

10 WAYS TO

ADD A LITTLE RED ROCKS TO YOUR STREAM

By Katrina Clark

- 1. WORSHIP FIRST**
You are a visual worship leader. It's an important role with tons of purpose, so don't get so caught up in the technical that you miss the movement.
- 2. FOSTER A BALANCED ENVIRONMENT**
Know when to joke around and when to get serious. Both are important in a production environment to build a strong team. More trust = better line cut, more creativity, and happier volunteers who look forward to Sunday.
- 3. MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE LD**
Lighting is the most important piece to your line cut. Learn how your LD designs a song, what elements he or she likes to use and why, and how to best set up your cameras in relation.

4. KNOW THE SONGS

Simple enough, if you don't know what's happening, you can't capture it well.

5. KNOW YOUR WORSHIP LEADERS & PASTORS

Pay attention to their mannerisms and learn to read where they're going next - are they bringing it down, are they looping the chorus one more time, did the pastor spontaneously decide to come up and pray in between songs?

6. FOCUS ON TRANSITIONS

Sloppy transitions are the #1 cause of people's heads turning back to the tech booth. Always be thinking about where you're headed next and what you need to do to get there. If you're confident in what every transition requires, you are flexible to move wherever you need if unplanned moments happen. Smooth transitions are THE MOST important part of good video directing and a distraction-free service.

7. CUT PACE

Only go as fast as you can control. A line cut can quickly turn into a fast car on wet pavement and if you can't keep up with it, it can crash and burn. On the other hand, too slow can be disengaging. Lean into the pace of the song to tell you how fast or slow to cut - if the verse starts off slow and intimate, don't cut too much as it can be distracting. If there's a big build into a chorus, cut faster to match it. Intentionality is the name of the game!

8. SHOT COMPOSITION

Don't just think about the shot you're currently on (which is important), but also think about where you've come from and where you're going. Avoid similar shots back to back, awkward framings, etc. QC every shot before you take it or create a separate volunteer role for someone to QC every shot for focus, framing, repeating shots on multiple cameras, tracking during talking head moments, headroom.

9. BE A GOOD STEWARD

Use your gear to 110%, find creative ways to stretch what you have. Move cameras around if you can, work with your LD to potentially move lights around or try different scenes, try a new aspect ratio or framerate if your system allows. Fresh linecuts don't always require new equipment or expensive cameras.

10. EXCELLENCE & ENCOURAGEMENT

Work hard to bring your best offering to the Lord - excellence, not perfection, is the goal. Doing a good job matters and your volunteers want to do a good job - they want to improve, they want to be creative, they want direction. Don't be afraid to offer correction and advice in a positive manner! On the other hand, keep in mind that your volunteers are giving their time and talents and usually aren't full-time cinematographers so positive feedback and encouragement can be the difference between a fulfilled volunteer and a bitter volunteer. If there is a mistake that the volunteer knows they made, be the first to offer grace.