

THE DIFFERENCE: REHEARSAL AND PRACTICE

Worship Team Training® University

Downloadable Studies / Branon Dempsey

The Me, Us and Them Mindset

The “Me,” “Us” and “Them” mindset is about Practice, Rehearsal and Sunday Worship. Does your team know the difference, or is it all blended? If your team is like most churches, things such as practice, rehearsal and worship all run together. It’s like each event is downplayed or given little thought, until we face the day of service. Then we worry about how we didn’t practice and rehearse well. We even begin to question the sincerity of our worship. After the service, we subject ourselves to thoughts of defeat and feelings of doubt. But it doesn’t have to end this way. Let alone a discouragement for next week’s service.

If we desire to be better leaders and better bands, each of us need to learn how to start well in order to finish well.

Practice, Rehearsal and the Worship Service: “The Me, Us and Them” Mind-set. Each of these events are separate, they must be. In order to know the difference, we must understand this important concept: Practice time is not rehearsal time, Rehearsal time is not practice time and the Worship Service is neither.

The “Me” Mindset. Practice: 1. [noun] the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method. 2. [verb] or perform (an activity) or exercise (a skill) repeatedly or regularly in order to improve or maintain one’s proficiency. Notice the word “improve,” it’s what good practice accomplishes.

Here’s an excuse: “I’m not a professional.” You’re right, so why bother? However, let me say this: just because God hasn’t called you to be a professional, doesn’t mean He hasn’t called you to be proficient in something.

Practice is the “me” mindset. Not a selfish perspective, but a personal reflection of your abilities. It’s a train of thought that focuses on your skill, approach and purpose. This is a mindset to help you gear the preparation of your instrument and/or voice. It also sets the pace of how well you’ll rehearse with the team. This is a time to focus on what you can do. You are practicing your sound, your tone, your control, your timing and other mechanics. Seek out 10 minutes per day and watch it grow. Implement a routine of practice and watch both your skill and confidence grow.

The “Us” Mindset. Rehearsal: a practice or trial performance of a play or other work for later public performance • the action or process of

rehearsing.

Rehearsal is the “Us” mindset. Now we are talking about you and your team. How well did you manage your time in your practice? How are you applying it to your rehearsal? Simply, you rehearse “together” what you practiced independently. The focus is no longer you, but now your sound added to the band. It’s called interdependency.

The “Us” mindset helps me identify what the room is hearing. You rehearse the sound, dynamic and texture of the band. It’s a playing-to-the-room effect, in which you hear the team as a whole. This perception gives us an inside clue on what to expect at the worship service. Additionally, it also provides a sense of the congregation will expect.

The “Them” Mindset. The Worship Service: the environment and condition of serving God through worship. It’s also a kindness **and** way of help for people to engage with God.

The mindset of “Them,” consists of the worship team, putting themselves in the shoes of the church. We are also responding to God as a collective whole. What does the service sound like, look like and feel like? If you can picture inviting friends to your house, you most likely would be mindful of the food, cleanliness and appeal. It’s about delivering a humble quality of service for a good experience. Plus, people will come back.

For worshipers and for God, we are to be conscience about the way we sound, lead and engage. When we prioritize the praises of our God, we become more aware of our presentation and authenticity to God as we are also before people. When the experience is right, we as the band join the people in ministering to the Lord as one. At this point, we transition from a “Them” mindset to a God mindset.

When we learn to look at our preparation in these three perspectives, our purpose for leading worship changes. It becomes less about us, and more about God and the people we serve. In worship, our role as leaders is simple: worship and help the church worship.

About the Author:

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