



PRAYER MINISTRY

Team Training Guide





A letter from us...

Thank you for your heart and passion to serve on the Prayer Ministry Team here at Southridge Church. Your role as a Prayer Ministry Team Member is vital for the ministry of SRC. Our goal is to be people who ***pray first, pray always, and pray for all things***. What a privilege to be able to pray for a person's need, to minister to their situation, and help them connect with Jesus!

In this guide, we've included information on:

- ◆ Overview of the ministry, it's structure, and our main areas of prayer and action
- ◆ Expectations, qualifications and commitment
- ◆ Protocols and guidelines for praying and ministering
- ◆ Leading a person to faith in Jesus Christ
- ◆ Praying for specific needs and situations
- ◆ Resources available and Next Steps

If you have any questions or need any clarification on the information included in this guide, please let us know.

Will Ford
Prayer Team Leader
will@southridge.org

Aleigha Tucker
Prayer Team Leader
aleigha@southridge.org

Kim Huffman
At Home Prayer Team Leader
kimhuff.1961@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

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WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

MISSION & VALUES

Our Mission at Southridge Church is to help people take their next steps on their faith journey. Our Vision is to be a church that our community can't live without.

We have 3 Core Values here at Southridge Church:

1. We Before Me.
2. We Are Better Together.
3. We Never Stop Growing.

These values are at the center of everything we do, and steer how we approach ministry.

However, as much as these values drive what we do, prayer is at the foundation of it all.

Which is why the Prayer Ministry wants people on their faith journey who will *pray first, pray always, and pray for all things.*



Team Structure

Our Prayer Ministry is divided into two teams:

1. At Home Prayer Team
2. Sunday Prayer Team

At Home Prayer Team

Members pray for requests that are sent throughout the week and also pray for the weekly services and ministries regularly.

Sunday Prayer Team Members

are available to pray for the services as well as those who respond during worship experiences.

Throughout your time serving on the Prayer Team, you will pray for many different things and many people. However, we recognize there are four main types of prayers or actions. We call these *The Core Four*.

01

Connecting with Christ

Through prayer we can help others connect with Christ, whether in person or at a distance, in order to help them take their Next Steps on their faith journey.

02

Leading to Faith

As a member of this team you may encounter people who are ready to make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ, and we must be ready to lead them to faith.

03

Praying for Needs

Whether people are responding to the message as directed by the Pastor or speaker, or requesting specific prayer for needs or life situations, we will pray for and with others.

04

Next Steps

Depending on the type of response, request or situation, you may need to suggest further follow-up, resources or next steps.

Reasons

Due to the time constraints during a response time, you may have times you feel as though your work is unfinished. In these situations, you may need to do one or more of the suggestions given under the *Next Steps* portion of this guide.

01

Weekly Expectations

AT HOME PRAYER TEAM

- **PRAY FIRST:** Take time each week to pray for the weekly ministries, staff, planning, events and services. Follow the Southridge Church Feed in Echo Prayer for guides and areas to pray over.
- **PRAY ALWAYS:** Check regularly throughout the week for new prayer requests through the Echo Prayer App, and pray daily.
- **PRAY FOR ALL THINGS:** Set aside time throughout the week to pray for those specific needs and requests that are posted.

SUNDAY PRAYER TEAM

- **PRAY FIRST:** Arrive at 8:45am and/or 10:45am to meet together in the prayer room to pray for the service(s) on the days you are in attendance and/or scheduled.
- **PRAY ALWAYS:** Pray throughout the service, and be ready as a “Response Team” to minister to those who come forward during worship or at the end of service.
- **PRAY FOR ALL THINGS:** People may come forward as directed by the speaker for prayer over specific needs and requests, including salvation through Christ.
 - ◆ Communicate directly to the person you are ministering to, if they respond they want someone to pray with and for them.
 - ◆ Be mindful of the time, those around you, and the comfort level of the person you are with.
 - ◆ If a more in depth conversation needs to take place, ask to move to the prayer room.
- Use the appropriate tools and resources available as guides, to gather information, suggest next steps and/or have appropriate follow-up as deemed necessary.

02

Overall Expectations

- Attend trainings, meetings and other events that may occur throughout your commitment. If you are unable to attend, contact the one of the Prayer Team Leaders for information needed.
- Follow protocols and guidelines found in this guide.
- Whatever is told in confidence should not be repeated.
- Whenever discussions involve people, do not gossip.
- When there are disagreements, do not slander.
- Information regarding staff or church business should not be discussed with the congregation or those outside of those who have received such information.
- Dress appropriately for the task.

03

Qualifications & Commitments

- We must each profess Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior having faith in Him alone.
- Each Prayer Team Member must be a committed attendee of Southridge Church (online or in-person).
- We should have a heart for prayer and a genuine compassion for people.
- We each maintain a vital, personal walk with the Lord through prayer, Bible study, and other disciplines in order to continue our own spiritual growth.
- We understand the importance of a team, that we are truly better together, and that we model a culture of receiving prayer as well as ministering.
- We commit to serve for one year, after which you may recommit or be released.
- Communication is key! Notify leaders when you can or cannot be in attendance to serve or if you need anything.



Be Attentive

When praying, pay close attention to the individual(s) and what's going on around you. Don't be afraid to open your eyes and observe at times.

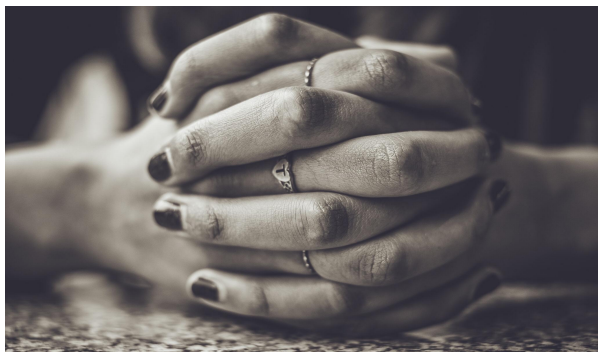


Be Concise

Often times, shorter, more concise prayers are better than long, rambling prayers for people. Remember that God does not need many words, only our faith.

Be Smart

Pray in pairs when possible, especially if you have to pray for someone of the opposite gender. Ask permission to touch the individual, then place hands on shoulder, hands or head, do not presume it's okay.



Be Mindful

Keep in mind that you are there to minister to individuals through prayer. Do not show surprise, shock or disapproval, but demonstrate empathy and compassion. Use discernment to know when to escalate.



Basic Model for Response Team Prayer



Lead-In

Ask the person's name if unknown and use it often during prayer. Make sure they are comfortable and let them know you would like to pray with them.



Seek Specifics

Determine specifically what to pray for by asking if they have a need or request they would like to share, but don't push them if they don't want to share.



Relationship Status

Before moving on with prayer, inquire the status of their relationship with Christ. Ask, "Before we pray, can I ask, have you accepted Jesus as your Savior?"



Salvation

If they answer no, ask them if they would like to and lead them to faith in Christ if so. If they answer yes, then simply move to the next step.

See **Leading to Faith*



Select the Prayer

Once you know the specific need and have covered their relationship status, select the type of prayer to decide how you will connect with Christ on their behalf. **Refer to **Specific Needs** section.*



Offer Next Steps

When you have finished praying, determine if anything further needs to be done. Depending on the type of response, request or situation, you may need to suggest further help, resources or next steps.



Faith in Christ

Connecting others to Christ by leading them to accept the free gift of salvation is such a privilege! Presenting the Gospel in a clear and concise way is important to help them start their faith journey off right. Below you will find the Gospel message in six words. Refer to the *Next Steps* section to see more on what to do.

01

GOD

GOD made you to be in relationship with Him.

02

OUR

OUR sins separate us from God.

03

SINS

SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.

04

PAYING

PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

05

EVERYONE

EVERYONE who trusts and puts their faith in Jesus is given a new life.

06

LIFE

LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

Different Types of Prayer

There are several different types of prayer as well as different ways to pray. The following examples are not everything or every way, but they may help you in understanding and deciding how to pray for different needs, requests or situations.

- Petition - asking God for something (strength, courage, etc.)
- Intercession - asking God to help others who need it (the sick, poor, etc.)
- Confession - owning up to sin and asking for God's mercy and forgiveness
- Adoration - praising God for His greatness and admitting dependence on Him
- Thanksgiving - thanking God for his many blessing (health, family, etc.)

How and what you pray for is obviously dependent on the specific needs of the individual you are praying for, but here are some option:

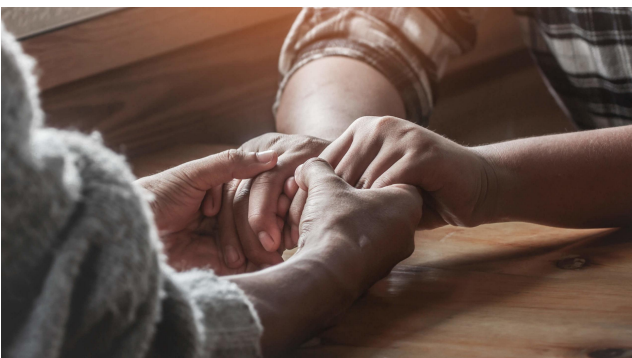
- **Ask:** You can ask God directly, in the name of Jesus through petition and intercession and is appropriate for any prayer need. ***John 16:23**
- **Declare:** You can declare something to be established. A declaration is where we speak out a desired outcome, declare a scripture that is applicable in the context, or prophetically declare the will of the Lord in a situation. Things that need brought into existence or shifts to take place are appropriate (breakthrough in finances, shifts in relationships, protection, etc.). ***Matt. 21:22, Mark 11:22-24, Psalm 33:9**
- **Command:** You can also also engage directly against something using one or more of the weapons God has given us. (**2 Cor. 10:3-5**) This is appropriate if dealing with some kind of spiritual battle, physical affliction, storms, mental strongholds, etc. See these scriptures for more on weapons: Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12, Phillipians 2:10, Revelation 12:11, 1 Timothy 1:18, 2 Cor. 6:7

If you don't know what type of prayer to use, simply engage and trust the Holy Spirit to guide you and intervene. It's more important that you pray than it is to know exactly what to pray. **Romans 8:26** says, "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

What to Do

Here are some things that you should do when praying.

- Begin praying as quickly as possible. Don't rush into it before you know what to pray for, but remember your time is limited, so try to get there as soon as possible.
- Pray short, impactful prayers. Long, drawn out prayers aren't always necessary or helpful.
- Consider the tone of your praying. For example, when praying for peace for the individual, praying with a calm and soothing tone is appropriate. Conversely, a bold, forceful tone is more appropriate when trying to break a person's stronghold, commanding, or declaring.
- Avoid any speech or action that may produce confusion, offense or harm.
- We are to edify, encourage, comfort and connect people to Jesus Christ.



What Not to Do

Here are some things that you should **NOT** do when praying.

- We should not give rebuke, correction or direction. Trust the Holy Spirit and the pastors for this.
- We are not there to counsel or provide any in-depth ministry.
- We do not offer any medical or other professional advice.
- Be careful not to speak anything that may cause embarrassment or cause shame, humiliation, confusion or offense.
- Do not force them to tell you specifics. If you ask, and they say, "just pray with me," assure them and remind yourself, that "God knows everything you need. So I don't have to."
- Do not share details with others. Keep in mind the importance of confidentiality when serving. If in doubt, speak with one of the pastors.



Power in Scripture

God's Word is alive and active, and it never returns void. There is power in praying scripture over a specific need or situation. We can use scripture to declare things, to call promises to remembrance, to bring clarity to why we do something, to bring hope, and most importantly to connect them with Jesus and God's Word.

Below are some scriptures you can read over that are useful for specific needs and situations. Take some time to commit a few of these and/ or others to memory to recall and use when praying for an individual so that you can pray God's Word.

- **Forgiveness:** Matthew 6:24-15 - "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."
- **Confession of sin:** 1 John 1:9 - "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."
- **Healing:**
 - ◆ Exodus 15:26b - "...for I am the Lord who heals you."
 - ◆ Psalms 103:3 - "He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases."
 - ◆ James 5:13-15 - "Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. 14 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven."
 - ◆ 1 Peter 2:24 - "He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." See also Isaiah 53:5

- **No Condemnation:** Romans 8:1 - “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”
- **Armor of God:** Ephesians 6:12-18 - “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”
- **Transformed Mind:** Romans 12:2 - “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”
- **Every thought Captive:** 2 Corinthians 10:5 - “We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.”
- **Peace:**
 - ◆ Phillipians 4:6-7 - “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”
 - ◆ Isaiah 26:3 - “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”
- **Anxiety:** Psalm 94:19 - “When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.” 1 Peter 5:7 - “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
- **Fear:** 1 Tim. 1:7 - “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”
- **Strength:** Isaiah 40:31 - “...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Needing to do more?

Depending on the type of response, request or situation, you may need to suggest further follow-up, resources or next steps. Due to time constraints during a response time, you may feel that your work is unfinished. This is where Next Steps comes in to play. Here are some resources, suggestions and direction on where to find what you need, what to do, and more.



Sometimes you may find that additional resources would be helpful to those for whom you are praying. We will have Prayer Boxes available at the altar and inside the prayer room containing items that will be helpful in ministering to individuals through prayer. Below are some items you can find inside.

- Prayer Cards
- *Now What?* Booklets
- Bibles
- Anointing Oil
- Pens
- Index Cards
- Gum/Mints
- Prayer Guides/Cards
- G.O.S.P.E.L. Outline Cards
- Salvation, Baptism, and other Next Steps Cards

Prayer Boxes should contain everything you need to help resource individuals to Connect with Jesus and continue their Next Steps in their faith journey. We have placed one in the prayer room so that if you need to have a further discussion, allow them a place to ask questions, or sense they will need more time, you will have what you need there as well.

SALVATION STEPS

When someone decides to put their faith in Jesus Christ through salvation, please do the following:

1. Explain the G.O.S.P.E.L.
2. Pray with them
3. Ask them if they would like a Bible
4. Give them a *Now What?* Booklet with a Salvation Card inside.
5. Have them complete a Prayer Card checking the appropriate box.
6. Encourage them to take their Next Step with Baptism, joining a Group, etc.
 - a) If they would like to get baptized have them check that on their card, direct them to src.life/faith, or simply give them the baptism card.
7. Ask if they have any questions.

COUNSELING, CONFIDENTIALITY OR LEGAL ISSUES

We are NOT there to counsel people. If there is a serious situation or they are sharing details that shows they may need professional help for any mental health aspects, offer pastoral assistance. Simply do the following:

- Get their contact information.
- Give the information to the pastor or leader to give to them if you cannot find a pastor.
- The pastor will follow-up with the individual and offer appropriate resources.

Immediately seek supervision from a pastor or leader whenever faced with a situation involving one of the key issues below. You will not be alone in providing redemptive care for people having any of these serious issues listed below.

- Homicidal or suicidal intent
- Child abuse - for neglect, physical or sexual abuse
- Domestic abuse - from a spouse or partner
- Abuse of vulnerable adults - physical or mental disability, or dependent on institutional services.



THANKS!



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