



# BREAKTHROUGH

A GNJ guide to best practices for worship

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Growing Churches Do This

### Behaviors in Excellent Worship

Excellent worship does not depend on a style or setting. However, there are some behaviors that are regularly present in excellent worship.

Does your worship each week incorporate these six behaviors?

	Yes	No
Signs, announcements and/or bulletin gave instructions for children's programs.		
First-time guests were welcomed (but not singled out).		
Liturgy, music and leadership were engaging and encouraged all to participate.		
The service was designed around one theme relevant to the community and/or world.		
Attendees were challenged or invited to make a decision or commitment.		
A testimony or story of life and/or community transformation was shared.		



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## Background on Worship Behaviors

### **Signs, announcements and/or bulletin gave instructions for children's programs.**

For parents, the safety and experience of their child is more important than the worship experience itself. Signs and announcements show that your church expects children and is ready to care for them well. Also consider the cleanliness of children's space and the reception parents and children receive there.

### **First-time guests were welcomed (but not singled out).**

Greeting time is an especially anxious moment for a first-time guest. First-time guests do not want to be singled out or made to stand. However, acknowledging that guests are welcome will put them at ease. Every Sunday we need to expect and welcome first-time guests, even if there are none present.

### **Liturgy, music and leadership were engaging and encouraged all to participate.**

Traditional and contemporary worship can be designed and led in a way that is lively and engaging or stale and uninviting. The words spoken and sung, and the way they are performed must inspire the congregation to fully participate.

### **The service was designed around one theme relevant to the community and/or world.**

For the Gospel to be heard in a world oversaturated with messages, we must organize our services around one major theme. Translate that theme into the liturgy, music, sermon and visual design. Align the children's curriculum so families can discuss the same idea.

### **Attendees were challenged or invited to make a decision or commitment.**

Discipleship and spiritual growth happen when people hear and do God's Word. Don't just fill people's heads with knowledge; provide inspiration for their hearts and practical application for their lives. Then create a moment for prayer, personal reflection, individual and/or community action to commit to the next step. This is a powerful end to any sermon.

### **A testimony or story of life and/or community transformation was shared.**

There is no communication tool more powerful than story. Every week provide space either for a spoken testimony or have the pastor share a celebration or story. These stories show God's love and grace in action in the lives of individuals and the community. A giving talk to introduce the offering is one excellent moment to highlight the transformational work of the church.

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