

Refuge Ministries Worship Team Guidelines

Purpose and Vision

Refuge Ministries is a place of refuge for Christians. It is our belief that the Praise and Worship team is a vital part to the ministry of this body of believers. Members of the praise team should view themselves as lead worshipers. Those who serve in this capacity should view their role as a calling from God and be prepared to serve wherever assigned.

Membership on the praise team (in any way) is a position of Christian leadership. The primary function being to lead the congregation in true worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (John 4:24) In fact, our purpose and calling is to lead others into the very presence of the Living God. This is not a calling for “performances” or showmanship”...only honest praise. For this reason, members of the praise team must continuously strive to serve God and others with a pure heart.

Called and Equipped

It is very important for those who participate in the praise team to feel that they are “called and equipped” by God to minister. It is not something they do just at church, but rather a lifestyle of praise. Participants must be believers of Christ and their lifestyle must reflect that of a Christian. We worship not just on the platform, but in our homes, our daily lives and in the congregation.

Although we recognize the importance of a pure heart, the musician and/or vocalist who is called by God will also be equipped with the skills needed to follow the Holy Spirit’s leading. Musicians and vocalists should be open to receive advice, correction, training and be committed to becoming proficiently skilled at their ministry. (1 Chronicles 15:22) You do not have to be a professional musician to worship the Lord, but God honors the discipline of practice and preparation to present the talent He’s provided as best as humanly possible. Participants will be asked to rehearse at least an hour on their own before meeting for group rehearsal. They must also attend the appointed rehearsals set for the worship service they intend to minister in.

Commitment

Praise team members should be actively involved at Refuge and dedicated to the vision and leadership of its pastors and other leaders. This commitment includes their prayers, regular attendance and tithing. It is the expectation of the pastors and worship director that all participants be committed to continuing spiritual growth. (i.e. Bible study, accountability group, personal devotional, prayer group, etc)

Before taking a leadership position with the music ministry we ask that prospective praise team members have the full support of their family. Recognizing the volunteer nature of this ministry, there will be things that interfere with the ability to serve some weeks. Those who commit to serve on the praise team will be expected to do their best

to make sure other commitments do not interfere with their ability to serve on a regular basis. Attendance and punctuality are also vital to the readiness and cohesiveness of the praise team for His service. If at any time a member (including visual equipment operators and sound engineers) cannot attend a service, rehearsal, etc, please notify the worship leader in advance if at all possible so that proper adjustments can be made.

Attire and Appearance

Because our mission is to lead others into the presence of God, we choose not to do or wear anything that would distract others from that purpose. (2 Chronicles 5:12) Praise team members must dress appropriately for being in front of the congregation as well as for video recordings and live streaming. Clothing should be modest and fit correctly. Praise team should not wear shorts, short skirts, sweats, spaghetti straps with out a covering, revealing clothing (such as see through or low cut), excessively tattered clothing or things that are overly tight and clingy. Refrain from flesh tone colors that might present as bare skin on video. Participants should be neatly groomed and tasteful. Offensive or distractive tattoos should be covered. Under garments need to support correctly as not to hinder the member from worshiping fully. Jewelry and perfumes should be at a minimum so as not to distract. Clothing should coordinate or match up with the designated color pallet. The lead pastor and worship director has the right to ask a member to change or cover up.

Prospective Members

We constantly seek to expand our praise team. Prior to leading worship, all prospective praise team members will be expected to go through Refuge's "About Us" class. Upon completion of the "About Us" class, those who feel called to this ministry will be asked to sit in on rehearsals for a minimum of four weeks prior to participating in a service. This is to ensure that the current praise team can become familiar with the new sound or skill being added as well as give a period of adjustment and connection. Please note, that a person's skill and intentions will be evaluated by the worship leader and not all who wish to participate will be invited to do so.