KADESHY · FREE CHECKLIST

First time *leading worship.*

A simple checklist for the week before, the rehearsal, the day itself and the moment it's over. Tick it off as you go.

> *I remember the nerves before I led for the first time. You don't need to be the best singer in the room. You need to be prepared, and you need to remember who you're leading people towards. This is the list I wish someone had handed me.*

The week before PREPARE

- [ ] **Pray first.** Ask God what He wants for this service before you pick a single song.
- [ ] **Talk to your pastor or leader.** Ask about the theme, the message and how long you have.
- [ ] **Choose 3 to 5 songs.** Mostly ones your church already knows. A first time is not the moment for five new songs.
- [ ] **Pick keys for the congregation, not just for you.** If people can't reach the notes, they stop singing.
- [ ] **Send the setlist by midweek.** Songs, keys, a recording and chord charts to the band, and lyrics to whoever runs the screen.
- [ ] **Learn the songs until you don't need the lyrics.** Your eyes should be free to look up, not down.

The rehearsal PRACTISE

- [ ] **Arrive early** and set up before everyone else gets there.
- [ ] **Practise the transitions,** not only the songs. The gaps between songs are where most things go wrong.
- [ ] **Agree on simple signals** for "repeat the chorus", "go again" and "end here".
- [ ] **Decide how each song starts and ends,** and who leads it in.
- [ ] **Pray together as a team** before you finish.

On the day BEFORE YOU START

- [ ] **Get there early** for a proper sound check, with every voice and instrument.
- [ ] **Eat something light and drink water.** Avoid dairy and very cold drinks just before you sing.
- [ ] **Warm up your voice** for 10 minutes: humming, lip trills and gentle scales.
- [ ] **Have your setlist where you can see it,** with keys and any notes.
- [ ] **Pray with your team,** and remind each other why you're there.

While you lead IN THE MOMENT

- [ ] **Look up.** Make eye contact with the congregation. You're leading people, not singing at them.
- [ ] **Keep your words short and real.** One sincere sentence is better than a speech.
- [ ] **Give simple cues** like "Let's sing that again" so people know where you're going.
- [ ] **If you make a mistake, keep going.** Most people won't notice, and the ones who do will forgive you.
- [ ] **Stay open to the Holy Spirit,** but trust the plan you prepared. Preparation and freedom work together.
- [ ] **Remember who it's for.** You're not performing. You're pointing people to Jesus.

Afterwards REFLECT

- [ ] **Thank your team,** one by one if you can.
- [ ] **Ask one trusted person** for one thing that went well and one thing to work on.
- [ ] **Write down what you learned** while it's fresh, ready for next time.
- [ ] **Rest.** Leading takes more out of you than it looks.

You're not becoming a star. You're becoming a servant.

Every time you lead faithfully, God can trust you with a little more. Start small, stay humble and keep growing. I'm learning right alongside you.

Each week I share one honest post on kadeshy.com about leading worship and growing in ministry.

No one at the top but Jesus. · Elijah