

PRAYER MINISTRY GUIDE



WHY PRAY?

"Prayer - a devotion to relationship, encounter, and conversation with God - is the root of all we do." B Heasley

- Prayer is powerful - it changes circumstances and changes us. Prayer is the conversation we were created for and it's in having that conversation we cannot help but leave transformed.
- When we pray we get to see God's Kingdom breaking in situations.
- Prayer is not the only thing we can do. Prayer is not the least we can do. Prayer is the MOST we can do.

"Lord teach us to pray" Luke 11:1

- When we are praying two of the most important questions we can ask God are:

God what do you see?

God what do you say?

- We do not only pray at an event but before, during and after. We are people committed to God, his presence and his power. If we aren't familiar with God in the quiet, hidden places, it is almost impossible to discern his voice in the midst of what can be chaotic settings.
- Prayer is not reserved for those with titles or those who appear 'holy'. Prayer is for everyone! As John Wimber said, "Everyone gets to play."

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

It starts first with our own conversation with God. Our own walking and talking with Him. It's here that we learn to recognise Him. His whisper, His word, His heart.

We have to start here - as apprentices in our own prayer walk with God in order that we can walk well the road of praying for others.

Now don't get me wrong we don't need perfect prayer lives to pray for others there isn't a program to complete or graduate scheme worth noting... but it is a heart issue, a relational way of living that simply begins and ends with us living in relationship with God. This is a heart posture of humility

To pray for others is to extend our living breathing walking talking relationship with God into the community around us... inviting them into the conversation we have going with God already....

It requires:

- Openness - to God & to others
- Honesty - in our prayers & in our need for prayer too!
- Humility - we aren't the saviour (no pressure!) but we surrender to the saviour & in doing so we open our hearts & heads to the Holy Spirit prayer that's already happening within us!!

Praying for others - it's relational! It's conversational!

- It's real
- It's simple
- It's what we too are made for...

- It's biblical!

From the Bible we learn how to pray... the prayers/ Psalms in it, the characters who pray in it (Moses, Joshua... Jesus), and we even pray it (The word carrying a weight and power! Described as our sword!).

'You must approach the Bible with prayer, and you must approach prayer with the Bible. The order doesn't matter; sometimes you can read before you pray, sometimes after you pray. But the Bible should always be near whilst you pray.' B Heasley

HOW TO PRAY FOR OTHERS

- When praying for others our aim is to encourage, comfort and strengthen people through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We welcome the Holy Spirit and we wait. Don't be afraid to wait. The awesome is in the awkward. Explain to the person you are praying what is happening.

"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield." (Psalm 33:20)

- We don't assume that whoever has come forward for prayer knows Jesus. Be mindful of the language you choose to use and be willing to explain if necessary.
- We are there to point people towards Jesus at all times.
- If something arises while you are praying for someone that you don't know how to deal with, ask for help from leadership.
- Anything shared during prayer ministry is confidential and can only be shared with leadership in order to protect the person you are praying for.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23)

- When we pray for others, we are joining with heaven; therefore, we have heavenly authority. We look to Jesus as our model for how to pray and he prayed with authority.

When Jesus healed the paralysed man he commanded him, "get up, take your mat and go home" (Mark 2:11).

- Jesus did not ask him, he commanded him. When we pray we pray with that same authority.

PRACTISING THE PROPHETIC

- If you have a prophetic word, picture or sense for an individual we encourage you to share it! God chooses to partner with us and when he chooses to speak through us it can be very powerful.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below.” (Acts 2:17-19)

- If you get a word or picture, don't share it straight away. If you don't have a sense of what it is for ask the person if it is meaningful in anyway. Continue to listen and pray.
- If the prophetic is new for the person you are praying for, be ready and prepared to explain what's happening. It can also be helpful to encourage them to pray into it more over the next while and be willing to act on it if they feel the word is accurate, for them and from God.
- The Holy Spirit gives us gifts for a need at particular times. We do not own these gifts are they are given by the Holy Spirit. It is important that we steward spiritual gifts well and they are used in love, gentleness, faith and wisdom.
- We refrain from giving people words about getting married, having children and moving country/jobs. These are areas in which it is very difficult to get a clear answer from God in a single moment.
- Avoid language of “God is saying.” Instead use vocabulary such as “I sense God is saying”

HEALING

- When Jesus healed the paralysed man he commanded him to get up and walk. We pray with the same Kingdom authority.

“When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” (Luke 9:1-2)

Later in chapter 10 we read that Jesus did not only equip his twelve disciples, but seventy-two others.

- Just like the twelve disciples that Jesus first sent out, we have been given power and authority to prayer, but we still need to take risks and act. The risk when praying for healing is asking the person if anything has changed and committing to praying again.

“They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he spat on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, ‘Do you see anything?’

He looked up and said, ‘I see people; they look like trees walking around.’ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. (Mark 8:22-25)

- Jesus felt every emotion when he was walking on the earth. Jesus feels what we feel. He cares about how we feel, whether that is physical or emotional.
- Ask them what is wrong - don’t get into too much detail, we are not doctors.
- What has caused the illness - natural causes, injury, emotional hurt causing physical or other pain, relationships (lack of forgiveness), etc. Keep asking God for guidance as you pray.
- Welcome the Holy Spirit to come and minister to the person.
- Lay hands on the selected area if appropriate.
- We pray like Jesus, exercising in the authority God has given us and speak to what needs to be healed and command it to be healed.

PRACTICALITIES

- Ask questions

Ask the person what they would like prayer for or if there is anything specific. Not everyone will have a specific prayer request. In that case, welcome the Holy Spirit and wait.

If someone is vague in what they want prayer for, don't push them to share more if you can tell they are uncomfortable. Receiving prayer is a safe place.

- Wait

Don't be afraid to wait. Explain to the person you are praying for that we are welcoming the Holy Spirit and waiting on him to move.

Don't rush, if someone is being ministered to allow this to continue.

- Keep your eyes open when praying for others

This allows you to be aware of what is happening in front of you. Keep watch for signs of the Holy Spirit at work (warmth, tingling, shaking, etc.) God is always moving and knows the needs of the person.

- Laying hands

Ask the person if you can lay hands, only do so if it's appropriate.

- Ask for help

If you are praying for someone and feel out of your depth, pull another person from the team.

- Pray using Scripture

- Praying in tongues can be useful but be mindful of who you are praying for

Whilst this document provides a guide on how to pray for others, prayer is not a formula, and above everything else we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

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