

Lighthouse Morality Guidelines and Expectations for Worship Team members, Small Group leaders and other leadership roles in the Church

Leadership in our Church - serving as part of the worship team, helping to lead others in worship on Sundays, or leading a small group - is a privilege and a big responsibility.

Even though we are weak human beings, we have the massive task of leading others in worshipping God. This is an amazing joy and blessing, but it comes with responsibilities too.

Also, when we are "up-front" in serving and leading, we are under a "microscope" and we become a "target".

We are under a "microscope" because others may look to us as examples and role models in how to follow God, and so our lives must stand up to that public scrutiny.

We become a "target" because the enemy, Satan, will attack us since we are being used by God to lead others closer to Him.

For these reasons we ask you to consider these minimum levels and standards when you are in the team:

- **SKILL** - Psa 78:72 - *"So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands."*
We need to have the necessary skill to play or sing in this ministry and we must practise to keep ourselves at the right level.
- **COMMITMENT** - Eph 4:16 - *"the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."*
We need to be committed to the Lord, to each other, and to this Church family. This means being at practices and appointments, and being faithful and on time in our commitments to this ministry.
- **COMMUNICATION and openness** - Jas 5:16 - *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."*
We need to be open and honest with each other and not keep secrets, form factions, or follow gossip and division. If you have a problem or a grudge against the Church leaders or against someone else in the Church you must address this before trying to continue in worship ministry. A "root of bitterness" poisons many people around us (Heb 12:15) and makes worship ministry impossible.
- **MORALITY / LIFESTYLE** - 2Ti 2:19 - *"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*
There is a minimum moral code that we must follow in this ministry. While none of us is perfect, we can, and must, avoid obvious sin, and we must deal with sin rather than leave it to fester in our lives. Obvious examples of sins that we must avoid are:
 - Sexual sin - sex with anyone outside of the Biblical definition of marriage
 - Intoxication, addiction or enslavement to any substances
 - Swindling, dishonesty, theft and public crimes
 - Dressing in a provocative or sexually explicit way
 - Rebellion, gossip, divisiveness, backbiting, swearing, coarse language and public aggression, especially online.
- **PERSONAL PASSION FOR CHRIST** - Mat 25:1-4 - *"The kingdom of heaven shall be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ... the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."*
We must develop our own Spiritual lives by keeping our "lamps" full of the oil of the Holy Spirit. We do this by spending time with God in His word, in prayer, in personal worship and in fellowship with other believers.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

- Teach in line with the Church's teachings as shared on Sundays, in publications, and online. Please don't contradict them or teach different doctrines publicly, but please DO feel free to chat to the Elders and discuss any doctrines or beliefs, even if they're different to what we teach. You don't have to use the Sunday Sermon topics for your group, but if you use other material, or if you produce the topics yourself, it must follow Lighthouse's teachings and beliefs. If you're unsure please just speak to the Elders.
- Communicate with the Elders. Open and honest communication is essential in the body of Christ, but especially for leaders. You should let the Elders know how things are going in your own life and ministry, and especially if there's something you are struggling with, you are unsure of or you don't agree with.
- Keep unity and prevent division. Division occurs where people try to turn others against the leaders or doctrines of the Church. Our role as leaders is to listen to any differences of opinion, offer a perspective in support of the Church's stance, encourage unity and discourage gossip and division, and then, if necessary, to take the matter to the elders for discussion, and to communicate back to people what the Church has decided and why. We don't want to stifle discussion and different views, but it must occur in a context of unity, love, and without division, secrecy or gossip.

Leader, the Elders are always open and available to discuss and to help you and to listen to YOUR opinions and perspectives.

Thank you for serving the Lord with us in this great mission He has given us.