

# PRAYER MINISTRY GUIDELINES



- Please remember, this is prayer ministry, not a counselling session. You are there to pray for them, not counsel them.
- We prefer to have guys praying with guys, and girls praying with girls, but are happy to afford some flexibility with this. For example, a male and a female praying together for another male would be perfectly acceptable. Mixed sex youth groups praying together is great. But where possible we will try to avoid one-to-one male to female, or female to male, prayer ministry.
- If you don't know the person, start by introducing yourself, ask their name and ask for a brief outline of the prayer need (don't assume they are responding to a particular appeal), but assure them that they don't have to share anything with you they are not comfortable to reveal.
- If appropriate, explain what will happen, i.e. that you are there to pray for them. If you want to put a hand on a shoulder or for healing prayer, ask permission for appropriate touch.
- Ask the Spirit to guide your prayers and be open to his leading. Pray for that person, maybe start by thanking God for them and their response to God.
- Pray specifically. You don't have to make it a long prayer. Invite God to come and move in their life.
- Don't be afraid of silence. You don't have to fill every second with your voice! Be OK with waiting on God.
- As you are praying, keep your eyes open throughout and watch what God is doing. Feel free to check with them if they sense/feel God doing something.
- Ask God if He has any verses/words he wants you to share. Remember, all words and pictures are to support Biblical truth and are to encourage, build up and edify the person you are praying for, not to rebuke, correct or direct.

- It is better to ask a question e.g. “I feel God has given me X - does this mean anything to you?” rather than telling them that God has told you that their problem is X! If you receive words or pictures, you should be wary of interpreting them for the person as you may put your own slant on them.
- As they encounter God they may have a physical reaction, (cry/fall/shake etc.). For some, it may be the first time that they have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, and they may need a little explanation that what they are experiencing is normal, good, safe and from God. They do not need to rationalise what is happening, try to keep them focused on God.
- If you see young people filming each other when ministry is taking place, kindly and politely ask them to stop in order to respect the dignity of the other young person and to protect what God is doing in their lives.
- If someone raises the need for confidentiality, e.g. “This will be heard in confidence, won’t it?” you may find it helpful to respond along the lines of, “On the whole yes but there are, occasionally, serious matters that I am obliged to take to the leadership.”
- Encourage them to keep praying and share with their youth leader/appropriate adult.
- Feedback any concerns to the prayer ministry team leader.
- With the permission of the young person, feedback any good news stories to be shared and celebrated.
- Any safeguarding concerns should be passed on to the event Safe Guarding Officer immediately. All stewards, ushers and ministry team members will be able to contact the safeguarding team quickly.