



ESSENTIALS



VENTURE >
CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Essentials, a program designed to prepare new musicians to serve on the Venture Church worship team. Whether you're an experienced musician or just starting your journey in a worship context, Essentials is tailored to equip you with the skills, knowledge, and values needed to thrive on our team.

Purpose and Goals

The Essentials program is more than just musical training; it's a pathway to understanding the heart and soul of worship at Venture Church. Our primary goal is to instill in you the core values that guide our team, familiarize you with the tools and systems we use, and provide instrument-specific training that aligns with our church.

Here's what you can expect to learn:

- **Our Worship Team's Values:** Understanding what drives us as a team and how we connect with God and each other through music.
- **Tools and Systems:** Mastering the practical aspects of our worship services, including Planning Center, the "and system," the Nashville numbers system, and more!
- **Instrument-Specific Training:** Receiving personalized feedback and guidance tailored to your instrument, ensuring you're well-prepared to contribute to our worship experience.

What Does Success Look Like in Essentials?

Success in Essentials is not just about playing the right notes; it's about embracing the mission and vision of Venture Church's worship team. It's about growing in your relationship with God and your fellow musicians, honoring each other, and pursuing your calling with passion.

As you journey through Essentials, you'll find a supportive community of coaches and fellow musicians ready to guide and inspire you. Together, we'll explore the profound role that music plays in corporate worship, and how you can be a vital part of our ministry at Venture Church.

Here are some things we would like to see from you during your time going through Essentials:

- **Coachable Spirit:** A willingness to grow by being receptive to feedback from your coach.
- **Preparation:** Use the provided resources to make sure you know the songs inside and out before you show up to your first Rehearsal.
- **Passionate Presence:** Playing and singing the right notes is only a part of what we do. At least half of our leadership is displayed through our posture and expression on stage.

CULTURE & VALUES

Team Values

Mission statement

Helping others with their next steps with Jesus.

Love God

Our primary calling as worship leaders is to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. This love is the fuel for our music and the core of our worship. It drives us to seek excellence in our craft, not for our glory, but to honor the One who gave us these gifts.

Honor Each Other

We believe that every member of our team has unique talents and a vital role to play. By honoring each other's contributions and treating one another with respect and kindness, we create an environment where creativity flourishes and relationships deepen. This mutual honor fosters collaboration, trust, and a sense of belonging that transcends mere musical performance.

Pursue Your Calling

God has placed a calling on each of our lives, and as musicians, that calling often involves using our talents to lead others in worship. We encourage you to explore this calling, to grow in your abilities, and to find your unique voice within our team. Pursuing your calling is a journey of discovery, growth, and fulfillment that aligns your musical gifts with God's purpose for your life.

The Importance of Music in Corporate Worship

God has designed music to deeply impact people, giving it the power to stir emotions and facilitate personal expression towards Him. In corporate worship, music serves not only as a unifying force but also as a means to articulate our shared beliefs as a community. Through our music, we aim to create an atmosphere where our church can worship God in spirit and truth. It's so much more than a musical performance; it's our offering of praise to the Lord.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalm 95:1-2

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

1 Samuel 16:23

SYSTEMS & TOOLS

PLANNING CENTER

Planning Center is a vital tool for our worship team at Venture Church, serving as a central hub for scheduling, song selection, and communication. Here's how we utilize Planning Center in the Essentials program:

- **Scheduling:** Coordinating schedules is made simple with Planning Center. It ensures that everyone knows when and where they are needed for rehearsals, services, or special events. Team members can easily confirm or deny scheduling requests, allowing for flexibility and clear communication. Please block out dates you are unavailable.
- **Song Selection and Arrangement:** Planning Center is instrumental in sharing song selections, arrangements, and key information with the entire team. Musicians can access sheet music, chord charts, and audio files, streamlining preparation and fostering a unified approach to our musical worship.
- **Communication:** Planning Center is our primary means of communicating important information to you. Whether it's updates about upcoming events, specific guidance for rehearsals, or any other essential communication, Planning Center ensures that you stay informed and connected. The ability to confirm or deny scheduling requests directly within the platform adds to its efficiency and ease of use.

By focusing on these core functions, Planning Center becomes an integral part of our worship team's culture and operation. Mastering its features will equip you to contribute effectively to our worship experience and grow in your role within the team.

LENGTH	TITLE		
PRE-SERVICE			
60:00	Band Rehearsal		
15:00	Transitions Practice		
15:00	Down Time		
WORSHIP SET 1			
1:00	Countdown 1 A		3
0:00	WL CTW Over the intro of the first song		
4:41	House Of The Lord A		13
4:07	Oh But God D		14
6:34	Gratitude D		14
CAMPUS PASTOR			
	Announcements + K. Commish		
5:00	Transition from Worship: -CP's use your discretion here. -FTG Welcome -Weekender A1S1 (w/ serve in kids and students emphasis) -Kindergarten commissioning		
SERMON			
0:45	Bumper video		
	Sermon - Andrew Title: The Joy of Disciple Making Scripture: 1 Thess 1:1-10 BI: Disciples take great joy in making other disciples.		
35:00	Notes for sermon:		

1 Service Item: Songs, prayers, videos, etc.

2 Song Key

3 Song Resources: Audio files and chord charts

THE NASHVILLE NUMBER SYSTEM

The Nashville Number System (NNS) is a vital part of our musical approach at Venture Church. It's a flexible and efficient way to communicate musical ideas, especially in a worship setting where adaptability is key. Here's why we utilize the NNS on our team:

- **Universal Language:** The NNS provides a common language that transcends specific keys or instruments. By using numbers instead of letter names for chords, it allows musicians to quickly transpose songs and adapt to different musical situations.
- **Enhancing Collaboration:** With the NNS, musicians can easily communicate and collaborate, regardless of their primary instrument. It fosters a sense of unity and understanding within the band, making rehearsals and performances more cohesive.
- **Quick Learning and Adaptation:** The NNS is an invaluable tool for learning new songs or making on-the-spot changes. Its straightforward nature allows musicians to grasp new material quickly, making it an essential part of our dynamic worship environment.
- **Flow Moments:** The NNS empowers our MDs to lead the band through flow moments seamlessly. This system enhances our ability to pivot quickly, enabling us to follow the lead of the Campus Pastor. Whether it's a spontaneous change in direction or a subtle shift in energy, the NNS ensures that we can adapt in real-time, maintaining unity and purpose in our musical worship.

How does the Nashville Number System work?

The Nashville Number System is a method for notating and communicating chord changes. Its primary benefit is that it employs the same seven numbers to convey the chord changes of a song, regardless of the key. This system simplifies transposing songs on the fly and enhances communication between bandmates.

The Basic Concept

The entire system is grounded in one concept: the notes of a key's major scale are numbered one through seven, with each number representing a chord. Here's how it works:

- 1. Identify the Major Scale:** For example, in the key of C, the major scale is: C - D - E - F - G - A - B
- 2. Number Each Scale Degree:** 1=C, 2=D, 3=E, 4=F, 5=G, 6=A, 7=B
- 3. Build Chords on Each Scale Degree:** Knowing which chords are major and minor is essential. In every major key, the 1, 4, and 5 chords are major; the 2, 3, and 6 chords are minor; and the 7 chord is diminished. Here's what we get (m=minor, no indicator=major): 1=C, 2=Dm, 3=Em, 4=F, 5=G, 6=Am, 7=Bdim

This process can be applied to every key, and a reference sheet breaking down the chords in each of the 12 keys can be found in the next module.

Common Notations

Now that we've covered the basics, it's essential to mention some common notations you might encounter on a chart:

- **Natural State:** If you see a number, assume it represents the chord in its natural state (1, 4, 5=major; 2, 3, 6=minor).
- **Slash Chords:** In the Number System, slash chords function the same way they do in traditional chord charts. The first number represents the chord, and the second number represents the bass note. For example, in the key of C, a 1/3 is the same as C/E, which is a C major chord with an E in the bass.

Here are some other alterations, each associated with the 1 chord in the key of C:

- **1M:** 1 major (C major)
- **1M7:** 1 major 7 (C major 7)
- **1m:** 1 minor (C minor)
- **1m7:** 1 minor 7 (C minor 7)
- **1sus2:** (Csus2)
- **1sus:** (Csus)

Key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
C#/Db	Db	Ebm	Fm	Gb	Ab	Bbm	Cdim
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C#dim
D#/Eb	Eb	Fm	Gm	Ab	Bb	Cm	Ddim
E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D#dim
F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	Dm	Edim
F#/Gb	F#	G#m	A#m	B	C#	D#m	E#dim
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#dim
G#/Ab	Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb	Fm	Gdim
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#dim
A#/Bb	Bb	Cm	Dm	Eb	F	Gm	Adim
B	B	C#m	D#m	E	F#	G#m	A#dim

THE "AND SYSTEM"

The "and system" is a method used to standardize the calling of chords by the MD. It involves calling a chord followed by the word "and," indicating that the chord will be played on the very next beat. This system aligns with the eighth note pulse of the click track. Here is why we use the "and system":

- **Standardized Cadence:** The "and system" ensures that all MDs call chords consistently, streamlining rehearsals and enhancing efficiency, especially when collaborating with different bands or across various campuses.
- **Removes Ambiguity:** By incorporating the word "and" after a called chord, the system clarifies exactly when the chord should be played, eliminating any guesswork and fostering precise execution.
- **Flexibility for Flow Moments:** Requiring only one beat of lead time, the "and system" offers greater flexibility, enabling quicker reactions to changes and enhancing our ability to respond during worship.
- **Adaptation to Different Time Signatures:** The "and system" can be adapted to various time signatures, such as 4/4 and 6/8, with specific calling patterns for each. This adaptability ensures that we can maintain musical integrity and responsiveness, regardless of the rhythmic context.

On the following page, you'll find a visual guide illustrating the placement of called chords within the "and system." This guide will provide a clear understanding of how chords are called and played, enhancing your ability to follow the MD.

Where the call falls in 4/4



Make the call on the last
beat of the measure

Where the call falls in 6/8



Make the call on the last
2 beats of the measure