

## Brainstorming Ideas About a Second Worship Service

1. **Size.** Many church worship services have begun with 10 or 20 people, but it is easier with 30 or more. Do you think you could find 30 people interested in the new service before you begin it?

2. **Sit close together.** If people are spread apart and not sitting near one another in the contemporary service (or the traditional), what could you do to seat people closer together? It has a big impact on the preaching, the music, the emotions of the members, and guests who visit. It will help both worship services to grow if you can help people sit closer together. For example, at Ingleside they rope off the last few rows in the back of the auditorium.

3. **Chairs.** If you expect 30 people, don't have more than 45-50 chairs. You really prefer that people sit next to one another, not separated by two or three empty chairs. Build community!

4. **Try something new.** A contemporary service which is intentionally trying to be "different" to reach new people who are not attending your church now, does not have to "look" like a regular worship service.

- People don't have to sit in straight rows. They can sit in a couple of semi-circle curved rows, or at round tables.
- You can be informal. People don't have to dress up. You don't have to print orders of service.
- You can have testimonies every week that inspire and help people get to know one another.
- The music leader could say a few words or read a verse before a song if desired. By speaking, it helps people get to know him/her and it may help connect to the song.
- You could have prayer and discussion around the tables. (10 min for singing, 20 min for preaching, 30 minutes for discussion and prayer around tables). Praying for every person who comes to worship every week in a small group is not a bad thing.
- If the right instruments aren't available yet, you don't have to sing at all or you can put a praise team from the internet (another church) on the screen and sing along with them.
- The preaching could be by the pastor, another staff member, a church member, or a video of the sermon at FBC Orlando or City Church in Tallahassee (or anywhere). You could mix it up.
- The service doesn't have to last 60 minutes. It could be 50 minutes or 70 minutes.
- You could use video in the service for announcements, testimonies, humor, illustrations, music or preaching if desired or necessary.
- You may want to limit the singing to two or three songs. You may want to keep it simple with just an acoustic guitar.
- I suggest not having a "come forward" invitation. Instead, invite people who want to talk or pray to come to a Prayer Table or Information Table at the close of the service. You will have friendly people at the tables who are good listeners and can present the gospel if needed.

5. **Be like Chick-fil-a.** The contemporary service ought to major on friendliness and community. You could have 6 or 8 greeters who are going above and beyond to intentionally connect with the people who attend (having conversations not just shaking hands at the door).
6. **Coffee.** If you think it's important, you could have coffee, tea and hot chocolate when people arrive, and they can bring their cups into the service if they want to.
7. **Song choice.** In most of the services I visit that use modern contemporary songs, not many people are actually singing in the congregation. You may want to choose songs that aren't hymns, but they might be praise choruses that are 15 or 20 yrs old and have a melody people enjoy singing.
8. **Praise Team.** Some churches are intentional to have children, young adults and older adults on the praise team if you have one or in the choir.
9. **Information Tables.** I suggest having several ministry tables where people enter and exit from the service. Maybe 4 or 5 tables with information about Small Groups, Serving Opportunities, Children's ministry, Student ministry and Single adult ministry. Every Sunday, a friendly person will man each of these tables and be ready to help people with good information and next steps.
10. **Time.** You could have the contemporary service at 11:00 at the same time as the traditional but in a different room or building. If not, then at 9:45 a.m. so you have dual worship and dual SS hours.
11. **Small Groups.** Churches that do a contemporary service well also pair that kind of service with small groups in homes. Or at the very least, they have SS classes that are very intentional to be discussion and fellowship oriented. Discipleship happens best in the context of relationships.
12. **A Process to Join.** Since so many people today did not grow up in a Christian home, many churches today want to help people have a good foundation and good understanding of the gospel. Come up with a strategy or process about how people will join your church. They don't walk forward and are voted on a minute later. They express interest in becoming a Christian or joining the church and someone helps them set an appointment to talk with someone or they attend a multi-week new member orientation class where they have lots of opportunity to talk about what it means to accept and follow Christ, how to grow as a Christian, how to feed themselves, and which small group they would like to attend.
13. **Guest Speakers.** When I was pastor of a contemporary service, about once every two months I invited a leader from FCA, Young Life, BCM or some other group that was good with next generation to come and be a guest speaker. Sometimes they brought music people with them too. It was great.
14. **Single Adults.** When we asked single adults in their 20s and 30s if anyone was interested in getting a group together to eat lunch after church either at someone's home or at a restaurant, almost 100% were interested and they did that every Sunday. I didn't have to plan anything, they talked it over among themselves and worked out a consensus. It didn't cost anything either. 50% of your community might be single and 75% of the Next Gen target group might be single.
15. **Make the sermon more engaging.** Think about how you could:
  - 1) ask people to read the verses for the sermon before they come on Sunday and
  - 2) give them 3-4 discussion questions after the sermon is over. They could have discussion groups as part of the worship service or use the questions at home.