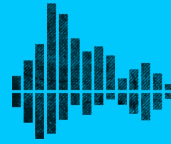


A Guidebook for Visual Worship



 **worshipVJ**.com

SAMPLE EDITION

The full edition of this Guidebook is available for purchase @ worshipVJ.com/store.

THE STORY

More and more as I've been traveling and teaching on Visual Worship, church leaders have been asking about resources and books for training... not just on the gear, nuts & bolts, etc.... but on the heart of Visual Worship, the approach, & the philosophy something they can take home to study and to put in the hands of their pastors and volunteers.

I wish I knew of a resource like that to point everyone to. And then that still small voice whispered, "*Why don't YOU write it!*"

And so I did!

This is where "A Guidebook for Visual Worship" originated... not "THE Guidebook", just "A Guidebook..." This is my humble attempt to share what I've learned over the years, the questions I've been asking, and some design principles to help churches. I tried to write it in a format that encourages, inspires and challenges our thinking and points our creativity towards Jesus! It doesn't cover absolutely everything in the world, nor does it go into extreme detail... the goal was to keep it as "101" as possible, as it's designed to be a concise yet meaty read for pastors, leaders & volunteers.

This sample edition includes the first section from the full edition, as well as the Table of Contents. It's designed to help you get a feel for the content and style of the Guidebook.

The Guidebook is a training resource designed to cast vision & to equip. It's designed not only for the one person who does everything but for team environments as well. Use this tool to start the Visual Worship conversation at your church, to set a standard for vision and purpose, and to introduce a fresh language for your tech and creative worship ministries. It contains an overview of Visual Worship philosophy as well as practical advice and guidelines to follow when designing media slides and curating worship.

My hope is to inspire, equip, and resource you as we strive to keep the Creator, not our creativity, the center of our worship.

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What is Visual Worship?

“God gave us eyes so that we can worship Him. If we were not able to glorify God with what we see, He would not have created us with eyes to begin with.”

- Anthony Lee of Hong Kong (worshipVI.hk)

Worship is our response to a revelation from God, specifically, Who He is, what He’s done, and what He’s yet to do. So then, how can visual media/art facilitate a revelation from God (just as text on paper can), and how can we use visual media as a way of responding to God?

Eyes are windows to our souls...a way to let the Light in. We see His glory displayed all around us in creation as well as in His people, both inside and outside the Church. Savor a beautiful sunset, gaze up at a star-filled sky, play with children in a developing country...you will see God at work with your own eyes! They speak of and declare the glory of God! (Psalm 19)

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

- Romans 1:20

What we see in the world around us deepens our knowledge and understanding of a Holy God and causes us to respond to Him in a fresh new way. Visual Worship involves awareness of the world you live in and seeing Christ at work in visual ways. Not only can we see the evidence of God and His revelations, but we have an incredible opportunity to respond and reflect His glory through visual expressions.

“Visual Worship is declaration, not decoration. It isn't decorating a product for attracting, it's the declaration of a people for remembering.”

- Steve Frost, *The Work of the People*

Visual Worship is only one small piece of the puzzle though. For sight is just one of many senses that God has created us with. However, it seems to be a gift that has been severely misunderstood in the Western Church. The question for you and your church is, are you willing to open your eyes and to shift your approach (if needed) in order to more clearly reflect the creativity of God? And if so, what does that look like in your setting?

“We human beings tend to look only at end results and overlook the process. We see someone do something so creative that it leaves us speechless, and we are in awe of it. We want to be like them, able to produce similar stunning outcomes. But we forget that what we are looking at is the result of many years of that person gathering creative outcomes and combining them in new ways to provide new solutions. We also face the temptation to be consumers of the creativity of others. There is nothing wrong with taking an idea from somewhere and using it in your worship setting. But make sure you go through the process of making it your own and reframing it to fit your community and context.”

- Mark Pierson, *“The Art of Curating Worship”* p. 219

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