

The Filling Station

Prayer Ministry: Guidelines and Best Practice

- 1. Prayer Ministry is about partnering with God to release the good things that he has for His precious children**
 - We are not doing a counselling session. Don't give advice. Listen more than speak
- 2. Everything we do in Prayer Ministry flows from God so it is important that we are in right standing with Him**
 - We may need to take a few moments before we pray to allow ourselves to be filled again with his Holy Spirit and to deal with anything that He shows us
- 3. We want to create a safe environment in which to pray for people**
 - All Filling Station Prayer Ministry should take place in the context of the public space of the meeting. Prayer Ministry should not be conducted privately in ancillary rooms or later in the week
 - Wherever possible two members of the Ministry team should pray together with at least one person being of the same gender as the person being prayed for. Allow the individual to specify if they only want people of their gender to pray with them
 - The person coming forward for prayer may be nervous. Do not rush them, treat them respectfully and keep them informed of what you are doing
 - Laying on hands is a biblical practice, but ask first and ensure that all touch is appropriate
 - Keep in mind the safety and dignity of the person being prayed with. There are times when people fall over in the power of the Holy Spirit. If this happens help them to fall safely and ensure that they are comfortable when down, that their clothing is not disarranged and that they are protected from being trodden on
 - All Prayer Ministry should be strictly confidential and can only be shared generally with the person's specific permission. However unconditional confidentiality **MUST NOT** be promised as it may be necessary to share information with the Prayer Ministry team coordinator and / or the Safeguarding coordinator if it is necessary for your care, the care of the person being prayed for or to fulfil Safeguarding obligations. The coordinators will decide if further referral is needed
 - Do not tell a person that they are healed if they are not. Never suggest, hint or imply that a person should give up a course of medicine. Only a doctor can do this.
 - Do not tell people that they have an evil spirit / demon – it is usually unhelpful and may not be true. If a demon manifests use a binding prayer to calm things down in the short term (Matthew 16:19)
 - In the above situation, or if there appears to be more than can be dealt with in a Filling Station context, the person should be encouraged to refer themselves to a local church or para-church organisation for further ministry
- 4. Invite the Holy Spirit, to come. Encourage the person to relax and receive**
 - Keep your eyes open while praying and bless what God is doing
 - Be listening to and watching what God is doing as well as listening to and watching the person
 - If you share a word from God for the person do so in a way that allows the person who receives it to weigh it and discard it if it does not resonate with them
- 5. Be prepared to ask for help as necessary**
 - If a person becomes distressed, or you feel out of your depth call over the person who is overseeing the Prayer Ministry time
- 6. The Prayer Ministry Team ministers under the authority of the local Filling Station team**
 - Please follow their direction and be accountable to them

The Filling Station Prayer Ministry Best Practice

Preparation for Ministry

1. Ensure that you are right with God
2. Check that your appearance and smell are appropriate!!
3. Have tissues available

During Ministry

1. Introduce yourself and ask the person's name. SMILE!
2. Ask the person what they would like prayer for
 - *Listen both to the person and to the Lord*
3. If you would like to lay hands on the person please seek their consent first and ensure that all touch is appropriate
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to come
5. Wait
6. Expect God to speak. Listen to him
7. Pray
 - Be natural, do not shout and if you pray in tongues do so quietly and sensitively as it can be distracting for the person
8. Watch the person and do not be afraid to ask them what they feel is happening
9. When you receive a word, impression or picture share it with them in a non-threatening, non-directive way that allows them to weigh it
10. If the word resonates with them it may be right to pray it in
11. If you find that you are out of your depth – get help
 - Tell the person that you are going to find someone to pray with you and that you will be back momentarily

To Close

1. Ask the person what the Lord has been doing
2. Assure the person of God's love irrespective of the apparent outcome
 - It is the Holy Spirit's ministry and the results may not be immediately obvious
3. Encourage them:
 - Suggest that they get prayed for again
 - Suggest some scriptures to read