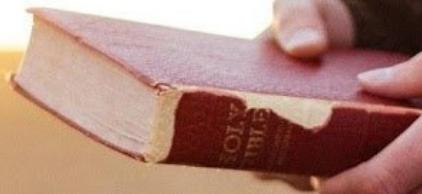




worldoutreach  
SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

**SERIES FIVE**  
**MODULE FOUR:**  
**PRAYING FOR PEOPLE**

---



***Outline Session 1***

1. Praying for people

## SESSION ONE: PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

Our leadership is exercised in a ministry context. We serve in a local church. Churches are made up of people. God loves his people. Under the Great Shepherd (Jesus), we are not just called to lead his people, but to love them and minister to their needs. One of the ways in which we minister to people is by praying for them.

In this session we're going to explore how, in practical terms, we go about praying for people.

### Let's lay some brief foundations.

- We believe that God answers prayer and meets people's needs.
- We believe that prayer is powerful and effective (James 5:16-18).
- We believe that praying for people is a way to minister to them.
- We believe that prayer is a way by which people can express faith in God and his Word.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit can empower and guide us to pray for people sensitively and insightfully.

As a leader you will generally pray for people in one of two scenarios:

- **Either during a visit** to them in their home, workplace, at hospital or another setting.
- **Or during an altar call or call for prayer** at a church service.

We'll endeavour to frame the following ideas within these two scenarios.

### PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR HOW TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE.

#### *During the meeting or on the way to visit (prior to you actually praying for someone)*

#### 1. Prepare your heart & mind by...

- Intentionally thinking and focusing on what you are about to do
- Having a short time of quiet, personal reflection prior to the actual meeting or visit (if possible)
- Stilling your mind from the day's activities, anxieties and demands

#### 2. Listen to / for the Holy Spirit.

- In the service, listen carefully to the message to pick up what the Spirit is saying through the sermon to the hearts of people
- If you're on your way to visit someone, listen for (and expect) the voice of the Holy Spirit to give you guidance on how to pray and what to pray for
- You will sometimes need the wisdom of God during a visit because of the nature of the person's need (e.g. bereavement, family crisis, devastating prognosis, etc.)

### **3. Some important practicalities.**

- Brush your teeth prior to the visit or meeting and always take along mints or a breath freshener
- Listen to the directions given by the meeting leader or speaker in regard to how the prayer line will operate
- If visiting, please be in contact with the pastoral team beforehand to find out any relevant information, guidance or advice.

### ***When you are praying for the person***

#### **1. In terms of your general attitude toward the person you are praying for...**

- Treat each person with dignity and respect
- Treat each person as if they were the most important person in the meeting. Pray for them in the way you would like to be prayed for
- Don't be in a rush, but give time for each person. Their need *is* important to them

#### **2. Ask for their first name and what they'd like you to pray for**

- If their answer is vague, seek clarity, but avoid giving the impression that you're interrogating. Some people's needs are very personal
- Listen carefully until you understand what you'll be specifically praying for
- Maybe even repeat their request back in your own words so the person knows you have heard them ("So you'd like me to pray for...?")

#### **3. Give brief instructions and exhortations**

- Let them know that you'll now pray for and with them
- Encourage them to join their faith with yours
- Encourage them to focus on Jesus

#### **4. Place your hands on the person's head or unobtrusively touch their shoulder (or whatever is culturally appropriate)**

- If the person is new to the practice of the laying on of hands, it may be wise to let them know what you're about to do (lay hands on them) and briefly explain why (Biblical instruction from James 5)

#### **5. Always be completely appropriate when dealing with someone from the opposite sex**

- Avoid placing your hands on any part of their body except their head or shoulders
- Get someone of the same gender to pray with you for the person if it is potentially embarrassing or is controversial (questionable) in any way
- If the person begins to cry or is distressed, it is also appropriate to get someone of the same gender as the person you are praying for to come and comfort them

- It is also not ethical to visit someone alone of the opposite sex if they, too, are alone. It's always wise and safer to take another person. If there's any doubt, ask one of the Pastoral Team

#### **6. Pray**

- Always begin with thanksgiving and praise to God for who he is and what he has done
- Present the need to God
- Base your prayer on Scripture
- Pray in the authority of Jesus' name
- Conclude the prayer with a declaration and expectation of divine intervention
- Thank the person for responding to the prayer line

#### **7. Move on to the next person on the prayer line or say your farewells to the person you have just visited**

#### **8. Follow up with the person to see how they are going and if they require ongoing prayer**

#### **9. Seek the person's permission to pass on any requests that are of a more serious nature (e.g. life-threatening health issues) to the Pastoral Team for follow up and pastoral care**

#### **10. Grow in faith**

- Fill yourself with God's Word
- Pray with other experienced prayers
- Foster your relationship with the Holy Spirit
- Believe for the Lord to do great and mighty things through you