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IDENTIFYING, TRAINING, AND DEPLOYING NEXT GENERATION WORSHIP LEADERS

I. Identification – who are we looking for?

A. Our replacements

1. Younger than us by a generation
2. Followers with leadership potential
 - a. Hold our values to an extent
 - b. Connected to their peers
 - c. Vision and passion for worshiping God
 - d. Grow to lead others to do the same

B. Those who want God's glory more than their own

1. Walk with God
2. Love for the local church
3. Humble and willing heart

C. Musical aptitude

1. Display a level of musicality
2. Demonstrate ability to grow in skill
3. Can sing
4. Taking up an instrument is helpful

D. Relational growth

1. Teachable
2. Interaction with others
3. Able to lead and grow in leadership (simple test: observe who follows them)

II. Training

- A. Always point to God
 - 1. Our confidence is in God's promise to seek worshippers
 - 2. Their confidence should not be in...
 - a. Songlists
 - b. Arrangements
 - c. Preparations
 - d. Vocal abilities
 - e. Band members

- B. Your investment
 - 1. Priority of spiritual mentorship
 - a. Passion for God in all areas of life, not just Sundays
 - b. Private passion for God that leads to public
 - c. Importance of cultivating humility
 - 2. Pray for them regularly
 - 3. Carve out time to work with them
 - a. Context for relationship
 - b. Context for service
 - 4. Take a big picture approach
 - a. They are in a "school of worship"
 - b. Think 5-year plan

- C. Help them build a library
 - 1. High emphasis on the Word of God
 - 2. Resources on the attributes of God
 - 3. Gather for them what has already been taught
 - a. Don't have to reinvent the wheel
 - b. Worship Conferences online
 - c. Sermon series
 - 4. You should know and contribute to their reading diet
 - 5. Recorded music – examples to learn from

- D. Give them opportunities to learn

E. School of Worship Model

1. Regardless of church size, equipping is a priority
2. Always learning something
3. Best place to learn in the context of the local church
4. Encourages a specified and well rounded approach to education
 - a. Foster love for hymns and songwriting
 - b. Encourage in youth a love of multi-generational expressions
5. Keeps visible the need to continue training future generations
6. Idea of mentoring and discipleship
 - a. They are your apprentice
 - b. They will develop their own apprentices

III. Deployment

A. Provide contexts for practical leadership

1. Start with small group
2. Plan together at first
3. Encourage and evaluate
4. Give them a team to lead
5. Follow through for improvement

B. Measure their growth

1. Observe their response to preaching and teaching
2. Keep a journal of their progress
3. When they have proven faithful and able, expand their context for leadership
4. Areas to evaluate
 - a. Submission to pastoral leadership
 - b. Strengths
 - c. Limitations
 - d. Ability to prepare and execute
 - e. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit when leading
 - f. Receptiveness to correction
 - g. Care for those they are leading

IV. Questions and Answers

A. Personal examination

1. Does my senior pastor have any thoughts in this area?
2. Have I considered the field where God has placed me?
3. Am I motivated to serve future generations in my local church, even those I won't meet in my lifetime?
4. Am I encouraging children in their pursuit of musical training for the glory of God?
5. Who do I currently have assisting me in leading worship?
6. Do people follow this individual?
7. Are they training others? (It may be as simple as saying to them "You need to impart what you're learning to others")
8. Who demonstrates creativity and spontaneity in their worship leadership?
9. What contexts do I already have to train? (More effectively utilizing existing contexts)
10. Am I imparting meaningful encouragement to the next generation?
11. What relationships already exist between myself and the next generation in my local church that God may want to use in this regard?

B. General Q&A