

THE ULTIMATE WEEKEND SERVICE SHOT LIST

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In the Parking Lot

Show guests where to go and what to expect.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Volunteers setting up
- Volunteers parking cars
- Guests walking to church
- Include signage in shots when you can

PRO TIPS

1. As we say in our church, “the sermon starts in the parking lot.”
2. Capture stories of God’s people serving their community in humble ways.





On the Sidewalk

Put hospitality on display.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Greeters/Welcome Team
- Wide shot of church building
- Guests entering church
- Guests leaving the church
- First Time Guest area
- Capture as much interaction as possible

PRO TIPS

1. Be sure to get people in the frame. Pictures of buildings alone aren't interesting!
2. Watch your exposure and white balance when transitioning between indoors and outdoors.
3. Raise your f-stop when shooting building shots to get more of the image in focus.



In the Lobby

Help your guests feel welcome — before they arrive.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- ❑ Greeters holding doors
- ❑ People smiling/talking
- ❑ Welcome/Next Steps area
- ❑ Keep an eye out for moments of connection

PRO TIPS

1. Use a long lens to shoot from a distance and capture candid shots.
2. Help people feel comfortable by smiling and saying hello.
3. Don't be afraid to pose people!



BONUS

Learn how to capture lobby shots like a pro in our podcast interview with Jeremy Poland. [Listen now.](#)





In the Kids Area

Raising the next generation for Christ.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Kids volunteers
- Kids and leaders playing games
- Kids worship time
- Kids learning / interacting with leaders
- Kids with parents

PRO TIPS

1. Be sure to set policies — and get consent — before photographing children.
2. Need models in a pinch? Use your own kids if you have them, or capture photos of children from behind.
3. Edit out kids' name tags using Lightroom's heal tool.



On the Stage

Leading the congregation in worship.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Wide, medium, and tight shots
- Worship team from back of house
- Worship team from in the congregation
- Worship team from front row

PRO TIPS

1. Focus on moments of *worship*, not *performance*.
2. Expose and balance for your subject — don't stress about people in the background, etc.
3. Be mindful of people worshipping around you; get your shot and move to the next place.



BONUS

Learn auditorium etiquette in our podcast interview with Jeremy Poland. [Listen now.](#)



In the Congregation

People meeting with God together.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Hands raised, from behind
- Worshippers in front few rows
- Congregation praying together
- Interesting / out of the ordinary moments

PRO TIPS

1. Capture the diversity of your congregation — age, race, gender, etc.
2. The first few rows of the congregation will often have the best light — and the most engaged worshippers.
3. Worship is an intimate moment for many people; be mindful and respectful of your distance when people are worshipping.



During the Sermon

The Word of God proclaimed to the congregation.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- ❑ Capture the first 5 minutes
- ❑ Wide, medium, and tight shots
- ❑ 90-degree angle (from side of stage)
- ❑ 45-degree angle (from wings of auditorium)
- ❑ Straight on (from back of house)
- ❑ Special guests (speakers, etc.)

PRO TIPS

1. Most pastors start with a story or some housekeeping notes. This is prime time for images before your pastor gets into the sermon.
2. Get what you need, then sit down so you're not a distraction.
3. Capture images on gestures, and avoid shooting when your pastor is looking at notes.





For Special Events

Raising the next generation for Christ.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Baptisms
- Commissioning
- VBS / Kids Camp
- Christmas/Easter
- Special Guests
- Fellowships

PRO TIPS

1. Create a comprehensive shot list for special events to make sure you capture everything.
2. Give photographers a schedule so they know when things are taking place.



Behind the Scenes

What the congregation doesn't see.

ESSENTIAL SHOTS

- Worship team backstage
- Prayer team praying
- Volunteers hanging out during service
- Volunteers setting up/breaking down

PRO TIPS

1. Set access and security guidelines for covering behind-the-scenes shots.



Composition

FRAMING YOUR SHOTS

1. Shoot each scene wide, medium, and tight.
2. Shoot straight on, at an angle, and from the side.
3. Use the environment to capture the viewer's eye.
4. Pay attention to details.
5. Focus on *people, people, people*.



WIDE



MEDIUM



TIGHT



DETAIL