes several things:

- Excitement is increased because people come with a different mindset than when they just coming to sit.
- Ownership is increased because it has become 'our' service versus 'the pastor's' service.
- Prayer is increased because each team has a pre-service prayer, resulting in more powerful worship services.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

4. People Participate in Worship.

Before we increase the worship level we must change our thinking. Stages are for performing, platforms are for influencing. We want to influence people to worship.

To influence your congregation into a higher worship level you must train with 2 principles:

1. *The mirror principle.* The platform is a mirror what you put and do on it will reflect in your audience. To change your demographics, change your stage. Want people to dress differently? Change the stage.
2. *The passion principle.* The level of the passion on the platform will be two levels lower in the audience. If the platform is worshipping at a 10 the audience will worship at 8. If I jump on the platform, people raise their hands in the audience. If I raise my hands on the platform, people will stand in the audience. If I stand on the platform, people will disengage in the audience.



Finally, train each praise team member to be the worship leaders for the section they front of. Too many praise team members act like back up singers instead of section worship leaders.

The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

5. Everyone's Attention is Kept by Prioritizing a 'Flow'.

One of the most detrimental things to a life giving worship service is broken attention in the audience. A worship service should feel seamless and keep everyone engaged. Remember, if you lose someone, you may never get them back.

Realize that their attention span is limited. This means you must choose to include only the essentials into your worship service. We suggest that the total time of the worship service not exceed 80 mins and only include: limited announcements, worship, guest connect, offering, sermon, and response time.

A well thought out order of service enables you and your team to eliminate ineffective segments and ensures the quality of the flow. Make sure you visit the flow each week with the teams that participate in the service so that everyone is informed and prepared.

Finally, practice transitions and other segments (offering and announcements). What a disappointment to have a great worship set or sermon wasted because the handoffs lost people's attention.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

6. People Utilize 'Next Step' Opportunities That are Clear and Effective.

We will unpack the full follow up process in the next session, "The Formula of Connecting Guests."

Too many pastor's view a worship service as a one time event that happens each week. Instead think of it as a entry point from which, each member of the audience can take a next step. This means that steps should be:

Clear - How are they communicated? (Bulletin, announcements, scrolling slides, etc.)

Effective - Are the steps easy? (Convenient way to give information: Cards in every bulletin. Convenient times offered: Next Steps on Sundays before service. People should be helping others make this step.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

7. The Bible Becomes Retainable and Applicable for Everyday Life.

Even though the Formula of Communication has been covered, helping people retain sermons should be revisited. Every communicator should always be asking “How can I get better?”.

I have found that the un-churched are not asking for a watered down message, they expect to hear from the Bible. What they do want is to hear how the Bible relates to their lives in terms they understand and a tone that shows care and respect.

The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

8. People Participate in an Opportunity of Response.

Never conclude a service without providing a step they can take in response to God's message. *"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."* - James 1:22

We offer two specific and preplanned altar responses in every service:

1. *Prayer for the sick* - We do this during the second worship song so it does not extend the total time of our service.
2. *Prayer for salvation* - No matter what topic the sermon is on we offer this prayer. Our regular attendees know that they can bring a friend because there is always an opportunity for them to come into a relationship with Christ.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship: The 10 Responses

9. People Invite Friends and Family.

The greatest tool for creating a culture where people invite others to church is your worship service.

As a teen, when I brought a friend to church, it always seemed like the service went long the pastor spoke about a subject that my friend couldn't understand and members would make us feel uncomfortable. I loved my church and my pastor, and I enjoyed the services, but over time, I came to the conclusion that our church was for me, not my friends.

By simply building worship services that acknowledge the cares and concerns of guests, our regular attendees will begin to trust that we value their friends and family and want them to come.

Practically, we share these values by:

- Always welcoming guests in a non-threatening way.
- Considering the time of our service.
- Taking extra time to explain passages and points they may not understand.
- Encouraging and equipping our members during invite series.
- Celebrating salvation as our highest goal.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship:

The 10 Responses

10. People Return.

The key to people returning to worship services week after week is found in consistency. Imagine attending a church where each week the location changed; some weeks you met in a 5-star hotel conference center and some weeks in a wet, dirty warehouse. This inconsistency would effect when people wanted to attend. The same is true of our worship services.

When the confidence of our attendees grows because they know every week is excellent, focused, and passionate, they will not hesitate to return every week expecting the best. Consecutive excellent services builds confidence, but when a service falls flat we have to start all over in building that confidence.



With this in mind you should make every effort to ensure that every single Sunday you and your teams are at your best.

Many pastors and leaders spend their Saturdays full of anxiety and worry because they feel unprepared about all of Sunday's activities.

Imagine using your Saturdays as a sabbath. Imagine feeling excited for Sunday to come. Imagine feeling completely prepared and confident.

By utilizing the 10 Life Giving Responses, every pastor can look forward to Sunday without fear.





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The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

Rules are meant to protect us and guide us to success.

I. Thursday night rule.

By midnight on Thursday night we are completely prepared for Sunday. Offering a self imposed deadline is a great way to ensure your preparation.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

Rules are meant to protect us and guide us to success.

2. Use an order of service that protects your flow and goal.

“Most pastors spend hours in preparing sermons each week, but give relatively little time to preparing the worship service.” - Bob Sorge, Exploring Worship

**(2 order of service example screenshots)*

Only use people who possess excellent communication skills time on the platform. Too many churches give platform time to bad communicators, simply because they hold a position.

Additionally, try to limit the Pastor's time on stage before his sermon. We don't want people to be tired of hearing him before he delivers the most important message.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

Order of Service Options:

Option 1:

Worship Song 1

Worship Song 2

Worship Song 3

Worship Song 4

Offering & Guest Welcome

Sermon Bumper or Video Announcement

Sermon

Option 2:

Video Announcements

Worship Song 1

Worship Song 2

Offering & Guest Welcome

Worship Song 3

Worship Song 4

Sermon



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

3. Incorporate the 180.

We attempt to limit our transition of guest welcome and offering to 180 seconds.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

4. Do not allow giving to be a bad experience.

We have found that the level of 'pushing' does not effect the level of giving. Plan for people to learn about the benefits of giving, be thanked for their obedience, and to celebrate how God has used their money.

The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

5. Announcements must be concise and speak to 80% of the crowd.
Planned or video announcements are a great opportunity to insert humor.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

6. Lead past the first four rows.

Too many worship leaders gauge success by participation on the first few rows of people. Our goal is for the person in the back row to be lead into worship.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

7. Tell stories

After preaching and music, testimonies are the single most powerful tool you can include in your worship service.



The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services

White Board

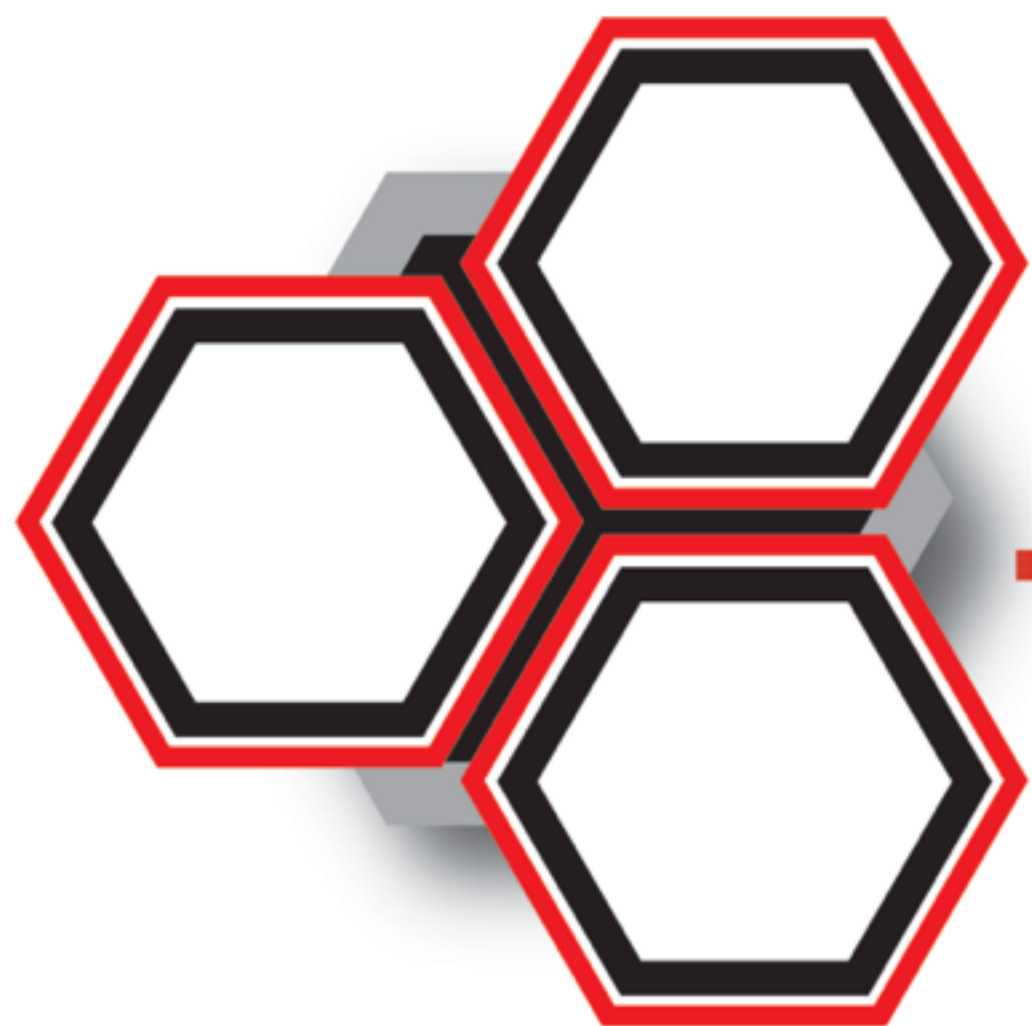
8 Rules for planning and executing a great worship service:

8. Evaluate services

There is no excellence without evaluation.

- Plan a time for feedback
- Give specific feedback
- Focus on the issue, not the person
- Ensure action is taken





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The Formula of Life Giving Worship Services:

Lab

Checklist:

- ✓ **Schedule** A bi-annual meeting to review a video of your Sunday AM worship service. Create a list of improvements you intend to make.
- ✓ **Read** *Engage: A Guide to Creating Life-Transforming Worship Services* by Nelson Searcy
- ✓ **Meet** monthly with the worship and creative team leaders to pray and plan about the next month's worship services.

Discussion Questions:

- ? Are we using 'inherited' traditions or models that do not help us meet our goals?
- ? Would a different order of service create a better flow?
- ? Of the 10 Responses, which one do we need to concentrate on the most?
- ? What positions or team expansions can we create to get more people involved in our worship services?

Tool: Worship Service Packet





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