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?

<table>
<thead>
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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.