

WORSHIP TRAINING - WEEK 7

THE ADVENTUROUS PURSUIT OF CREATIVITY

We worship the God of all creation. Everywhere we look, from the tiniest atom to the grandest galaxy, we find evidence of an extravagant and exuberant Creator God. Scientists and artists alike marvel at the dazzling design of creation. Whether we peer through a microscope at the detailed butterfly wing or through a telescope at the star-filled canvas of a night sky, we find the stamp of the Creator's artistry.

We human beings are made in such a way that our ears can hear around 300,000 different tones, and our eyes can distinguish between 8,000,000 colour differences. God has designed us to recognise and value His astounding creativity. More than that, He has formed us to be creative ourselves. As worshippers of the Creator God, and as those made in His image, one of the best ways we express what's going on inside is through outward displays of creativity.

TALKING POINT

Some questions to get us thinking:

1. Doesn't 'creativity' in worship simply amount to change for change's sake? I mean – if something works, why alter it?
2. Does being creative in our corporate worship simply mean singing new songs?
3. How can we become a bit more creative as an individual musician and as a worship team? Is there a difference?
4. Can you think of 2 things which you could do to be more creative?

OUR GOD IS A CREATIVE GOD

Creativity is essential when it comes to congregational worship. Our God is an infinitely creative God and creativity in how we worship Him is a sign of abundant life, our hearts exploding in wonder at the God we worship. Creativity in our services doesn't seek to simply be musically clever or to change for the sake of changing. Instead, it's an imaginative and heartfelt response to the received revelation of God. Also, as we lead others we can inspire them to worship with our creativity.

In times past, the church has stood on the cutting edge, leading the way in many forms of art and music within society. In fact, many looked to the church to lead the way in music – as the 'ecclesiastical style' was the most pioneering and exciting sound around. The worshipping church should be leading the way in all things creative – as we have so much more to sing about than the world!

Often creativity in church is not encouraged. In environments of harsh criticism and no room for risk-taking, the creative flow will perish. We are blessed in Kings church to have a leadership team who actively encourage us to experiment and take risks and we need to encourage each other to be adventurous in our worship.

There is in essence nothing wrong with playing to our strengths and doing the things that work. If something works, we should build on it and use it for the blessing of our church. However, if we stay the same we will stagnate; we want to be incredibly inspiring to our congregation and leading the way in the worship of our God. We want to give them an accurate

picture of God to encourage their worship. If our God is extremely creative and we are not, we are not portraying God correctly.

Finally, being creative doesn't just mean doing something new – it can mean doing something that hasn't been done for ages, such as singing an old song or using instruments that do not feature in a regular Sunday.

SUM IT ALL UP...

- Our God is infinitely creative and we want to lead the way in portraying Him accurately in our corporate worship.
- Being creative doesn't always mean doing something weird for the sake of it.
- We need to encourage one another to be constantly creative and not do the same things week in week out.