

EMMAUSRD
church

prayer ministry

Praying at all times in the Spirit.

- Ephesians 6:18



Prayer ministry is a space to encounter the Holy Spirit. As a prayer ministry team, our role is to give space for those we are praying with to have an encounter with the living God. Our aim in a time of prayer ministry is to listen with an individual to the Spirit and to partner with the Spirit in speaking truth and love over those receiving prayer. Prayer ministry is a place to experience the love of God, which often leads to spiritual knowledge and discernment. Those leading in prayer ministry carry the spiritual authority given to us in Christ.

As prayer ministry team, we:

- **Ask**
- **Welcome + Wait**
- **Pray**

Ask. Ask the name of the individual and if they have any specific prayer request. Ask if you can place a hand on their shoulder.

Welcome + Wait. Welcome the presence of the Spirit. We often pray a simple line like, “Come, Holy Spirit.” Wait and listen together for what God is saying. Bless the work that God is doing in their lives.

Pray. As the Spirit leads, pray. Share any words, pictures, or Scriptures that God has given you for those receiving prayer. Bless the work that God is already doing in their lives.

SPIRITUAL GUIDELINES

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

PERSONAL HOLINESS

Before leading in prayer ministry, take time to centre your own heart and mind on Jesus. Our expectation would be that any of our prayer leaders are in an active relationship with Jesus and regularly committed to the church community, with personal rhythms of prayer and Scripture.

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

When you pray, you pray with the spiritual authority of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:21, Colossians 2:10, Jude 1:25). Pray with the full authority that has been won through Jesus to declare life, hope, freedom, and joy over those who have come to receive prayer.

LAYING ON HANDS

Throughout Scripture, we read about the “laying on of hands.” In the Gospels, Jesus regularly laid hands on people in order to bless and impart healing and the power of the Spirit. The early church followed this model (Acts 8:17, 9:17, 19:6). We lay hands for prayer, anointing, healing, commissioning, and to impart the Holy Spirit.

LOVE IS THE GOAL

The intention of prayer ministry is for love to abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment (Philippians 1:9). Pray from love, pray for love, and pray that the love of God would be revealed in our lives and through our prayer ministry.



PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

1. **Give space.** Stand face to face or side to side with an individual where appropriate, giving space to listen to each other well. If face to face, ensure that there is healthy distance. Encourage a posture of openness and open hands. Don't be afraid of silence and creating space to wait and listen as you pray.
2. **Pray in pairs.** Wherever possible, pray in pairs. In 1:1 prayer ministry, we generally recommend that you pray with your gender. In times of public response, we will often pray and bless what God is already doing without conversation.
3. **Speak clearly.** When you begin to pray, pray in a clear and gentle tone, at a loud enough volume that your prayer can be heard and received. Meet people where they are; if kneeling or not able to stand, meet them at their eye level if possible.
4. **Freshen your breath.** It's always a kindness to freshen your breath with a mint or gum for planned prayer ministry.
5. **Keep your eyes open.** As a prayer ministry leader, you are partnering with the Spirit and staying attentive to the work that God is doing. Watch the facial expressions and response of the person you are praying with so that you can lead the ministry aware of how the Spirit is meeting them. This may include tears, joy, or other responses. We do usually encourage the person receiving prayer to keep their eyes closed to minimise their distractions.
6. **Avoid counselling and preaching.** Our role in prayer ministry is to welcome the Spirit and bless God's work, not to instruct or counsel an individual. Be careful about absolute statements with overly specific application, especially about areas that may be tender (relationships, infertility, birth, death).
7. **Offer humbly.** If you feel that God has given you a specific word or picture, offer it gently and humbly. Instead of saying "thus says the Lord" or "God is saying", offer the word or picture and ask, "I sense God might be saying; does this land with you?". We know in part and prophecy in part (1 Corinthians 13:9)
8. **Check in.** At the end of the time of prayer ministry, which usually ends naturally, check in with the individual; feel free to ask, "How are you feeling?" or "Is there anything else we can pray for together?" If you sense someone needs a hug, always ask and don't assume. Emotion may not mean they need or are comfortable with a hug.
9. **Honour confidentiality.** Often in prayer ministry, we have stories or information shared that is personal and tender. Hold what is shared in prayer ministry confidential and honour the stories of those you are praying with unless there are any ongoing pastoral or safeguarding needs. If any disclosure in prayer gives you concern for the safety of the individual or anyone else, please have a conversation with an Emmaus Rd pastor.
10. **Consider follow-up.** If the prayer ministry has a natural area of follow-up (salvation, Alpha, marriage support), connect with a member of the Emmaus Rd staff or the Emmaus Rd website.



GOING DEEPER: PRAYER AND PROPHECY

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

At the heart of all biblical prophecy is a revelation of the love of God. When we operate with the gift of prophecy, we are speaking forth the love of God for the sake of the world. In order to do this we:

LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT

Create regular space in your personal prayer life to listen to the voice of the Spirit. When you are leading this in a time of prayer ministry, use normal, gentle language to explain: “Let’s take a few moments now to wait on God.” or “Let’s listen together to the Spirit for a few moments to hear God’s heart.”

DISCERN IN THE SPIRIT

You may sense a Scripture, a picture, a word, a song, or a sense of God’s heart in this moment.

Discern what is from God through these questions:

- **Revelation:** What is received from God?
- **Interpretation:** What is God trying to communicate?
- **Application:** What is your role in receiving this word?

A few questions that may be helpful:

- Is this consistent with Scripture?
- Is this 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 peace about it?)
- Does it witness in the spirits of other believers / prayer ministry team?
- Do I have any previous thoughts that might cloud my discernment or feelings on this? (if so, process with another leader before you share)

ASK THE SPIRIT

Ask the Spirit what you are meant to share with those receiving prayer ministry. We may receive a word or picture that is simply meant to guide our prayers; at other times, it’s right to share.



GOING DEEPER: PRAYER AND SALVATION

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

Exodus 15:2

One of our greatest joys is to welcome people into the family of God. We trust our prayer and ministry teams to be led by the Spirit in these moments, but a simple set of guidelines for praying for salvation:

Ask Welcome + Wait Pray

Ask. Ask the individual if they know what it means to become a Christian. Invite them to pray in their own language and words to God. Often they have a clear sense and personal language around their desire to surrender their life to Christ.

Welcome + Wait. Welcome the presence of the Spirit. Very often, the individual will be moved to tears. Give space for the love of God and the presence of Jesus to be known.

Pray. Either pray for the individual or invite them to repeat this prayer after you:

Jesus, I welcome your presence into my life. I want to repent from my sins and surrender any patterns that separate me from your love. I believe that you died for my sins, were raised from the dead, are alive, and I want to live in relationship with you.

I invite Jesus to be the Lord of my life from this day forward.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Close by asking for the Holy Spirit to fill this individual and speak life and blessing over them.

This is a moment for eternal celebration! Before you finish your time of prayer, ask:

- Do you usually come to this church? Are you connected to our community?
- Can I introduce you to one of our pastors or share your contact details with them?
- Do you have a Bible? Suggest an area for them to begin reading, usually one of the Gospels.



GOING DEEPER: PHYSICAL HEALING

Continue steadfastly in prayer.

Colossians 4:2

We believe that the “power of the Lord is present to heal (Luke 5:17).” We also recognise that while healing is always possible, it is not always answered in the way or timing that we ask for. This is a simple guide for how to pray for physical healing:

Ask. Ask: What would you like God to do for you? Ask if a hand can be placed on the area where healing is needed (if appropriate).

Welcome + Wait. Welcome the presence of Jesus and begin your time of prayer with praise and thanks. Listen to the Spirit. Thank God for his love, his presence, his kindness, his authority.

Pray. Pray with faith and boldly invite healing in Jesus name. Be as specific as possible and wait expectantly for God to move. Examples of how to pray:

- “We ask for pain to be gone in Jesus name.”
- “We pray for healing in the name of Jesus.”
- “We proclaim the life and authority of Jesus over x place of pain.”

Ask. Ask the individual receiving prayer: do you feel anything? Has your pain changed? Have you regained any kind of movement? Invite their response and feel free to pray again for healing, freedom and life. Often there has been a place of additional movement or partial healing; feel free to pray again, or to ask the individual if they would like to pray out loud with you.

Blessing and Protection. End your time of prayer by praying a blessing over any healing received and protection over mind, heart, soul, and body. If there has been no specific place of healing, pray for a future healing and for the presence of Jesus to be known in the place of pain.

When we pray for healing, we are declaring the authority of Jesus into a place of longing and expectation. Seal the time of prayer by asking that the individual would continue to experience the presence of God even in the unfinished prayers. Pray for grace to know where to press in with bold authority and where to listen in gentle surrender.



GOING DEEPER: EMOTIONAL HEALING

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:16

When we pray with an individual for emotional healing, we are entering into a place of tenderness and care for what can often be a long-term pattern or place of pain. In these places, we are not offering counseling, advice, therapy, or pastoral care, but inviting the presence of the Spirit to be at work to bring healing to our hearts.

Ask. Ask where the individual is looking for healing and breakthrough.

Welcome + Wait. Welcome the presence of the Spirit to speak.

Pray. Speak words of life, hope, health, and healing, and the promise of God to bring hope and restoration to our souls. The words of Psalm 23 and Isaiah 58:11-12 are promises of God that may be helpful to memorise.

There may be an appropriate space here to lead in a prayer of repentance with a simple set of invitations:

- **Repent:** are there any sins to be confessed? Any wounds to be named?
- **Renounce:** are there any patterns to be renounced? Any lies to be released?
- **Reconcile:** is there any work that the Spirit is inviting for practical reconciliation?
- **Renew:** bless God's work of renewal and restoration. Speak truth, promise, wholeness, and life.



GOING DEEPER: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”
Luke 4:18-19**

Prayer ministry often brings us into encounters with places of spiritual darkness, oppression, and warfare. For any place of prayer ministry where you sense demonic oppression, invite another member of the prayer team or Emmaus Rd Staff to join you. We do not actively lead in deliverance ministry but we do encourage you to pray in this way.

Ask. Ask for the protection of the full armor of God, found in Ephesians 6:10-19 as a place of protection over yourself and those leading in prayer ministry. Ask for the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit for wisdom in this moment.

Welcome + Wait. Welcome the presence of the Spirit. In some cases, the individual receiving prayer may begin to manifest a demonic presence or expressions, in some cases using violent language or behaviours when you welcome the presence of the Spirit.

Pray. If the individual is willing, ask them to pray for a release of any strongholds that might be keeping them from receiving the Spirit of God. Very often, they will name areas that they may want to surrender as spiritual strongholds, idols, or places of darkness in their life.

Invite the presence of Jesus and the life of the Spirit to fill the places of surrender. Pray for peace, freedom, and the love of Jesus to be known in their lives. Proclaim over them the promises of God for freedom and life. End with a prayer of protection over their mind, heart, soul, and body.

Resources to Go Deeper
Deliverance by Jon Thompson
How to Hear God by Pete Greig
How to Pray by Pete Greig
The Soul of Prayer by P. T. Forsyth

This guide was written with collaborative wisdom drawn from KXC Church, Emmaus Rd, ReHope Church, Wildfires, and Saint Church in London.

