# WHAT IS HARP AND BOWL?

**A. *When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. – Revelation 5:8***

**1.** The harp speaks of worshiping God with musical instruments.

**2.** The bowls of incense speak of the intercessory prayers of the church**.**

**3.** Harp and Bowl is the expression of prayer and worship together.

**4.** The harp and bowl model is built around the intercessory prayer and worship reality that exists around the throne of God.

**B.** King David used this model when he set up musicians and priests around the Ark of the Covenant in the tabernacle.

***He appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, even to celebrate and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and second to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom and Jeiel, with musical instruments, harps, lyres; also Asaph played loud-sounding cymbals, 6 and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests blew trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God. – 1 Chronicles 16:4-6***

***When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinances of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: “ For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel.” – Ezra 3:10-11 (NKJV)***

**II. WHY THE MODEL? – PRACTICALLY SPEAKING**

In the Great Southwest Prayer Center, our vision is to give God the gift of sustained 24/7 prayer with worship. To be sustainable, it must be enjoyable, and to be more enjoyable we find mirroring Rev. 5:8, combining prayer with worship, is helpful for that.

**A. A communication tool that facilitates team ministry.**

The model is primarily a communication tool that enables a worship team to flow boldly with clear communication. Timidity hinders a worship team flowing in the Spirit.

**B. Sustainable flow- Allows the team to flow in creativity longer as a team and in the Holy Spirit.**

**1.** We can go higher and longer in spontaneous creativity with structure.

**2.** “Launch and “land” – the model gives us a starting point to launch out into spontaneity and then gives us a place to land back down again to get ready to launch again.

**C**. **Inclusiveness**- anyone can participate from the newest most inexperienced believer to the mature. This model allows for and invites others in the room to engage whether they are musical or not.

**D**. Model promotes unity. What we are doing here is a city wide movement; this means that we have people participating from all different types of worship backgrounds. Each of those worship expressions are valid and beautiful as they glorify God, but when we come together in this place using one model promotes unity. We can bring in our own distinctive styles within this Harp and Bowl model. This also helps others in the room engage with the worship and prayer.

**III. DIVING INTO THE HARP AND BOWL MODEL**

**A.** The central principle in the model is developing the passage by antiphonal singing.

**B.** Antiphonal means responsive.

***…And the four living creatures…day and night they do not cease to say, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him… and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive glory, and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they exist and were created.” – Revelation 4:8-11***

***When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinances of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: “ For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel.” – Ezra 3:10-11 (NKJV)***

**1.** Antiphonal praying (singing) is the place where the creativity can take off. It is the means by which we develop scripture passages and where spontaneous choruses develop.

a. Chorus Leader and Antiphonal singers- sing responsively to the prayer leader, highlighting the words or phrases the prayer leader is praying. Multiple singers build off of each other and the prayer leader.

b. In the simple Harp and Bowl model, the worship leader also acts as the Chorus Leader (if they want to)

c. In the full Harp and Bowl model, there can be one Chorus Leader and 1 or more antiphonal singers.

**2.** There are 3 values expressed in antiphonal singing

a. Team ministry (we go farther together)- this is not about one person, but rather a team building from each other and going further together.

b. Centrality of Scripture (God’s language unifies our heart with His and others) – we want our prayers, spontaneous phrases and choruses to come from Scripture.

c. Inclusiveness (anyone can participate) – Simple melodies and phrases allows for everyone in the room to participate, even the unmusical.

**IV. WORSHIP CYCLES- 2STAGES**

**A. Worship Cycles**- each set is made up of worship cycles. A 2hr. set could have 4-8 cycles in it.

**B**. There are 2 stages in each cycle.

**1**. **Corporate Worship Song**- this helps everyone engage in God’s presence together. We encourage songs that direct us to God instead of only about God.

**a**. choosing songs sung to God verses songs sung about God

**b**. choose songs most people would know

**c.**. maintain a dominate melody throughout (this allows ungifted singers to be able to join in with the worship)

**2. Developing a passage by antiphonal singing- 4 parts**

**a.** praying through a bible verse/passage

**b.** isolating a phrase- prayer leader designates one phrase from bible passage that you want to develop. Indicates the phrase by saying “In the name of Jesus” before the phrase.

**c.** develop the theme by singing from isolated phrase a short 5-10 sec song

**i.** Repeat- echo back the phrase as it was said

**ii.** reword- put the phrase into your own words

**iii.** reference- reference other bible verses that pertain to the theme you are developing.

**(stay on theme, sing one at a time, sing loudly and boldly, sequence- Chorus leader, singer 1, singer 2, WL)**

**d.** spontaneous chorus- the Chorus leader establishes a chorus for everyone to sing (8-10 times) at any time.

**i.** sing boldly- on the microphone

**ii.** easy choruses- easy melodies

**iii.** end the chorus by sing a name of God – Like “Jesus” or “ God”, or “YHWH”

**iv.** can use chorus again throughout the set.

**V. Intercessory Sets**

**A.** Intercession means to intervene in prayer to God on behalf of another person or situation. When you intercede to God in behalf of someone(s), you are joining with God’s heart for that person, city, or situation. We are not begging God to do something that He does not want to do.

***Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. – Hebrews 7:25***

B**.** In an intercessory prayer set we are focusing on one topic to intercede for.

**C. Role of the Prayer Leader in Intercessory Set**

**1.** In the intercessory prayer format, the prayer leader is the leader of the set

**2.** The prayer leader initiates developing the Bible passage by reading the Bible verse and then praying it in their own words and then isolating a phrase.

**a.** We highly encourage everyone to pray prayers from the Bible. There are many New Testament prayers and OT prayers and promises in the Bible. We highly value and encourage prayer leaders to pray through these.

**b.**  When we pray prayers from the Bible, we are focusing on God, we can be confident that we are praying the will of God,.

**c.** We want to avoid preaching prayers, God knows the statistics and God knows the meaning of His Word and He is our audience. This also allows others in the room to engage with the prayers. Remember we are speaking to God not to the room.

**d.** We want to mostly avoid negative prayers. There is a time for that and sometimes it is proper to be expelling the darkness, but the quickest way to get rid of darkness is by turning on the light. Praying prayers that invite God’s presence, kingdom, and will verses prayers directed toward the devil are easier to engage with as well. All the prayers in the New Testament are positive, none of them focus on satan or sin but rather an increase of the positive.

**3.**  Make sure to introduce prayer topic before you pray and say the Bible passage which you are praying from in order to help others in the room to engage.

**4.** Prayer Leaders should not sing into the microphone. By design the prayer leader’s microphone is turned up louder than all the others.

**5.** Prayer Leaders please don’t pray more than 5minutes at one time without letting the singers in, you can pray more than once and pick up where you left off.

**6.** Prayer leader can also invite people to pray on the microphone praying for the topic focus. (The prayer leader has the authority to gently take away the microphone if someone is praying something inappropriate or prophesying something negatively.)

**7.** Prayer leaders have the option to “INVITE” others in the room to participate in small group prayer (groups of 3-5) praying for any burden on their heart. During this time the worship leader continues on with worship songs keeping the volume a little lower than normal so that people can hear each other.

**D. Example of Intercession Cycles**

**Cycle 1: Sample Team Model** (Worship Leader, Prayer Leader, and Antiphonal Singer)

**Worship Song*:*** *All is for your glory*

**Develop Passage*:*** *Ephesians 1:17-18*

*Read: …* I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

*Pray passage: Pray passage in your own words (not praying longer than 5minute chunks)*

*Develop passage: Antiphonalizing back forth between the worship leader/prayer leader. \*\* You can go back and forth as much as you want. Prayer leader and also continue on praying the same passage and then launch out again antiphonalizing.*

**Cycle 2: Full Team Model** (Worship Leader, Prayer Leader and multiple Singers, musicians)

**Worship Song***: Holy Spirit*

**Develop Passage:** *Ephesians 3:16-19*

*Read:* that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

*Pray passage: Pray passage in your own words (not praying longer than 5minute chunks)*

*Develop passage: Antiphonalizing back forth between the worship leader /singer /and prayer leader. \*\* You can go back and forth as much as you want. Prayer leader and also continue on praying the same passage and then launch out again antiphonalizing.*

***Appendix A***

What to do during brief/debrief?

A. **T**he briefing and debriefing is a very important part of building unity within a team and vital for a set to flow effectively.

**B.** The briefing occurs 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the set. In the briefing the team,

* talks about where they sense the Holy Spirit is leading that set. The worship leader and prayer leader are leaders among equals on the team and set the tone for the direction of the set. However,
* Be open to the Holy Spirit speaking through the other members of the team for the direction of the service.
* Talk about any technical needs with team. What are the communication signals the team has decided on, flow of songs, etc.
* Pray as a team in unity for the set.

C. After the set, the team debriefs. As you debrief:

* Discuss what the Lord did or spoke in the set
* Discuss any technical issues
* Pray as a team, thanking God for what He has done.