

The Studio

EPISODE // HOW TO BE A GREETER

When I was little, one of my favorite parts about church was walking through the door right when we arrived. We had this long sidewalk that led to the front door and Mr. Jim would stand at the end with the door open and a huge smile on his face. My siblings and I would run as fast as we could down the sidewalk because we knew Mr. Jim was waiting to give a high five as you ran right past him through the door. Mr. Jim made you feel important and loved from the moment you stepped into the threshold of the church.

Why do we as worship leaders have to think about how to be a greeter? Our greeters are the first impression visitors get of our church and the constant welcoming face that our congregation looks forward to seeing every Sunday morning. Mr. Jim sure made greeting look easy, but what if that doesn't come naturally?

There are a few things we can remind ourselves of when we post up at those double doors on a Sunday morning.

- ✦ **Be aware of your role.** What are you there for? There are many different jobs of a greeter ranging from holding the door open to handing out bulletins. Things will run much more efficiently if everyone is doing a specific task.
- ✦ **Be a greeter first, and a friend second.** Greeters are greeters because they love people. I could see it being so easy to get distracted when friends walk through the door and wanting to catch up on everything going on in their lives. Remember, the goal is to get everyone through the door feeling loved and welcomed. People don't feel loved if they are ignored as they walk in the door.
- ✦ **Know your congregation.** If at all possible with the number of people you have in your congregation, know faces and names. It means a lot to visitors when someone takes the time to introduce themselves and show them around a little bit. This can't happen if as greeters, we don't know the names and faces of our people.
- ✦ **Be present.** Make eye contact with people as you hear how they are doing. Smile as they walk up and exude the joy that God has given you that morning. The physical act of being present will let them know that they are valued in this place and that they belong as they walk through the doors to experience what the Lord has in store for them.
- ✦ **Expect the unexpected.** Greeters are there to welcome and make sure everyone is doing okay as they walk into church. There might be people who strike up a conversation about something horrible that has happened that weekend, how do we respond to that when we are trying to get people through the door? They could need help finding more information about a certain ministry, we need to have a general knowledge of what our church body offers so we know which direction to send them. There could be small children that are running wild and the parents might need some help just getting everyone in the building. Expect the unexpected.

Romans 12:1 says "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Your service to the church, holding the door open, handing out bulletins, showing people around, is an act of worship. So, my question for you: how can you be Mr. Jim welcoming the whole body of Christ as they walk through the doors of your congregation?