



Project #12

EVALUATE YOUR WORSHIP TEAM'S PLATFORM PRESENCE

OBJECTIVE: To enable a worship leader to critically assess platform presence, identify areas of strength and areas for improvement, and develop actionable steps to foster more engaging and authentic worship leadership. The ultimate goal is to honor God and help others bring their worship to the Lord by removing distractions and effectively communicating through body language.

Read pages 233-238 in *The Worship Ministry Guidebook*. Check out the resources at WorshipMinistryGuidebook.com in the group study section, including a video on platform presence from Gateway Worship.

Materials Needed:

- » The book's sections include "Platform Presence" and "Removing Barriers to Connecting with the Congregation."
- » Watch the video linked in the group study section of WorshipMinistryGuidebook.com
- » Have available video recordings of at least two recent worship services where you and your team were leading.

Part 1: Foundation and Understanding (Reading & Reflection)

- » **Read and Internalize:** Carefully read the sections on "Platform Presence" and "Removing Barriers to Connecting with the Congregation" from the book. (pp. 233-238)
 - **Understand the "Why":** Note that your words contribute only a portion of your communication, while **body language, vocal inflection, facial expression, and posture make up the rest**. Your presence can either help or hinder people in worship.
 - **Review the 8 Simple Tips** for Improving Platform Presence.
 - **Consider Barriers:** Note the common physical barriers mentioned (music stands, folders, pulpit furniture) and their impact on connection.
 - **Reflect on Personal & Team Mindset:** Before watching the videos, consider the author's emphasis on authenticity, serving the congregation, and avoiding a "concert/big show venue feel." Remember, the goal is to **enable the people to sing their praises to God** rather than creating a spectator event.

Part 2: Video Analysis - Team Evaluation

- » **Watch the Videos (Team Focus):** Select a video of a recent worship service. Watch the entire service minus the sermon, paying close attention to the entire worship team's platform presence.
- » **Initial Impressions:** What is your overall impression of the team's visual engagement and leadership? Do they seem stoic, bored, or engaged?
- » **Apply the "8 Tips" (Team):** Go through each of the eight tips for platform presence (p.234) and evaluate the *team* collectively.
 - **Be aware:** Are team members aware of their posture, hands, and facial expressions? Do they smile and look engaged even when not singing on mic?
 - **Be confident:** Does the team appear well-prepared and confident, or nervous?
 - **Be authentic:** Does the team genuinely appear to be worshipping, or are they just going through the motions?

- **Be an example:** Is the team modeling passionate worship, encouraging the congregation to reflect their actions?
 - **Be obedient to the Scriptures:** Is the team reflecting biblical commands to raise hands, clap, or shout for joy?
 - **Be engaged:** Are team members making eye contact and appearing present in the moment?
 - **Be in control:** Is the team using their bodies to help lead the congregation effectively?
 - **Don't be a distraction:** Are there any distractions related to clothing or inappropriate movements?
- » Evaluate the team based on the concepts from the **instructional video from Gateway Worship**.
- » **Identify Physical Barriers (Team):** Note any physical barriers (e.g., music stands, excessive equipment, vocalists hiding behind instruments or folders) that might be hindering the team's connection with the congregation.

Part 3: Video Analysis - Self-Evaluation

- » **Watch the Videos (Self-Focus):** Re-watch the same worship service video(s), but this time, focus exclusively on your own platform presence.
- » **Self-Critique:** Apply the same “8 Tips” and barrier considerations to yourself as well as the concepts from the instructional video from Gateway Worship.
- » **What was good about your presence?** What positive body language, facial expressions, or engagement did you display? Where did you appear confident, authentic, and engaged?
- » **What was bad about your presence?** Where might you have appeared stoic, distracted, or disengaged? Did you bury your head in music? Were you aware of any “weird quirks”? Were you potentially a distraction?
- » **Connection to Barriers:** Were there any personal physical barriers you created or encountered?

Part 4: Written Report and Improvement Plan

- » **Summarize Discoveries (Good & Bad):**
- **Team Evaluation:** Write a summary of your findings regarding your worship team's platform presence. Detail specific examples of what was effective and what could be improved, referencing the “8 Tips,” Gateway video insights, and barrier removal principles.
 - **Self-Evaluation:** Provide an honest assessment of your own platform presence, highlighting your strengths and areas needing development, with concrete examples from the video.
- » **Formulate an Improvement Plan:** Based on your discoveries, outline actionable steps for improvement for both the team and yourself.
- **Specific, Measurable Actions:** For example, instead of “be more confident,” state “memorize 80% of song lyrics to reduce reliance on music stand.”
 - **Address Barriers:** Suggest ways to remove physical barriers, such as memorizing music for vocalists or adjusting the stage setup.
 - **Rehearsal Integration:** Consider how platform presence can be explicitly addressed in rehearsals, beyond just musical issues.
 - **Personal Preparation:** Include how you will individually prepare.

By engaging in this detailed evaluation, you will gain a more profound, practical understanding of how platform presence impacts congregational worship and develop a concrete plan to enhance your team's and your own ability to lead people into transformational worship.