

# HOW TO LEAD CHILDREN IN PRAISE & WORSHIP

1. Be able to “carry a tune” or sing in “Key.”
2. It is good to play an instrument or have a musician to accompany you.
3. Establish good, clear communication with the musician (such as hand signals for repeat, slower, faster, etc.)
4. With the musician, make a complete list of songs that might be used in the next months. Divide the songs by theme. Then put the musical key by each title.

<b>EXAMPLE</b>			
<b>“Love”</b>		<b>“Salvation”</b>	
<b>Jesus Loves Me</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Jesus Set Me Free</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>I Love You Jesus</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>I'm Saved &amp; I Know that I am</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Jesus Love, Bubbling Over</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>If Your Saved &amp; You Know it</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>His Banner Over Me</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>OH, How I Love Jesus</b>	<b>F</b>		

5. Prayerfully make a list of songs for your meeting that includes: Action songs, Theme of the Day, Praise, and Worship.
6. Do not teach more than one or two new songs in a meeting.
7. The younger the age, the shorter the songs should be, with simple words and melodies.
8. The melody should not be too low or the children cannot give volume. It should not be too high or the children cannot reach the notes without straining.
9. The melody should have enough variation to be easy to remember, but not too complicated.
10. The rhythm should be simple and easy to follow.
11. If rhythm instruments (tambourines, wooden sticks, maracas, triangles, etc.,) are used, the teacher should give instructions and establish guidelines. It is best to collect them after the praise song.
12. Explain the meaning of the words of the song.
  - a. Examples of misunderstood words:
    - Bringing in the sheaves not bringing in the sheets
    - Gladly the cross I'd bear not Gladly, the cross-eyed bear
    - I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now not I wouldn't take nothing for my Jersey cow
    - Our Father...Hallowed by thy name not Our Father...Howard be thy name
13. The words should be scriptural and doctrinal: truth about God, love for God, love for each other, love for the lost, the second coming, the blood, the word, dedication, surrender, etc.
14. The words should be age appropriate.
15. Sing a new song or play it on a tape before the children sing it.
16. Have the words written on a chart or transparency.
17. Sing it all together several times.
18. When you lead praise / celebration songs or when you lead worship songs in the same musical “Key” it is easier to “flow” without interruption.

19. When the children are truly lifting their hearts to Jesus in worship, begin to sing in the Spirit or sing in tongues...using the last chord of the song you were singing. Have the musician play that chord softly. (Do not play a melody at this time but support the worship with a chord or two.) As you follow the Holy Spirit, the “flow” of singing in the Spirit may change to include physical expressions such as:

<b>Mood</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Children</b>
Warfare	Marching Rhythm	Clap & March
Dance of the Bride	Gentle Rythm	Gentle, Graceful Dance
Celebration	Jewish Sound	Form Circles to Dance

Melodies may be given to the musician to express the “flow” and words may be given by the Spirit to different children to sing different verses of a “new song.”

20. When Jesus’ presence comes in a manifest way (2Chronicles 20:14b), keep doing what you are doing: rejoicing, worshipping, being quiet, etc. Do not change songs. Do not change the order of the meeting. When His “GLORY” comes, (2Chronicles 5:11-14), stay in that manifest presence until He shows you what to do.
- He may reveal His love, His holiness, His mercy, etc.
  - He may be present to heal or deliver.
  - He may give “New Songs” to be sung – Prophetic songs from the children to Jesus or from His heart to them. (The musician supports with the soft playing of some chords.)  
Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; Isaiah 5:1; Jeremiah 3:11
  - He may give visions, fragrances, etc.
  - He may impart gifts of His Spirit.
  - He may reveal “gifts & callings” for ministry.
  - He may share His burden in prayer.

<b>Sample Plan for a Meeting with a “Love Theme”</b>		
<b>Song</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>How</b>
<b>Jesus Love is Bubbling Over</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Motions</b>
<b>His Banner Over Me is Love</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Motions</b>
<b>Oh, How I Love Jesus</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sign Language</b>
<b>I Love You Lord</b>	<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Uplifted Hands</b>
<b>In Moments Like These</b>	<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>(If He Leads) Sing in the Spirit</b>	<b>E<sup>b</sup> or E<sup>b</sup> &amp; B<sup>b</sup> Chords</b>	<b>All singing in tongues making a melody to the Lord</b>