

# Life Bible Fellowship

*Worship Ministry*

## Information Packet

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Once you have read through this packet please call Pastor Jeff Taylor to schedule an appointment and discuss any questions you may have, and to get you started in ministry.

# Life Bible Fellowship

## *Worship Ministry*

### **Vision Statement**

**Every believer a lover of God who sees all of life as worship**

The mission of the LBF worship ministry is to use relevant music and the arts in a way that honors God and allows people to be participants causing them to draw closer to the Lord. We believe that God's presence is resident in every believer through the Holy Spirit, and that our worship service should provide an atmosphere where the believer can respond to God. For the unchurched, we believe our service should be understandable and relevant.

*God values not the service of men if the heart be not in it. The Lord sees and judges the heart. He has no regard for outward forms of worship if there be no inward adoration. It is therefore a matter of infinite importance to have the whole heart engaged steadfastly for God.*

*-Isaac Watts*

#### ***To best fulfill this mission:***

1. We understand that the focus of Worship is to be God, not ourselves.
2. We realize that worship is a lifestyle not just what happens during Sunday services.
3. We believe that worship is a two-way dialogue between the worshipers and God.
4. We use a team of vocalists, instrumentalists, and technical engineers who themselves are first and foremost worshipers.
5. We are selective about who is on the worship team in order to offer God the best of our abilities.
6. The team is committed to one another, demonstrated by honesty, forgiveness and forbearance in relationships with one another.
7. All in attendance, the team and the congregation, are considered participants not spectators. We have an audience of one, God.
8. We use music that is relevant and understandable to the unchurched people in attendance each week.

# Life Bible Fellowship

## *Worship Ministry*

### ***Philosophy of Worship***

*God values not the service of men if the heart be not in it. The Lord sees and judges the heart. He has no regard for outward forms of worship if there be no inward adoration. It is therefore a matter of infinite importance to have the whole heart engaged steadfastly for God.*                      *-Isaac Watts*

It can be so easy to believe that our worship is authentic simply because we participate in a worship service, and sing songs that speak of God. As we see throughout scripture, it is the heart that God judges. We can go through all the motions we want, but if our lifestyle is not worshipful then all we come together to do in worship will be hollow in our soul. The message that you will hear over and over as a participant in the worship ministry is how this is about expressing through music what we are already living out, and allowing God to do in our lives on a daily basis.

The New Testament mandate for the Christian is to worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). These are the worshippers whom God seeks after (John 4:23). These two elements of "Spirit" and "Truth" are essential for us as a worshipping community. To worship in Spirit is to worship by means of the Holy spirit of God, who empowers every Christian to worship. The Spirit of God gives gifts to each Christian for the building up of the Church community (I Corinthians 12:4-7). Worship, then, is focused upon the ministry of the Holy spirit, who then glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:14). The "Truth" is the revelation that God has given concerning Himself in the Bible (John 17:17). Worship, then, is in accordance with the teaching of the Bible. We believe that by worshipping in "Spirit" and "Truth" we will see God glorified and His presence will be experienced. A proper balance between these two elements will result in worship that is pleasing to God and brings glory to the name of Jesus Christ.

## **VALUES**

The following is a list of some of the things we value in worship at L.B.F. Church:

1. Worship is to be given solely for God's glory (1 Peter 2:9).
  - a) The focus of worship is to be God, not ourselves.
  - b) Egos will not be tolerated as they can severely hinder the worship that we come to offer.
2. Worship is a giving of ourselves to God, (Rom. 12:1,2) claiming no rights, making no selfish demands, but living fully, richly and wholly to God and by His power.
3. Worship is not just a matter of what happens between set hours on a Sunday, but a daily way of life.
4. Worship should be intimate (Ps. 62:8).
5. Worship is man's response to God's goodness, thus, it should not be done to manipulate God or other people.
6. Worship should be characterized by honesty and integrity. (Ephesians 4:15, 25).
7. Although worship is often emotional, we shouldn't "work up" emotions as a manipulative tool.
8. Worship should not quench, but welcome the Holy Spirit's ministry (1 Thess. 5:19).
9. Worship is God's enjoyment of us and our enjoyment of Him (Ps. 149:2-4).

## **PRACTICES**

The following are some of the practices which are a part of worship at L.B.F. Church:

1. We engage only in practices which are biblically sanctioned.
2. We experience the ministry of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (i.e. teaching, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc.) as He leads, with the goal of building up the Body of Christ in love (1 Cor. 12-14).
3. We encourage the whole person to enter into worship: body (raising hands, kneeling, bowing, etc.), soul - (prayer, singing, reading scripture, testimony, etc.), and spirit - (expressions of love, tongues, singing a new song, etc.) (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
4. We worship in various group settings. (i.e. Sunday, Home Groups, Men's/Women's Bible Study)
5. We worship with a blend of the contemporary and hymn musical styles.
6. We encourage the whole congregation to be a part of worship by setting aside time for corporate prayer, scripture reading and testimony.
7. We will include announcements, baby dedications and other presentations as approved by the pastoral leadership.
8. We regularly partake of communion as part of our worship (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
9. We always seek to expand and deepen our present foundation through new songs and new modes of expression.
10. We will use special music when appropriate to the theme of the service.
11. We will obey at all times the copyright laws regarding the use of music, overheads and taping.

## **THE WORSHIP TEAM**

In Scripture, especially the Old Testament, God's people were led in worship by a team of musicians (I Chronicles 15:16). We use this as a model for our worship team. The following are statements regarding this approach.

1. The worship team consists of the worship Leader, the Pastor, the musicians (i.e. guitarists, vocalists, keyboards, etc.), those ministering in special music, and the sound, lighting, and media technician(s).
2. The primary purpose of the worship team is to lead the congregation in the worship of God as they themselves enter into worship.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The following is the leadership structure of the worship ministry at Life Bible Fellowship. Most of the time this leadership occurs quite naturally, but occasionally there is need for the structure to be defined. Biblical leadership is based upon servanthood and humility (Matthew 20:25-28), yet at the same time is characterized by responsible leading (I Timothy 3:4-5).

1. The primary person responsible for the leadership of the worship ministry is the Pastor of Worship. Ultimately he is in submission to the Pastor who is teaching on each Sunday. Each week there will be a designated Worship leader who will consult with the pastor and arrange music for that week.
2. Although each individual worship leader is given great freedom to lead during the worship service, he is to submit to the pastor's leadership.
3. Team members are encouraged to give input to the designated worship leader during team rehearsals, however, during the worship service team members should submit to the direction of the worship leader.
4. Responsibility for the sound and mix lies with the sound technician; however, input from other team members is expected and encouraged during rehearsals with regard to the stage monitors.
5. Working as a team provides unique opportunities for personal discipleship among the team members. We will sometimes have conflict among members. Handled properly, this conflict can lead to growth and maturity. Conflict should be resolved between the involved members with the goal of reconciliation. Issues of sin should be handled according to God's instructions in Matthew 18:15-20. Above all, relationships should be characterized by love and understanding.

# Life Bible Fellowship

## *Worship Ministry*

### **Joining the Team**

While the timeframe for this process may vary, each new team member will start with an interview with the Pastor of Worship followed by attending Wednesday night rehearsals. This will give opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and also to see how the new member will fit musically with the current team members. There is no set time frame for becoming a scheduled member of the team, although the frequency of rehearsal attendance will certainly speed up the process. As you feel comfortable, and the Pastor of Worship feels you are ready, you will be put on the active worship team schedule.

Listed below are qualifications and expectations of those involved in LBF's worship ministry.

### **Music Team Qualifications**

#### **1. Committed member of this church with your family.**

The worship ministry is not the right of the talented but the privilege extended to the committed. We ask for team members to complete the process of church membership as soon as possible. A person may be on the team prior to completing the process with a commitment to join the church as soon as possible. The leadership nature of this ministry requires a strong commitment to the people and leadership of this church.

#### **2. Support of Family.**

It is important that the individual's immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to the individual. A person's family is a necessary provider, not only of encouragement, but of accountability as well. If the people closest to us do not believe we are in a place in our lives to be leading others into worship, that is something we take seriously. So family support is necessary for all team members.

#### **3. Spiritual Maturity.**

This is a leadership-type ministry. Like it or not, everyone involved in the worship ministry is seen by the congregation as a leader. We are looking for people who are believers and are committed to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Leaders will be held to a higher standard of accountability in their lifestyle than those not on the stage. Areas of accountability include a person's attitude, drinking (Not being drunk), sexual conduct (No sexual relationships outside of

marriage), language, public perception (Facebook/Twitter/etc...) More on this will be covered in the next section.

#### **4. Musical Ability**

The desire to be good musically does not come from a need to feed egos or impress people. The desire comes from the need to flex our plans and go with what we feel the Spirit leading us to do and not wanting our skills to get in the way or become a hindrance. For instrumentalists, our current expectation is the ability to play in the keys of C, D, E, F, G, A, B. For the vocalists, the basic minimum is the ability to sing on pitch, to know if you are not singing on pitch and to blend with the other singers. Additionally for those who sing harmony, to be able to learn by hearing as well as singing a written out part. For percussionists there must be an ability to maintain a steady beat and to play with sensitivity and expression in a variety of styles. All team members are expected to put in practice time with recordings of the music in order to learn their parts.

Lighting, sound, and media techs can be trained to use the equipment provided by the church. Various levels of musicality and creativity may be expected.

#### **5. Time Commitment.**

It takes time to be part of the worship ministry. Participation in this ministry should not be approached with a “Weekend Warrior”, hobby-type mentality. Each member of the worship team is expected to grow as a musician and in their spiritual walk with God. This will take more than just showing up on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night. Practice sessions are currently held on **Wednesday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday morning preparations musically start at 7:00 am.** Musicians and sound engineers are required to attend both rehearsals. In addition, time is needed individually to rehearse and to learn the music apart from the team. It is expected that time will be given for personal spiritual preparation as well. There’s a difference between interest and commitment. When you’re interested in doing something you only do it when circumstances permit. When you’re committed to something, you accept no excuses only results. It is important that a person count the cost of time before involvement is acceptable.

**Media and lighting techs** are required to attend rehearsal on **Sunday morning at 7am** to go through media and lighting settings appropriate for each song.

#### **6. Ability to flow with the team.**

Being part of a team means being a team member. This requires a flexibility to work with a variety of people. For example, with more than one worship leader comes more than one way of leading. Team members need to be able to flow with a variety of people and styles. Some people are very gifted musician’s and/or vocalists, but for one reason or another (vocal range, musical style, etc.) they have trouble flowing or blending with the team. These individuals are highly encouraged to share their musical gifts in other ways (home Bible studies, special music etc.) in the church. Just because someone is proficient with their instrument or voice does not make them automatically a top candidate for the worship ministry team. Working and blending with others must be a major consideration.

## **7. Ability to confidently present physical expressions of worship**

We believe that God has given each of us our own distinct gifts and abilities, as well as unique personalities He uses to reach into the lives of others. This being understood, it is important that each person on the worship team understands that they are setting an example for the congregation they are leading. If the worship team is projecting insecure, concentrated, deadpan expression of worship, that will be reciprocated from the congregation. While we do not desire a certain “look” be manufactured, however, demeanor is part of what goes into leading others in worship. A comfortability with smiling, clapping, raising hands in praise to God, and engaging with the music style and lyrics is an important aspect in modeling postures of worship to a body of believers who need instruction on Biblical worship. Shy, introverted people can certainly be fantastic musicians, and have huge hearts for worship, but because what takes place on the stage is an act of leadership, there needs to be a confidence to set an example of expression in worship through music.

## **8. Awareness of appropriate attire**

Because this is a leader type ministry it is important that you reflect good taste in your dress. Although our church is casual, there are some standards to what should be worn on the stage. For men the “NO’s” include hats, casual T-shirts, shorts, worn blue jeans. For women the “NO’s” include short skirts or dresses (Remember you are on a stage three feet above the congregation), shorts, worn blue jeans, leggings, low cut tops, or tops that reveal midriff. Blue denim may be worn but the quality and condition of denim is important. Denim that looks old due to wear and tear and washings is not permitted. Denim that is fashionably made to look faded is acceptable. Our desire is to not be a distraction to the worshipper, but to enhance the worship time.

# Life Bible Fellowship

## Worship Ministry

### Expected Commitments From Worship Team Members

#### 1. Committed to living a lifestyle of worship.

*God values not the service of men if the heart be not in it. The Lord sees and judges the heart. He has no regard for outward forms of worship if there be no inward adoration. It is therefore a matter of infinite importance to have the whole heart engaged steadfastly for God.*

*-Isaac Watts*

Having a lifestyle of worship means that the attitudes we have, and activities that we engage in are honoring to God, and in line with what scripture demands of Christ followers. A member of the worship ministry is considered a leader at LBF and will therefore be held to higher expectations and accountability than someone not in leadership. Romans 13:13 covers several activities that would violate a lifestyle of worship, and areas where members of LBF's worship ministry will be held accountable.

**(Romans 13:13)** *Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.)*

- **Drinking to the point of drunkenness** (Ephesians 5:15-19)- To be clear, we consider drunkenness to be any point where a person's mental or physical faculties are in any way affected or impaired. Being "buzzed" is to be considered drunk. Drinking is legal for persons over 21 years of age, and we clearly see in scripture that drinking is not forbidden, so we do not have a "No Drinking" policy, but the amount and affect on a person, as well as the appearance and any potential for causing another person to stumble should be strongly considered before consumption.
- **Sexual purity**- Sexual purity is expected of both married and unmarried people. For the single person, any form of sexual intimacy is contrary to God's design and call for His people. Sex outside of marriage is sin and is not honoring to God or the parties involved. Pornography is also a form of fornication/adultery that the Bible speaks against in the life of a believer. For married people, faithfulness to your spouse physically and emotionally is a scriptural mandate. Your marriage relationship is to be your number one priority.

- ***Respect, and honor for people***- Reputation is something that a person can develop in a positive or negative way, and how we treat people, both in words and action, is one of the most important aspects in developing a positive, God honoring reputation. Verses throughout scripture speak of loving people and caring for the needs of others. This should be a defining characteristic in the life of a worshipper.
- ***Bending it til it breaks***- The last portion of Romans 13:13-14 speaks of not even giving room in your thoughts for how you can satisfy evil desires. This means that our intent as worshippers should never be to try end get as close to sin as we can without “actually sinning”. This is a game that does not honor God or your commitment to living a lifestyle of worship.

## **2. Committed to Growing Spiritually**

This is as important on an individual basis as it is with the team. As a leadership ministry, we need to be committed to maturing in Jesus. We should not allow ourselves to become stagnate, but should encourage each other to continue to grow in the Lord.

## **3. Committed to Musical Expertise**

Team members are expected to be practicing on their own during the week when they are on the team. lbfworship.com has been set up to provide recordings, charts, song notes, and helpful links to assist each team member in rehearsing their part so they are prepared when coming to rehearsal.

Each team member must have a commitment to work at their instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best they can be. Keep in mind that the team will only be as musically proficient as the individuals that make it up. The level of musical proficiency for the team as a whole should continue to improve and become more complex. If a person is not able to keep up musically or technically, every effort will be made to assist and bring them along. If a person is capable but not prepared, it may need to be evaluated whether they have time necessary to make the commitment required for this ministry.

## **4. Committed to check the ego at the door**

Whether a musician or technical engineer, all of us want to be right. We all want our idea, or what we do, to be the thing that is accepted or implemented. When we are faced with not having things our way is when each of us need to make a choice of being selfish, or being a team player, responding in ways that honor ourselves, or both God and our team. There is no place in worship for making anything we do about US. It has to be for the glory of God, which means that no matter the skill of the player or technician, or the experience a person may bring, we are all expected to work together and be gracious through the process of preparing for worship. This process may include changes from the plan or schedule. There may be times a song, or portion of songs needs to be changed or cut. It is important that when something different than expected takes place it is received with a good attitude and submission to whoever may be leading that service.

**LBFC Worship Team Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family Information: Married, Single, Divorced (circle one)

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Children (names, ages)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you received Jesus as your personal Savior? YES NO

(If yes, please use a separate sheet to write out your testimony)

Have you attended the "Meet LBF Presentation" Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**MUSIC INFORMATION**

Instrument(s) Played \_\_\_\_\_

For How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

Vocal Part - Soprano - Alto - Tenor - Bass (Circle One)

Briefly describe your vocal/instrumental experience

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Whether Instrument or Vocal:

Can you read notated music? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you pick out harmony parts by ear? \_\_\_\_\_

At what level do you know music theory? (Scales, key signatures, time signatures, etc...)

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***SERVICE***

Why do you want to be part of the LBF worship ministry? (Use separate sheet if necessary)

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Is your family supportive of the time that you are expected to commit to this ministry?

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***MUSICAL INFLUENCES***

What styles of music, and what artists have had the greatest influence on your musical style or outlook? Include both secular and Christian.

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