***The Power of a Whisper***

***Hearing God. Having the guts to Respond.***

**Worship Series**

**Produced by**

**The Salvation Army, USA Central Territory**

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**FOREWORD**

***The Power of a Whisper***

**Worship Series**

**Week 1 – *The Whisper-Led Life***

**Week 2 – *Divine Input for the Day-to-Day***

**Week 3 – *Practice, Practice, Practice***

**Week 4 – *Wide Open for Good***

The greatest buzz of the Christ-following life comes from hearing directly from God—sensing his guidance to lean into some situations and steer clear of others, to speak a word one moment and fall silent the next. To adopt bold new practices and ditch the self-destructive habits that only do us harm. By his own declaration, if Bill Hybels could wave a wand over the entire world, he would wish for each person alive today to have this type of personal, meaningful and *frequent* encounter with the living God. “God’s wish is to speak into the situations faced by every individual, every family, every church, every school, every business, every government, every media outlet, every organization and every organism imaginable,” he says, “and to train their steps according to his good and perfect will.”

“Without a hint of exaggeration,” says pastor author Bill Hybels, “the ability to discern divine direction has saved me from a life of sure boredom and self-destruction. God’s well-timed words have redirected my path, rescued me from temptation and re-energized me during some of my deepest moments of despair.”

In *The Power of a Whisper*, Hybels casts vision for what life on earth can look like when God’s followers turn an ear toward heaven—discerning whispers that arbitrate key decisions, nudges that rescue from the dark nights of the soul, promptings that spur growth, urgings from the lips of another person and inspiration that opens glazed-over eyes to the plight of injustice and poverty in our world.

(Adapted from *The Power of a Whisper*, inside and back cover)

Other companion products available:

## The Power of a Whisper Curriculum Kit – a four-week church experience

Published by Zondervan

Join bestselling author and pastor Bill Hybels as he casts vision for what life can look like when directed by divine input from above. In this four-session video-based study, your

Group will learn to navigate life through whispers from God.

**APPRECIATION**

In producing this series, the Music and Gospel Arts Department expresses its indebtedness to Majors Stephen and Morag Yoder and Captain Carol Lewis for creating the sermons. Special thanks to Peggy Thomas, Marty Thomas, Mark Bender and Janey Hult for their creativity, editing, and hard work.

***THE POWER OF A WHISPER***

**WORSHIP SERIES**

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* Sermon Outline

**Week 2 – Divine Input for the Day-to-Day**

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama – Psst!
* Sermon Outline

**Week 3 – Practice, Practice, Practice**

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama – Word of God, Speak
* Sermon Outline

**Week 4 – Wide Open for Good**

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama– Making the Call
* Sermon Outline

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| ***The Power of a Whisper?* WORSHIP SERIES**  EXPLANATORY NOTES |

**WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. To better accommodate changes, these worship service outlines are provided on CD-ROM.

If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.

**SONGS**

Music is an essential component of any worship service. It is a signal to unite and begin. It establishes the setting for praise and meditation. It adds variety, vitality and focus to worship. It can also be a means of learning and retaining spiritual truth. Music provides a means of expressing and sharing our faith.

These worship outlines are designed with the smallest to the largest congregation in mind, allowing for live (piano, ensemble, band, etc.) and recorded (compact discs) accompaniment.

All CD accompaniment songs/choruses have been chosen from the “Hymn Tune Accompaniment (HT),” “Hallelujah Choruses (HC)” and “Hallelujah *Prayer* Choruses” accompaniment compact discs. Very often an optional song or chorus is given which would fit at that point in the service in place of the original choice. You may wish to sing several of these songs as an additional worship time.

The information for each service component is listed in a grid format as in the following example.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HC#179 – Come to Jesus** | HC-179 | HCD16-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#825 – Christ for the world, we sing** | TB-217 – Moscow | HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |

Accompaniment abbreviations:

SB Salvation Army Song Book (words)

TB Salvation Army Tune Book (music)

HC Hallelujah Choruses

HTD2-T2 Hymn Tune Accompaniment Disc #2, Track #2

HC-179 Hallelujah Choruses, Song #179

HCD3-T3 Hallelujah Choruses, Disc #3, Track #3

Careful attention is needed when singing songs in a medley. When planning and selecting songs it is important to understand the difference between songs about God (a horizontal perspective) and songs sung to God (a vertical perspective). There is a generally held principle that these perspectives should not shift back and forth. For instance, if you were to sing “O Worship the King” (horizontal song) and “Shout to the Lord” (vertical song) consecutively, it is more conducive to worship to sing “O Worship the King” first and then “Shout to the Lord”, rather than the reverse. Once a vertical song is sung, it needs some type of resolution, whether it be a prayer or another vertical song. Worship “moments” can lose their impact if care is not taken in this area. Also, try to avoid mixing songs with radically different tempos or styles.

Vocal benediction options have been included for each service which can be an effective way to end each service.

**CALL TO WORSHIP/READINGS**

Each service begins with the Call to Worship which introduces the theme of the service. Readings have been included as transitions between service elements. Feel free to edit these as needed.

It is suggested that the service bulletin contain information regarding the source of the weekly readings. Example:

Today’s readings are from the *The NIV Worship Bible*.

**SERMONS**

Sermon outlines are provided as a guide in preparation for a total worship experience. *Each outline should be viewed as a catalyst for preaching, not a verbatim reading.* These will be most effective if they are adapted, using personalized illustrations that relate to your specific congregation. Original illustrations have been left in and are in bold and should only be used as a guideline.

**DRAMAS**

Drama sketches, monologues, etc., have been included in each service to add variety and depth to worship. The experience of *seeing* the Word portrayed, in addition to *hearing* the Word proclaimed, can provide worshipers with increased understanding and perspective.

While it is not always necessary to memorize these scripts, memorization enhances any dramatic presentation when time and proficiency permit. Props are kept to a minimum and, for some sketches, most can be optional. It is important to take time to read through all the scripts before using this series to know what preparations will be needed for each week.

**SUPPORT RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THIS SERIES**

Keyboard/Instrumental Accompaniment

The Salvation Army Songbook

The Salvation Army Tune Books (piano/band)

The Salvation Army Chorus Book

Hallelujah Choruses Songbooks 1-19

Hallelujah Choruses Instrumental Series 1-19 or

Hallelujah Choruses Piano/Rhythm Book (Nos. 1-100, 101-150)

**OR:**

CD Accompaniment

Hymn Tune Accompaniment compact discs (10 total)

*Hallelujah Choruses* Accompaniment compact discs 1-18

# Bibliography

Hybels, Bill (2010). *The Power of a Whisper,* Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States of America: Zondervan.