

Team Devotions

in Worship and Drama Rehearsals



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In the busyness of preparing for Worship and Creative Arts, we must never forget the importance of staying in tune with He who is the reason for the performances. Making devotions a standard component in every rehearsal and meeting brings a visible reminder of the fact that the Worship or Creative Arts ministry is just that, a ministry, and that ministry is, and must be, grounded in worshipping God.

For some time we have felt the need for a comprehensive devotional program for use in Worship and Creative Arts rehearsals, and we have had many requests from DramaShare members and others for such a collection. We are pleased to offer this collection, and we appreciate those who have contributed their devotions to this project.

Each devotion is set up with:

- Opening Up – opening prayer
- Powering Up – Scripture passage
- Thinking Up – brief lesson
- Lifting Up – closing prayer
- Discussion Starter – questions to probe the devotion content

This program gives the leader great flexibility, as it can be used as a very brief 10 minute devotion period, or it can be extended as much as is deemed possible. The Discussion Starters may be photocopied and handed out to each participant for individual or team consideration, you may even want to hand these out at the end of the rehearsal, in preparation for discussion at the next rehearsal. All scripture passages and Discussion Starters have also been installed into a PowerPoint program so you may install this on your computer for easier, more professional group leadership.

It is important that the time of devotion be looked on as one of the important activities necessary for a smooth, productive worthwhile ministry experience. To ignore a time of devotion is to leave participants without a clear understanding of their reason for involvement in ministry.

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There Ain't Nothin' Like The Real Thing, Baby!

Opening Up:

Lord as we meet here we ask that you prepare our minds and hearts that our ministry presentation be worthy of your high calling. But we ask that we not lose sight of the need for personal growth as well as technical development. Amen.

Powering Up:

For although they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it, their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession. Avoid all such people turn away from them. *2 Timothy 3 AMP*

Thinking Up:

Ever noticed that a strength can so easily become a weakness. And likely nowhere is this more evident than in artistic ministry. Example: it is crucial that we present ourselves in a manner which is engaging and motivating to our congregations, since it is in so doing that we assist in bringing those in the pew to a point where their personal worship may be facilitated.

But what of the issue of authenticity? Are we as ministers real in our worship, or are there times on a Sunday morning, (or whenever we minister), when we put on our show face and step out as though saying: "Showtime!"

Firstly, although participation in ministry does not denote personal perfection, is our on-stage image consistent with how we live our lives in our families, our work?

Perhaps even more demanding of an answer, does our artistic ministry relate more to "splash and spectacular" than personal and corporate team worship.

The Message translation tells it this way in Amos chapter 5:

"I can't stand your religious meetings.
I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.
I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
your pretentious slogans and goals.
I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,
your public relations and image making.
I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.
When was the last time you sang to me?
Do you know what I want?
I want justice--oceans of it.
I want fairness--rivers of it.
That's what I want. That's all I want."

"Image making." "Noisy ego-music." "When was the last time you sang to me?"

Lifting Up:

Father God, as we minister we need to consider who we are, what we are projecting, and to whom we are "singing our songs" of artistic ministry. Remind me, Lord, that your wish is that my song be sung to you. Remind me of your expectations for my ministry. Amen.

Discussion Starter:

1. Explain the concept of authenticity in your ministry.
2. Is it possible that as we become more proficient in our ministry that there is a danger we become less real? If so, how do we avoid this?
3. How do you react to The Message translation from Amos chapter 5?
4. Describe “the genuineness of your profession”.

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My Reason For Singing

Opening Up:

Here I am again Lord, I pray you will use my enthusiasm, creativity and desire to serve you. Thank you that you have chosen me as your servant, keep my mind tuned to yours. Amen.

Powering Up:

Satan retorted, "So do you think Job does all that out of the sheer goodness of his heart? Why, no one ever had it so good! You pamper him like a pet, make sure nothing bad ever happens to him or his family or his possessions, bless everything he does—he can't lose." "But what do you think would happen if you reached down and took away everything that is his? He'd curse you right to your face, that's what." *Job 1:9 MSG*

Thinking Up:

Job was on a roll, he had everything going his way. He had a large and prosperous family, herds of sheep, goats, camels, oxen. He had money to burn and friends to burn it with. Storm clouds went right on around Job, passing just close enough to water his lavish crops.

Satan was busy roaming the earth looking for someone to attack, and he simply couldn't think of anyone more likely than good old Job. So Job kinda got set up to fail. God on the other hand had complete faith in Job that he would remain faithful. And after losing virtually everything that he ever had or held dear, Job steadfastly refused to curse God. Although Job's pain was real, and he felt the loss intensely, something made Job hold on throughout this huge reversal. What we need to realize is that Job was the man least likely to stand through this time of testing. His successful background gave him no experience in tough times.

What Job did have was an unshakable faith in God. Job had no idea where this thing was heading, but he knew full well Who was always in charge. This was all Job had to carry him through the tough times, and ultimately it was all he needed.

Interesting to know the end result. Job ended up having much more in the way of worldly goods than he had "back in the good times".

What about you and I in artistic ministry?

We are part of our ministry because we feel we are called by God. But we also are involved because we enjoy this creative ministry, and we obviously feel we have some talent and gifting. What would be our reaction if tomorrow morning, for whatever reason, our ministry was over? Permanently. Forever.

We have been involved in this ministry for 18 years, unthinkable that it could be that long! Recently I was asked the question I posed above. My answer, after some reflection, was that I would grieve the loss, but would be impressed that somehow God has used us for "a season". I really could not mourn what God has been in charge of all along.

Are you in love with the ministry or the Master? Prime question for every minister.

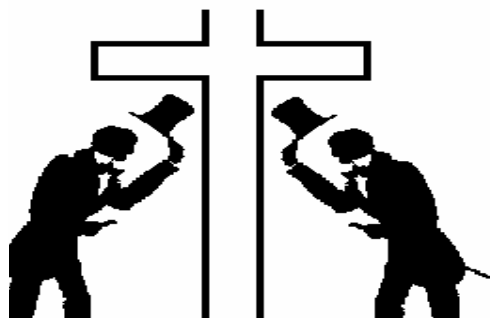
Lifting Up:

Father God, I pray that it is you, and not the busyness of ministry that is the subject of my devotion. Keep my mind focused on the only reason I have a song to sing. Amen.

Discussion Starter:

1. Explain what you believe your reaction would be if you were no longer able or permitted to participate in your current ministry.
2. Give the top three reasons why you are involved in your current ministry.
3. Have you ever thought of other ministries in which you would have an interest in serving? What might they be?

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