

# RE:HOPE

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## PRAYER MINISTRY GUIDE

## The goal is love.

"If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:2

In times of prayer ministry, our aim is to create a space for the person to encounter God personally. In this setting we are not counsellors, teachers or mentors, but simply people using our gifts, asking the Holy Spirit to move in His power and love. The focus is on Him and His power, not on us and our abilities. Whether God moves in the moment, or at a later time in answer to our prayers, our job is simply to listen, and invite God to do what He wants to do.

## The inspiration is **Jesus**.

"As you go, announce this: "the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, drive out demons. You have received free of charge, give free of charge."

Matthew 10:8

Motivated by a heart of love, we follow Jesus' example in praying for people, hoping to see them built up, encouraged, healed, set free and experiencing God's love. We believe that if we are willing to give space for the Holy Spirit to move, He can do miraculous things through our prayers.

The following guidelines are intended to be helpful tools, aimed at setting up a safe space for people (who may feel vulnerable) to meet God. These are written imagining the context of a Sunday church service, but could be applied to other settings too.

Our heart is for everyone to experience his love and power, while feeling respected and honoured. We don't push people over, and we don't force encounters. We

believe that if God wants something spectacular to happen, He will make it happen. Prayer ministry only really works as the Holy Spirit leads, so as long as your motivation is love and your guide is Him, you can't go too wrong.

The best way to grow in prayer ministry is to do it, a lot! So once you've had a read of this, and asked any questions necessary, the best next step is to make yourself available to be used by God. Have fun!

**May you experience God's love as you step out in faith, and watch in awe of what He does!**

# Basic Structure for Prayer Ministry

- 1) Introduce yourself, ask the persons name and then ask "how can I pray for you?" then listen.
- 2) Ask before you place your hand on someone's head or shoulder.
- 3) Begin by welcoming Holy Spirit.
- 4) Ask God to give you His love for the person. (you may want to pause and wait for a second)
- 5) Pray in response to the need; Wait. Listen. Pray as led by the Holy Spirit or your gut instinct.
- 6) What next? – Ask the person: "How are you feeling?". It's ok to pray multiple times if you feel the ministry is unfinished.
- 7) End in a simple blessing.

## Advice for Prayer Ministry

- Take some chewing gum before praying - be a blessing and not a distraction!
- Show honour and respect to the person by really listening to what they share
- Be aware of your facial reactions - remember some people are really nervous about sharing.
- Prayer ministry is not counselling. We are simply facilitators of God's work- not spiritual advisors. Save any personal conversation, encouragement or wisdom sharing for after the time of prayer ministry.
- Prayers don't need to be long and wordy. Actually sometimes fewer words are better as they leave more space for God to speak.
- Speak in understandable terms. Be aware of 'Christian-isms' and over spiritual language.
- Keep your eyes open when you pray, position yourself in a way that you can see what's happening or if there is any reaction.
- Keep an eye on the queue- are there many people still waiting for ministry? If so, you might say "I'm going to leave you here to receive more from God, feel free to stay as long as you like" while you pray for someone else.
- It's ok if people cry! Encourage them that showing emotion is healthy. Allow the person space to receive from God during the prayer time and if you want to hug them then wait until after the ministry time.
- Call over another prayer team member to join you if you feel out of your depth, uncomfortable, or you feel the Holy Spirit nudging.

# Intercession

Sometimes in prayer ministry we are simply standing with someone in prayer, and interceding on their behalf. Keep it simple:

- Ask God for his heart for the situation (you may want to pause and wait for a second).
- Pray out and lift up this situation to God, asking him to move. Never underestimate the power of having someone lift up your situation to God!
- Pray expectantly!

# Prophecy

## Waiting and Listening in Prayer Ministry

This ministry only works when God leads it! So we love to make space to wait on Him, and listen.

How do you do that? Literally, wait ... and listen. You may want to let the person know what you are doing so that they are not confused - "Let's wait on God for a second together, feel free to relax and receive from him" or "I'm going to wait on the Holy Spirit so I can get in line with his heart for you before we pray, it'll just be a few moments."

He may speak through scripture, a picture, a song or general feelings. Filter anything you hear through these three questions:

**Revelation:** What is received from God?

**Interpretation:** What is God trying to communicate?

**Application:** What is your role in receiving this word?

It's really important that you ask God "*what do you want me to do with this revelation?*" before sharing anything, as following his lead and wisdom will bring about the most impact. Sometimes God speaks to us to guide our prayers, sometimes he wants us to share what He has said.

## Discernment and Testing Words from God

The Bible is God's word given to us and the surest safety net for us to test words against. In order to best sharpen our discernment and recognition of God's voice in our lives, reading the Bible is key in getting to know his character. This is why being in a small group or equivalent in your church is mandatory for all prayer team members.

### **Here are some helpful questions to ask yourself when testing a word from God:**

- Is it consistent with Scripture?
- Is it in line with God's character?
- Does it glorify God and point you to Jesus?
- Does it witness in your own spirit? (Do you have a peace about it?)
- Does it witness in the spirits of other believers?
- Has God confirmed this through another source (not always necessary, but often the weightier the word, the bigger the implications).
- If a word concerns a matter in which your preconceived thoughts or feelings could cloud your discernment, then ask an impartial person to help you process it before acting on it.

## Healing

### Praying for Physical Healing

#### **A simple guide to healing ministry:**

Ask: What would you like God to do for you?

Start with praise and thanks

Ask for Healing in Jesus' name

Wait expectantly for God to move

Ask again: Are you feeling anything?

Repeat as many times as you feel is right!

If nothing has happened in the moment, encourage the person to come back for prayer as many times as they feel comfortable. We will never stop asking God to heal, if the person wants to be healed.

### Praying for Emotional Healing

Prayer ministry for emotional healing is a very sensitive issue, and needs to be full of compassion, grace, understanding and hope. Sometimes people are unable to heal emotionally, when sin or unforgiveness stand in the way. If it seems that is the case, here are some steps to lead to freedom:

**Repent** - confess sin and turn. "Lord, I'm sorry I .... and I say i'm going to turn now from that." "Lord, i confess unforgiveness and I chose to forgive now...."

**Renounce** - "I renounce the lie that I'm rejected in the name of Jesus"

**Rebuke** - "I rebuke that lie in Jesus' name"

**Reconcile** - Are there any practical steps that need to be taken to reconcile the situation? (ask the Holy Spirit to bring to their mind)

**Finally:** Ask Jesus to heal the wound and fill that space.

## Deliverance Ministry

Remember to be very sensitive when talking about demons. This can be a shocking concept to some people, so be careful not to cause fear, shame or confusion.

If you are concerned that the person may be demonised (either by discernment or because they have told you), it is best to identify someone who is trained in this kind of ministry to help. Otherwise, respond to the Holy Spirit's leading on how you can help lead the person on the journey to freedom, but don't directly confront demons if you are not confident in what you are doing.

# Salvation Prayers

If someone wants to give their life to Jesus, this is great!! Don't act too casually in response, our job is to celebrate with them, and make sure they have a next step in growing in their relationship with God.

Ask the person if they know what it means to be a Christian. Lead them in a prayer by getting them to repeat after you:

*Father, I know that I have broken your laws and by sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and wants to be in relationship with me. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*

After they have repeated these words or something similar, then pray and ask the Holy Spirit to fill them. End your ministry time by praying protection and blessings over them in Jesus' name.

**Now, we need to make sure that they are going to be in a community where they can grow in their new faith.**

Ask: Do you usually come to this church? Do you have a group of people you know? Can I introduce you to some people here? Would you like to join a small group (or equivalent)?

It is SO important to make sure the person is not alone but will have people to lead them on their next steps. Small groups are the best opportunity for this.



# Anointing Oil

Following many examples in the Bible, we sometimes anoint people with oil as part of prayer ministry. You can read about this in: Exodus 25:6, Leviticus 8:30 Numbers 4:16, Mark 6:13, Mark 14:3-9, James 5:14. Anointing oil can be a powerful way of ministering for healing, commissioning, blessing, and setting apart.

**When?** If you feel led by the Holy Spirit, or even if you just feel it is the right thing to do.

**How?** Firstly, explain to the person that we use oil as a physical symbol of the Holy Spirit, just as baptism is a physical symbol of being raised from the dead with Christ. It is important that you explain to people why we do this. If someone feels really uncomfortable and says no then don't anoint them.

**Where?** On an appropriate place! Usually on their head, unless it's for healing somewhere specific.

If you are interceding for someone who is not present then there are handkerchieves that you can anoint and pray over to give the person to take away. We see Paul do something similar in Acts 19:12; the cloth simply acts as a tangible reminder that people are praying for an ailing friend.

## Further Resources:

### Hearing God's Voice:

Can You Hear Me?: Tuning in to the God Who Speaks - *Brad Jersak*

Translating God - *Shawn Bolz*

### Prophecy:

Prophecy 10 online course- *Shawn Bolz* - found at <https://bolzministries.com/>

### Words of Knowledge:

God Secrets- *Shawn Bolz*

### Healing Ministry:

Power Healing - *John Wimber*

### Deliverance Ministry:

Healing Through Deliverance: The Foundation and Practice of Deliverance Ministry  
- *Peter Horrobin*

### Spiritual Warfare:

Spiritual Warfare Strategy: Confronting Spiritual Powers - *Peter Wagner*

Warfare Prayer: What the Bible Says about Spiritual Warfare - *Peter Wagner*

### Trauma Ministry:

Healing Trauma (online teaching series) - *Elijah House* found at:

<http://www.streamsministries.com/classroom/courses/10>

# Re:Hope Prayer Team

Thank you for your interest in the prayer team. Prayer ministry is an exciting opportunity to encounter God, and lead others to experience his love, presence and transforming power personally.

Prayer ministry team members are not viewed as “volunteers”, which may imply that they are replaceable, with a low-level of commitment. We really believe that there is ministry God wants to do through YOU, based on your unique blend of giftings and life experience, that no one else can offer. Therefore, we hope that by serving on the prayer team, you will be empowered and released to minister in this way with God’s power and love.

## What kind of people are we looking for on the Prayer Ministry Team?

We look for people who:

### **-Love God, and love people.**

If our prayer ministry does not flow from our love for God and love for his people, we completely miss the point.

“Pursue love and earnestly desire spiritual gifts” 1 Corinthians 14:1

“If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2

### **-Are members of Re:Hope Church.**

We view prayer ministry as an incredibly significant spiritual task, and a delegated authority from our elders. We see in the bible that elders are called to pray for the sick, anoint people with oil, and minister to people through all types of prayer. On Sundays, our prayer team have delegated authority to do this alongside our eldership, given the special task of praying for the people in our church. We believe church membership offers us the best basis for trust and accountability.

### **-Are members of a Bible Read Through group.**

Prayer team members are committed to a lifestyle of loving the Word, reading it cover to cover in community. A BRT group provides a great environment for

character growth and accountability, while fostering a love for the word, and offering regular personal prayer support.

**-Live a lifestyle that reflects a generally trustworthy character.**

Anyone who is known for gossip, slander or lying will not be seen as “safe” to members of the congregation. We want to do our best to eliminate any reason someone might be uncomfortable asking for prayer ministry, so it is important they feel safe with the person praying for them.

**-Make lifestyle choices above reproach, choosing to honour God and not hide sin.**

We do not expect prayer team members to be sinless. No one is, and we believe God works through imperfect people. However, we do look for people who have a hunger for righteousness and following Jesus, and enough humility to recognise when they get off track. So what we ask of prayer team members is that they are committed to growing in personal holiness, not hiding their sin, but seeking out appropriate people to pray with and hold them accountable in a journey towards freedom.

If you think you fit with those things, here is how to join the team:

1) Read over the prayer ministry team guidelines. If you have any questions about them, please follow up with the prayer ministry team leaders, Ruth Weller (ruth@rehope.co.uk) Robbie Morrison (robbiemorrison1@hotmail.com) or Carron Allan (carronruth@gmail.com)

2) Once you have read the guidelines, the best way to learn is to have a go and get some experience. We will arrange for you to shadow someone on the prayer team for the first two or three Sundays. After each prayer ministry time you will then have an opportunity to chat with the person that you were shadowing and ask any questions you may have.

3) Finally, you will be sent an invitation to join our 'Slack' group which is an app that the prayer team communication is done through.

After this you are good to go!

## Prayer Team Expectations

- Download the app "slack" and check frequently for prayer ministry team communication.
- Download the app 'Churchsuite' and sign into your MyChurchsuite where you can enter your unavailability and check your rotas.
- Be available to serve on the team at least twice a month, though you are welcome to serve more than that too
- Attend three training nights a year if possible
- Attend occasional practical nights in flats

## What to expect: Serving on a Sunday

### **AM**

10.00am - Pre-Service Prayer

10.35am - Prayer team meeting - In the balcony

10.45am - Grab a coffee and welcome

11.00am - Service begins

12:15pm (ish) - prayer ministry during last set, and meeting immediately after (5 mins)

-At the end of the sermon, when you hear the worship team being invited back on stage, then that is your cue to head upstairs to the balcony and get ready to receive people.

-Find your name lanyard (on the back of the door to the sound cupboard)

-Have a mint or gum

-Stock up on tissues and prayer@rehope cards

-Usually we have men on one side and women on the other side of the balcony for prayer ministry. Occasionally we will offer ministry in mixed-sex groups, if you are uncomfortable at all with then please just say so!

-As much as is possible, pray in pairs, so one person can take the lead one person and listen to God and intercede.

-If you think the person could do with some follow-up prayer then give them a "prayer@rehope.co.uk" card and ask them to get in touch. Do not feel obliged to meet up with the person.

## Feedback Forms

After prayer ministry, team members fill out online feedback forms. These forms need not be long, and can be done in less than a minute after the service.

In compliance with data security laws, and our desire to honour the privacy of individuals, **we do not record any names or specific details** that would reveal identity. The purpose of feedback forms is to:

- 1) Praise God for what he is doing
- 2) Raise any personal concerns, that you would like to discuss with someone.

This is simply a means of the prayer team not feeling left alone if they were unsure how the ministry time went. All the feedback forms are read and will see that anything flagged is followed up as soon as possible.

It is also helpful to track the kinds of things God is doing in our services on Sunday, which helps us get better prepared if we need training in anything specific.

## Confidentiality

As a prayer ministry team, we are not legally obliged to offer confidentiality however, we choose to keep the matters discussed during prayer ministry private, in order to create an environment of trust and safety which is most honouring to the individual receiving prayer.

It is recognised that there may be reason for the prayer ministry team to discuss issues raised during prayer ministry, for the purposes of seeking advice on how to proceed. If this situation arises then the identity of the individual will remain anonymous unless permission is given to share those specific details, or if it would be in the best pastoral interest of the person concerned.

Confidentiality is not the same as secrecy (which is the concealment of information that may be harmful to others). There are a number of scenarios in which confidential information can be shared:

- If the prayer ministry team member is legally obliged to disclose the information (where a serious crime has been committed)
- If there is a risk of serious physical harm to the individual themselves, or others
- If the matter concerned compromises the integrity of the church
- If the prayer ministry team member needs to seek guidance or advice on the matter
- Where the person receiving prayer has agreed that information may be shared

An important aspect of prayer ministry is that we do not offer help beyond our competence or ability. The person leading the pastoral care should be aware of any personal boundaries or limits in which they feel uncomfortable. Prayer ministry team members should not enter into a situation in which they do not feel comfortable. As a prayer ministry team, we are not trained counsellors and so can refer individuals onto counselling services, should the need arise.

## Mid Week Prayer Ministry Appointments

The mid week prayer appointments allow more time to talk, be listened to, and pray and wait on God. Being on the prayer ministry team does not mean you are required to be available for mid week prayer appointments. However when these appointments do come up you may be asked if you would like to help. Here is what you can expect when praying in a mid week appointment.

- The person who is asking for the appointment will fill out a form which will roughly describe the reason for seeking prayer - this form will then be sent to you before the appointment to prepare and pray over.
- There are usually two people that will be praying and where possible a musician will be present to help create an atmosphere of worship.
- The appointment itself lasts around an hour to an hour and a half. However we ask the people who are praying to arrive around half an hour before the appointment to pray over the room and to prepare.
- When praying, pray for them based on the things they have shared with you, whether for blessing, protection, healing, or breakthrough. Be clear in how you plan to spend the time; explain what you are asking God to do, whether you will be praying out loud or waiting in silence. The clearer the communication, the better.
- Times of prayer are often made more powerful by a time of intentional listening to God for direction and encouragement. Ask God to speak and then wait. He may speak through scripture, a picture, a song or general feelings.

### **Here is a simple outline of what praying should look like:**

- Begin by welcoming the Holy Spirit
- Pray in response to the need; Wait. Listen. Pray as led by the Holy Spirit or your gut instinct



- What next? - Ask the person: "How are you feeling?". It's ok to pray multiple times if you feel the ministry is unfinished.
- End in a simple blessing