
Worship Flags for Beginners
Dance Workshop

Class Notes

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Significance of Worship Flags

Lift your flags

By Christina Clark

A song plays, lyrics are sung
The flags are lifted and worship has begun
A beautiful duet commences
The dancer leads and the flags follow
When praises arise
The Lord is pleased
Out of a heart of worship
offering and sacrifices are lifted
Lifts your flags to the heavens
Lift your flags to the Lord
Lift them to signal Christ's victory
Lift them high in the face of the enemy
Don't get tired, keep dancing!
You are leading and winning!
Like Miriam, the people are looking to you
You are signaling them in what to do
Praise Him in the dance and dance like David with all your strength
Let everything that have breath praise the Lord
Hallelujah!

Worship flags are tools or instruments a dancer uses to elevate her dance – it takes it to a higher level and is an impactful visual symbol

WHEN should we use worship flags?

Worship flags can be used to:

Show our allegiance – a standard or banner represents who we belong to and is easily seen

• *Yahweh-Nissi – the LORD is my banner (Exodus 17:15)*

Signal / Visual cue – communicates what is going to happen, declares what is happening, indicates when a shift has occurred, represents God's presence

• *Covenant promise to all creation for all time never to flood the earth (Genesis 9:11-15)*

• *Pillar of cloud by day, fire by night (Exodus 13:21)*

• *Symbols of the Holy Spirit include dove (Matthew 3:16-17), fire (Acts 2:3-4), water (John 4:14)*

Prayer / Intercession – can be used in a space (rooms, sanctuary), into the atmosphere (where spiritual realm is), over an object (chairs, pews, altar) and over people

Praise / Spiritual warfare – our praise is a weapon, the Lord will dwell in the midst of praise, the enemy must flee

WHERE can we use worship flags?

Where to use worship flags:

Anytime there is prayer, worship or sharing of the Gospel

Start at home and then as God allows – enter into a public ministry or platform

Even with a public ministry, you must continue your home worship because it is your connection to God and where you will practice and train the most

Indoors or outdoors – try worship outdoors under an open sky, near the water or at a park

Examples include: church services, gatherings /conferences, mission field /community outreach, social media, concerts, prayer meetings, etc.

Types of worship dance

Generally, there are 2 types of worship dance - Choreographed and Spontaneous

Dancers should train in both methods and always be expanding their dance vocabulary

To develop in these areas you should study choreography, take dance classes, practice regularly and attend conferences/workshops whenever possible

Some movements will be taught while others will “bubble up” or come forth through your worship

Once you learn a move, it is part of your vocabulary – with time and experience it will become easier to choreograph or move spontaneously. You won't see it as 2 types over time, they will work together!

Tips

- Practice dancing to different types of music, record yourself and see what movements you created
- Watch videos of dancers on YouTube or at your local church; study what they do and try to replicate it
- Look for books on dance choreography and study the different levels, positions, and arrangements

When NOT to use worship flags?

Worship flags should NOT be used when

We do not have authority or permission from leadership

We are not in good standing with the Lord

We do not have experience or know proper usage of flags

We don't know what else to do in a dance or because it looks nice

We want to show off how talented we are or how amazing our flag is

We do not have sufficient space or if people are in close proximity

Each flag is unique and has a personality based
on it's size, shape, color, movement

Worship Flag Basics

All worship flags consist of a rod and fabric cut into a shape

The fabric must be lightweight and the rod can be stiff or flexible

The type of rod and fabric selected can create different effects

A fabric used without a rod would be referred to as a veil, scarf or billow depending on how long/wide it is and how many people it takes to handle the fabric

Always buy flags in sets; unless it is a very unique or large flag

Whenever possible, buy from an anointed flagmaker that is dedicated to serving the Kingdom and equipping worship artists

Start small, buy one set of flags and as the need arises or if there is a sale/discount add to your collection. Colors such as white, red, purple, gold are good to have as a beginner.

Selecting Worship Flags - Fabric

All fabrics are not created equal and there are pros and cons to consider

Some attributes to consider are:

- Weight of fabric
- Durability
- Opacity
- Flow
- Sound

Selecting Worship Flags - Rods

The rod is placed inside an inner pocket along the width of the flag. It can be fully enclosed or extend beyond the fabric

The main types are:

- Wood
- Flexible or "flexi-rod" (fiberglass, acrylic)
- Swing (metal chain)
- Telescopic

Sometimes flags with wood rods are made with swivel tubes or rotating shafts to prevent them from being entangled when twirling

Some flag designs allow you to remove the rod so that the flag can be easily packed for travel

Fabric Types

Most fabrics are made from synthetic fibers such as nylon or polyester

Silk is the only natural fiber recommended for flags

Fabric Types include:

- Silk
- Chiffon
- Organza
- Satin
- Poly silk
- Metallic
- Iridescent

Fabric Types

Most flag makers offer multiple sizes/lengths.

Generally it is youth, standard or adult, extra large

The shapes are typically:

- Rectangular
- Circular
- Specialty shapes /edges – flames, streamers, wings, etc.

Color

Everything was created by God

Light - when divided contains many different colors found in the rainbow

The rainbow is God's chosen symbol of His covenant and promise

There can be a positive and negative association with color

Color meaning should be primarily studied from a Biblical standpoint. Other sources will be gifts of revelation or knowledge given by Holy Spirit, and learning from your fellow dancers

Dancers should also understand the cultural context of color as well, especially if they are in missions

Many flag designs and inspiration comes through prophetic gifts and prayer

Caring for your flags

Here are some tips on how to handle your flags so they can last for many years. With time, flags that are frequently used, will need mending or replacing

- Always handle with clean hands (keep wipes or sanitizer in bag)
- Be careful with your attire, nails and makeup – they can snag, poke holes or stain
- Loosely roll or fold fabric around the rod and secure with ribbons or soft hair bands if needed
- Store flags when not in use in a flag bag, large basket, sheet or tablecloth, etc.
- Some flexi rods will distort if stored in a bended position over time – check with your flagmaker
- Keep out of reach of people that do not understand worship flags

You are the flag bearer, be confident.

Do not be afraid of the flag,
allow it to soar in your hands!