

RU 301 & 401

Course Covenant



“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

REFUGE VISION: Developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

REFUGE MISSION: Create environments and build relationships that encourage and equip young people to pursue intimacy with God, community with believers and influence with others.

REFUGE VALUES:

- * Loving Relationships
- * Transformative Growth
- * Passionate Service
- * Inclusive Community
- * Compassionate Action

Leadership is a choice, and it is one I hope you’ll make. Leadership isn’t another program to attend. It isn’t just for the popular, the cute or the outgoing. Leadership isn’t about having an extroverted or outgoing personality. Being a leader is about making a commitment to serve on behalf of others. Being a leader is about listening to others and truly hearing their needs. Being a leader is about being courageous and resourceful in helping to meet those needs.

Being a leader is a challenge and the most meaningful challenges are tough to keep, but they are worth the effort because our priorities determine who we are, and who we are becoming.

This packet will help you understand the commitment of taking the Development Class with Refuge University, and will provide you with the next steps if you are interested in leading in our youth ministry at First Baptist Church.

God has called us to reach the youth of our community and their families. What an honor. What a challenge.

Mel and Mark

THE ESSENCE OF BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

Jesus expected leaders to serve. Jesus gave his disciples an image of leadership that we use as our standard for student leadership here at Refuge.

Jesus called them [the disciples] together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus turned the world's understanding of leadership upside down. His teaching about leadership literally goes against everything we naturally assume about leading. Biblical leadership isn't about power or positions. It isn't about being favored or elite in Refuge. It goes in direct opposition to the attitude of running to the car and calling "SHOTGUN" to ride in the front seat.

It may not be popular but Refuge is looking for servant leaders.

COURSE OVERVIEW

RU301 and RU401 are designed to be taken in conjunction. RU301 will be offered in the Fall Semester. An application must be submitted and accepted. RU401 will then be followed up in the spring.

In RU301, students will study about Christian leadership. They will explore their spiritual gifts and passions. Students will be required to attend special events and do a study together. Once students determine what their spiritual gifts and passions are, they will be assigned a Challenge Project for the Spring Semester.

Students will need to commit to the following dates:

September 23, 2017	9AM to 1PM	Youth Leadership Seminar (Refuge Room)
October 18, 2017	1PM to 5PM	Community Organization Site Visits
November 8, 2017	1PM to 5PM	Community Organization Site Visits

Throughout the semester, times will be reserved during Refuge Basecamp for class discussion and team building. Students will also be required to attend one hospital visit with a First Baptist staff member sometime between the two semesters. Other tasks may be assigned throughout the year as the program develops.

RU401 will follow in the spring. Depending on the student's spiritual gifts and passions, the student will choose a Challenge Project. For example, if a student has the gift of speaking, then one of their projects might be to speak at Wednesday night Souled Out. The purpose of this class is to put their skills and talents to use serving the Lord and others.

We are asking a lot from youth leaders and because of this, we realize leadership isn't for everyone. Not everyone will want or will be able to commit to these requirements. It's okay. It isn't a sign of spiritual immaturity or failure if you don't serve. In fact, there won't be enough room around the table for everyone who might want to serve so even some who apply won't be able to serve this time around simply because of the size of our Refuge family. If you do not get accepted into the program, you still can serve and be a tremendous part of how God uses Refuge to reach youth and their families. So, don't feel bad if your gut is telling you this isn't for you or if you aren't selected to serve this year.

TIME COMMITMENT: We know schedules are busy and that some times of the year or seasons are busier than others. But knowing this, you must commit to doing everything you possibly can to attend Basecamp and worship most Sundays, small groups most weeks, and to attend the required meetings for RU301 and RU401.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Prayerfully consider all the requirements and expectations.
2. Talk with your family and evaluate the commitments.
3. Respond to the questions below via a typed document. You can email or hand deliver your responses to Mel or Mark.
4. Turn in the application and your responses to the questions by Sunday, September 10th, to either Mel or Mark. After a team reviews the applications, Mark will contact you by Sunday, September 17th.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you want to enroll in RU301 and RU401?
2. How would your friends describe your relationship with God right now and its impact on your daily life?
3. What is one dream or hope you have for Refuge Youth Ministry?
4. What specific and unique ways do you believe you can contribute to Refuge?
5. Tell me about one friend that is not a Christian who you would commit to intentionally pray for and share Christ with this year.

We are praying with each of you as you consider leading in this way. It is a tremendous opportunity for you to be a steward of the calling that God has given you. If you have any questions or need to visit about anything in this packet, contact Mel at 573.690.1286 or melissa@fbcjc.org, Mark at 417.894.8402 or mwleesman@gmail.com