

Syllabus

Basic Info

Course title: “Band Leader Training” 2008 (semester 1)

Discussion Leader: Pastor Tim Smith

Meeting times: The in person meetings will happen on Wednesdays, at 7pm in the Green Room on the West side of the Leary building production area. The weeks in between those dates, you will be responsible to stay in contact with your band mentor to discuss book chapters and to turn in written assignments etc. This course will start on March 5th and end August 20th 2008.

Materials needed: Books and printed handouts as provided. Please bring a note-pad each time we meet in person so you can take notes. You’ll also need a computer and an email address so that you can keep in contact with your mentor. If you do not have a computer and or working email address, please discuss this with your mentor and figure out a practical solution.

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

- “*Band Leader Training*” is intended to prepare future worship leaders for ministry as a corporate worship leader at a Mars Hill service.
- We are concerned about fine tuning our theology to think “Christian-ly” about issues pertaining to corporate worship and how to “reject, redeem and embrace” our surrounding culture’s objects of worship.
- The basic rationale of this course is to communicate the following:
 - 1.) All of us (Christians or not) are worshippers by nature,
 - 2.) All of life is worship and
 - 3.) Its vitally important for Christians to think through the implications of these issues because ideas inevitably have practical, everyday consequences. We want to love and serve Jesus in spirit and truth in our own context and time and to lead others well.

If throughout the duration of this class/discussion group you have specific questions, please contact your mentor at one of the numbers listed above.

Class Dynamics

This course is intended mostly to be a time of informal discussion, so please come prepared to ask questions, discuss and debate. For the 3 “in person” group meetings your leader will take

roughly thirty minutes or so to deal with general housekeeping issues and outline the discussion time and in some cases give a very brief talk about the material. After that we will open up the time for general discussion and Q&A. The in-person lessons will run roughly 2-3 hours. The other assignment discussion-time is to be determined by you and your mentor.

General Requirements

- Obviously this is not a graded “course” but it should be treated as if it *were* being graded.
- These assignments are required and must be completed before going on to lead your own worship band.
- Provide enough time in your schedule to complete the reading, listening, field-trip and writing assignments as well as the weekly discussion time with your mentor.
- Complete assignments on time so that your leader doesn’t have to track you down.

We want to give our very best to the Lord in all that we do and it’s crucially important that we are all on the same page in terms of ministry philosophy.

Content Outline / Assignment Info

Each assignment is expected to be finished on the dates listed below. Please turn your essay assignments in to your mentor for review and bring a printed copy the weeks we meet in person. Refer to the questions for each assignment and write a short 200—or more—mini-essay for each set of questions. During our first meeting time you will be given a “mix-CD” of various songs that you will be required to write about in light of the “receive, reject, redeem” exercise. This assignment will be due at our last in-person meeting. More details will be given as the curriculum develops. (*This CD is not meant to be a “taste-making barometer of cool” but more an exercise to be thinking critically about culture.*) Also, your respective band mentor will make arrangements for their band leaders to attend a concert together. The time of this outing is to be determined by that particular group.

Assignments and Meetings

- 1) *March 5th: **Course Introduction:** WD Mission; WL JD; Fellowship/Meet Mentors, BLiTs; Dpt Unity, Etc. (Joel)*
- 2) *March: **Attend Mentor Rehearsal** (off week) (Mentors)*
- 3) **Personal Worship.** April 9th:
 - a. **Doxology** - Read through chapter three in *Desiring God* by John Piper. According to Piper, what is God's chief purpose throughout history? How does this sit with you? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Should a conflict between performance and praise exist? Why or why not?
 - b. **First Fruits** - Readings through Deuteronomy and Exodus (Ex 25-30, 31:1-11, 35:30-36:1, 35:4-10, 25:1-7, Duet 12:1-14). God wants to be worshiped in a specific way and we owe him the very best we have. What is your specific gifting? How are you called to serve specifically at Mars Hill Church? How will you be empowered to serve? What does worship "their way" mean in Deut 12 in our own time and place? (Pastor Tim Smith)
- 4) *April 23rd: **Spiritual Leadership** of your band members (Joe)*
- 5) *May 7th: **How to lead the congregation in Worship** (Joel)*
- 6) **Universal Worship.** May 14th:
 - a. **Theology of Worship Part 1** - Read Chapter 1-5 in *Unceasing Worship* by Harold Best (provided). How does Best define Worship? Discuss the difference between "Policy" and "Operations" theology.
 - b. **Theology of Worship pt. 2** - Read chapter eleven of *Unceasing Worship*. How does Best define idolatry? How can art/creativity become idolatry? Discussion re: the relationship of idolatry and Jesus as the only mediator. (Pastor Tim Smith)
- 7) *May 28th: **Songwriting** Team will layout definitions (good music, lyrics, and how to do 'covers') as well submission guidelines. (Joe, Joel, Luke?)*
- 8) **Missiology.** June 18th:
 - a. **Missional Worship** - Read chapter twelve of *Unceasing Worship*. How does Best define culture? What is the link between culture and worship? What are the differences between "truth" and "artifact"?
 - b. **Receive, Reject, Redeem, pt.1** - Read through Acts 17. How did Paul "contextualize" for the gospel? Discuss what Paul received, redeemed and rejected. Discuss these issues in light of pre-determined concert outing (at this point you should have attended a concert outing together) CD review is due. Watch Tim Smith's receive, reject, redeem talk from the Continuous Worship Conference. (A link to this will be provided at a future date.)
 - c. **Receive, Reject, Redeem, pt. 2** - Discussion of Acts 17, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Discussion of contextualization in light of Acts 17, 1 Cor 9. Viewing of selected music documentary and discussion. Discussion of CD and Concert reviews.
- 9) *June 25th: How to use **Demoing** - to your growth and advantage. (Brian E)*
- 10) *July: **Attend Mentor Rehearsal and Sunday whole day** – This will include the BLiT shadowing their mentor to learn greater detail of Production Processes and Sunday routines. (Mentors)*