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Worship Leaders, We Are Not Rock Stars



Synopsis

Why do you lead worship? Often the motives are mixed. You find yourself wanting to point people to Jesus but also feeling a desire to be noticed and praised, to make yourself the center of attention. Stephen Miller is the worship pastor for a large church of young, energetic Christians. He and his band record albums and lead worship for conferences all over the country. He knows the temptation to make himself the show, to pursue fame, to seek the applause of other people. And he has learned to want nothing to do with it. In this book, Miller exhorts his fellow worship leaders to make Jesus the center of all their efforts. He teaches how to do this with Scripture, teaching, prayer, story, and song. In all, Miller's call for worship leaders is to lead worship, whole-hearted and whole-minded exalting of God, rather than making a spectacle out of it. *Worship Leaders, We Are Not Rock Stars* will encourage and challenge worship leaders by clarifying their purpose and identity, and by doing so will bless those they lead.

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Customer Reviews

"Stephen Miller's new book offers us the fruit of his many years of serving as worship leader and lover of the gospel. Thankfully, *Worship Leaders, We Are Not Rock Stars* does not read like a book written by an expert with a chip on his shoulder, rather by a called man with a burden on his heart—a man who has obviously been humbled and gladdened by the God of all grace. With the wisdom that can only come with years and tears, and with practical insights of a seasoned veteran, Stephen's book offers timely advice and rich encouragement to worship leaders and

congregants alike." - Scotty Smith, Founding Pastor of Christ Community Church, Author of The Reign of Grace and Restoring Broken Things

"Worship Leaders, We Are Not Rock Stars is much needed and long overdue. It is directed to those who lead us in cooperate worship as we honor King Jesus when we sing, but it is also a book pastors would do well to heed as well! In these pages you will find words of wisdom that are honest and insightful. Hidden sins of the heart are exposed and biblical solutions are provided. I love Stephen's heart and his transparency. I also love the vision he cast for those who occupy what is nothing less than an office of the church. There is no place in the Church for rock stars or superstars. There is only a place for a Savior whose name is Jesus. Stephen Miller makes this clear. Thank you my brother."

- Daniel L. Akin, President of South Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

"With warmth and vulnerability, Stephen Miller invites us on a journey to recover the vocation of "worship leader." He explores the key dimensions of this role, with a careful examination of Scripture on every page. If a new generation of worship leaders would read and discuss this book together, our churches would be better for it. After all, what we do when we gather in worship as the people of God becomes what we believe, for better or for worse. Worship doesn't just reflect our faith; it forms it. This book will help our worship leaders form our faith in richer ways."

- Glenn Packiam, Pastor of New Life Downtown, author of Discover the Mystery of Faith: How Worship Shapes Believing

"Stephen Miller is right. Jesus builds his church on a Rock (Matthew 16:18), but not on rock stars. In this book you will find bold, convictional, practical wisdom on leading toward worship that is neither boring nor entertainment-based. We can all use this sort of reframing of the most important thing we do in this age or in the age to come."

- Russell D. Moore, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention

"I've always known Stephen Miller to be a man of passion and integrity whether in writing music, leading worship, or leading his family. The principles that guide him as a worshipper both on and off the stage shine through in Worship Leaders, We Are Not Rock Stars."

- Matt Carter, Pastor of The Austin Stone, Co-Author of For The City & The Big Win

"Jesus is our ultimate worship leader, and he didn't come as an entertainer, but as a servant. As such, worship leaders should see themselves first and foremost as worship servants who point worshipers to Christ, not to themselves. Whatever the style of worship in our churches, and however old our songs, the temptation to entertain is real. This book calls pastors, elders, deacons, musicians, and all those leading in worship to strive to get our eyes off ourselves so that worshipers will be less distracted by us and, thus, more focused on worshiping God according to his Word."

- Burk Parsons, Co-pastor of Saint Andrew's Chapel, Editor of Tabletalk magazine

"Worship Leaders, We are Not Rock Stars is a helpful contribution in the

conversation of what worship leaders are, and what they are not. Elevating the role of the worship leader leads to gross idolatry. Diminishing the role of the worship leader departs from biblical church leadership. I pray that this book helps clarify the role of worship leaders as we set out to serve our local congregations in gospel ministry."- Matt Boswell, Pastor of Ministries and Worship at Providence Church, Frisco, TX, founder of Doxology & Theology

Weâ€™ve seen himâ€”the messy-haired rocker worship leader or the neatly coiffed music director. Either way, though, he wants to be a rock star, to make himself the center of worship.Â Stephen Miller is the worship pastor for a large, energetic church. He and his band record albums and lead worship for conferences all over the country. One day it struck himâ€”he was the guy making himself the center of worship. So he began sorting through why he does what he does.Â Why do you lead worship? Often the motives are mixed. You want to point people to Jesus but also desire to be noticed and praised. You want to make the best possible music for the biggest audience but perhaps instead youâ€™re leading a modest, unglamorous congregation. Such mixed motivations can cause significant internal and external conflict.Â No matter your role, Miller exhorts you to make Jesus the center of your worship. He reaches out to the church as a whole to show what true worship is and how to be led through teaching, prayer, story, and song. In all, Millerâ€™s call is for leaders to lead worship and the church to participate in itâ€”wholehearted, whole-minded exalting of Godâ€”rather than making a spectacle of it.

This book helps us all break from the idol of producing worship services to becoming and being worshippers of Jesus. Whether you are the guy in the skinny jeans and tats who leads believers in worship with an acoustic guitar or a credentialed classical musician who leads worship with an orchestra of trained musicians, you should read this book and have all worship team members read this book. Let his thoughts and insights surface and call into question our lean toward idolatry and promotion of self rather than a desire for whole-hearted worship even if it means obscurity. This is an easy read in sense of its readability but it is not an easy read if we actually answer some of the questions at the end of each chapter. The probing can be an uncomfortable healthy exercise. We have been given an incredible gift and responsibility in leading people to know, adore and surrender to Jesus Christ. This book will help some of us (self included) regain the purity of our call and vocation. It will also help others launch into an authentic and solid foundation of what it means to lead others in worship according to the Bible.

Reading this book would be very profitable for any "worship leader", aka, church music person. Some of these books spend way too much time telling you the wandering story of a rock 'n roller who comes to mellow his/her worship music tastes out of conviction and not pressure from the congregation. The book would prove helpful for worship leaders and pastors to study together; provided they're not the same person. Recommended by several sound pastors and theologians. I'm praying our worship people will read the copy I gave to our church.

I'll start off by stating that I'm not a theologian with any type of degree and I don't review books for a living. I'm just a regular everyday guy that happens to play guitar and that by God's grace has been put in a position of worship leader for the church I attend. That being said I will give my honest review of this book (four stars). I found this book to be very refreshing, practical and edifying in that instead of completely dealing with the theology of worship and all the technical details of worship, it deals with the realities of being a worship leader. As worship leaders and members of the worship team it's easy to get lost in the business end of worship and distracted from our true purpose as worship leaders. I truly enjoyed this book. I found it to be a great "Heart check" type of book and I especially liked the 3 or 4 question study guide at the end of each chapter. I plan to use this book as I study with my worship team.

While this book is great for worship leaders who are in a "rockstar" environment, it will be redundant for someone in a traditional music director setting. If you are a worship leader, and you lead music from off to the side of the stage, and your congregation sings loud, and you don't talk for 5 minutes between every song, then this book will not be a HUGE help to you, as you will find yourself saying "yeah...I already do that or don't do that" to many of the points. Of course, Stephen stays on point with excellent discussion on Gospel centred worship, a life of holiness, and a call for theological depth. There are many things even a non-worship leader can learn from this book about Jesus in general, as any good church ministry oriented book should have. If you are like Chris Tomlin etc, and lead worship in a "rock star" setting, then yes, this book is for you!

It doesn't matter how many reviews you read, you can still be skeptical that a book lives up to the hype; what a pleasant surprise that this book delivers! I've been leading worship in various churches for the past 32 years and I think EVERY worship leader should read this book! I love how Stephen points us back to Jesus in every chapter, informs us of our calling and reminds us that if we call

ourselves Christians, then that should radically effect every area of our lives BEFORE we ever step on a platform to lead the church to exalt the name of Jesus! Thanks, Stephen! Well done.

Great book. Well written. Not nearly as good as his second book, Liberating King (which is phenomenal) but if I had read this one first my opinion might be different. It's more philosophical than practical but is an excellent read for new worship leaders.

This enthusiastic book reminds us who we are in Christ Jesus and challenges us to live as an adopted child of God! EVERY worship leader should read this book. But beyond that, if you believe Jesus Christ is the son of the living God and therefore wish to worship Him through serving Him and serving others, this book is an injection of truth and inspiration that reminds us of our true identity in Christ. I couldn't put this book down and since it read so fast, I think I'll read it again and again.

This book served as a great reminder of the role(s) of the worship leader, an encouragement to pursue Jesus first and a challenge to continue growing. Stephen laid out support for a good theology of worship and also practical advice for worship leaders and pastors. I'm going to use it as I train up other worship leaders. I highly recommend this book!

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