

Worship Matters Video Intensive with Bob Kauflin

Session 00: Introduction

Transcript

Hi. My name is Bob Kauflin. This is a brief introduction to the Worship Matters Video Intensive.

In 2008 I wrote this book, *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God*. At that time I had been leading congregational worship for about 30 years. I wrote *Worship Matters* because I wanted to connect a biblical theology of worship with what we actually do on Sundays. I wanted to root our practices in the authoritative soil of God's Word rather than what works, what draws crowds, what everyone else is doing.

I wanted to build congregational worship on Biblical principles that transcend cultures, generations, and ethnic groups. I thought if it doesn't work in Boise, Idaho; Baruch, India; and Baghdad, Iraq; then what we're doing probably reflects more of our culture and preferences than Scripture. I've been encouraged by the responses to my book and have thanked God he found a way to use all my mistakes to benefit others.

One of the ways I'm privileged to serve is as the Director of Sovereign Grace Music. Our mission is to produce Christ-exalting songs and training for local churches by local churches. One day I was talking with my assistant, Brittany (who also happens to be my daughter) about putting together a video training series that would build on the thoughts in *Worship Matters*. The idea of doing something new was a little overwhelming, so she said, "Why don't you just talk about what's in your book?" Duh. So, we put together this video intensive which includes much of the material but also gives me the opportunity to add new material and to demonstrate some of things I wrote about.

I. Why This Series?

If you're watching this series I'm guessing you probably oversee, plan, or help lead congregational worship. You might be wondering if it's really worth watching. 12 videos is a lot of time. So, I want to tell you what my aim is.

Like the book, I plan to cover a lot of practical ideas to help you become a better leader, pastor, instrumentalist, vocalist, or songwriter. We'll talk about things like developing your skills, arranging songs, putting songs together, growing in spontaneity, planning a service, and more.

II. Should I Watch This Series?

My first concern—God's first concern—isn't with the things we do, but who we are. So, while these videos are going to contain information that will help you practically, that's not all they contain. I want to challenge and inspire you to be captivated by the glory and love of God, to be amazed by the beauty and mercy of Jesus Christ, to be undone by the power and sweetness of the Holy Spirit so that you can't help but live your life for his glory.

If you watch this series and don't love Jesus Christ more and don't have a greater passion to see other people love and obey him, this series will have been a waste of time—for you and for me.

III. How to Use This Series

Like the book, the videos are divided into four sections. The first two sessions cover the first section, The Important Things: Our Hearts, Minds, Skills, and Life. Sessions 3-8 deal with the actual task of leading and planning congregational worship. In Sessions 9 and 10 we look at the healthy tensions of worship, and in the last two sessions we focus on our relationships.

You don't have to have read *Worship Matters* to benefit from the video intensive, but I think you'll get the most out of it if you have read the book—or even read it as you're working through the videos.

Watch these at your own pace. Different sections might be more relevant to your situation than others. Feel free to pause the video at times to think more on what we're talking about. Look up the Scriptures, and, if it's helpful, you can always come back to different sections later.

Watching these videos with friends or the musicians at your church would be ideal, as you get to work through ideas together. You can also download questions or discussion topics in the links below for each session that will help you get more out of the content.

IV. Conclusion

However these videos might serve you, I want to thank you for the time, energy, thought, prayer, and perhaps resources you've already invested into serving God's people with your gifts. I pray that God brings abundant fruit from your labors as you seek to serve his people, in the power of his Spirit, for the glory of the only Savior, Jesus Christ.