

Journey Prayer Guidelines

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Journey Prayer Culture Guidelines

1.0 Journey Prayer Culture

- Listen
- Love
- Pray

2.0 Prayer Team Core Values

- God, Love, and Grace
- God is GOOD
- God's presence is the point
- In God's presence, there is joy
- We focus on the answer, not the problem
- The answer, Jesus, is always bigger than the problem or the cause
- Every time we pray, something moves: visible or invisible
- Nothing is impossible
- It's all about Jesus, not about us
- We pray with the authority of Jesus, knowing our place as sons and daughters of God
- Ministry flows through our personal intimacy with God
- There is no formula, only guidelines. We take risks.
- We stay hungry for more breakthroughs
- We always honor guests with respect. Journey is a church with many unchurched and/or wounded people attending, so we understand that asking for prayer is both a huge step of vulnerability and something in which many might be unfamiliar and uncomfortable.

3.0 Being on the Prayer Team

3.1 is about

- Bringing people into an encounter with Jesus
- Seeing people saved, healed, and set free
- Releasing God's love and the Father's heart
- Recognizing and calling out the Imago Dei in people's lives

3.2 is NOT about

- An opportunity to rebuke, counsel, correct, direct, or preach
- Finding and exposing people's brokenness/darkness
- A counseling ministry.
- Promoting your own way of ministering. You must be willing to submit to leadership and follow Journey's model for prayer as outlined below.
- A source of personal identity. The number of healings and visible outcomes we achieve through prayer is not the focus of our ministry.

4.0

Journey's Prayer Values and Guidelines

4.1 Imago Dei

4.1.1 Prayer Value

All prayer efforts are centered around a person, not an agenda. We strive to uncover the value and unique reflection of God within each person for whom we pray. We trust that every time we pray for someone, the love of Jesus is being transferred and that every person will feel loved, cared for, and encouraged through the presence of God in us.

4.1.2 Prayer Guidelines

- Before I pray, I ask God to reveal His love for this person to me, to see them as He does
- I always ask for permission before I physically touch anyone and then I primarily use a hand on the shoulder as my touch connection point. If I am praying for a specific body part and that part is reachable and appropriate, I will ask that person to place their hand on the specific part of the body (back, knee, foot, etc.) and then place my hand over theirs to pray. I will always ask permission first and choose no physical contact if the person seems uncomfortable.
- I communicate honor to the person by praying for the specific prayer request given and by keeping our conversation confidential. (Unless understood to be dangerous to themselves or others, in that case I speak to a prayer facilitator or pastor. If the topics of suicidal/homicidal thoughts are expressed, I will always communicate this with the prayer facilitator immediately.)
- I give words from God freely when these words encourage, build up, comfort, express the reality of God's love or point out the image of God in the person. If I discern something that seems to be negative, I will choose to either pray the opposite over that person or wait and say nothing, in order to personally pray and seek wise counsel in my discernment process.

4.2

Center Set

4.2.1 Prayer Value

We focus on moving toward Jesus and praying for every person that we meet to experience encounters with Jesus and to hear His guiding voice for next steps.

Movement toward Jesus is our focus and not behavior management. We are not focused on peoples' life choices or behaviors.

4.2.2 Prayer Guidelines

- I invite people to connect with Jesus in his or her current real life situation. I invite those who express the need to reconnect or connect for the first time to the “with-God life” to give their lives to Jesus as we pray.
- I am sensitive to moments when I am invited by God to lead someone to Jesus. I feel confident in knowing how to lead people to Jesus, but will only do so as the Holy Spirit leads me and/or the person asks me to lead them in a surrender prayer. (See section 6.0 Leading Someone to Jesus.)
- I trust Jesus to do the transforming work needed in each person and to guide each one to take the next step toward Him. I do not try to “fix problems,” “give advice,” “counsel” or “set people straight” during our prayer time

4.3

Come as you are

4.3.1 Prayer Value

We see prayer as a place of intimacy and vulnerability and we recognize the courage it takes to come forward for prayer. We are deliberately not religious. Journey is a church for people who don't go to church. This means when we pray, we communicate in a way regular people can understand, even if they have never been to church or have been wounded in a church environment.

4.3.2 Prayer Guidelines

- I am welcoming. If I see someone approach for prayer, I come to meet him or her and introduce myself.
- I check-in with the person on his or her comfort level and introduce the prayer process if it is unfamiliar
- I encourage authenticity by being an active listener. Questions, doubts, and wounds can be shared with me without a need to give an answer or solution.
- Although I ask what I can pray for, I don't need every detail of someone's story before I can pray, so I keep my questions to a minimum
- I believe that our God is strong and loving, so I pray confidently in every situation, trusting that He is present in every person's life and story, in spite of the difficulties they face. I am sensitive to the number of times I pray for people and will check-in with them before continuing to pray in case they would prefer to end the prayer time. (General guideline: no more than 10 minutes per person.)
- In prayer, I seek to remove perceived barriers between God and people rather than to create barriers
 - Example: I never say to someone I'm praying for "you must forgive in order to be healed" or "you should have more faith"
- I avoid prayer lingo that some people will not understand or that could cause fear
 - Example: I will avoid words like "cast out" and "spirit of..."
- I choose to explain and adapt my wording to avoid creating barriers for people
 - Example: I might pray "let them experience more of God's presence/love/joy/purpose right now" instead of "FIRE NOW!" "ANNOINTING COME UPON THEM!"
- If I am using a prayer language, I choose to pray under my breath, inaudibly, or ask permission and give explanation, as many might be unfamiliar/afraid with this type of prayer

4.4

Transformation

4.4.1 Prayer Value

We believe that as people connect with Jesus, they will experience life transformation. We do not define ourselves or others by our brokenness and seek to join God in His redemptive work in each person's life through prayer.

4.4.2 Prayer Guidelines

- I remind myself that I don't need to feel pressure, or try harder, or pray perfectly because God is the one who does the transforming work. I give Him both the burden and the glory.
- I trust that God will work to heal and transform in response to my prayers. I am not dependent on outward and visible displays to affirm my prayer ministry.
- I ask God to give me scripture to pray over people and I filter all "impressions" from the Holy Spirit through the lens of the Bible
- I am not looking for demons or places of darkness/brokenness. Instead, I am looking for the true identity of each person as I am praying. I am asking for Jesus' love for them to bring light in darkness and heal brokenness. (See section 5.0 Deliverance Prayer Guidelines.)

4.5 No one stands alone

4.5.1 Prayer Value

Our ministry is to bring not only reconciliation to God but also reconciliation with others. We are often the first contact for someone in reaching out and opening up to someone in a church setting. We value this and see it as a way to also connect them to the life of the church.

4.5.2 Prayer Guidelines

- I foster real and authentic connection. When I pray, my prayers should reflect my authentic self, not who I think I "should" be or the way I "should" sound. In this way, I bring my true self and encourage each person to open up his or her true self to experience connection and support.
- I recognize the value of discipleship and community in every person's journey. I offer referrals to appropriate steps on the Pathway that will continue the process of connecting each one to the "With-God life."

4.6 We want everything God has to offer

4.6.1 Prayer Value

At Journey, we want everything God has to offer. Each one of these streams is descriptive of an approach to church and life with God that we value. And at Journey, we want to PRESS IN for MORE of each one of these. No one stream takes precedence over another or demands exclusive attention. All of our prayer team members join the larger community at Journey as we explore each of these streams on the Pathway.

4.6.2 Prayer Guidelines

I recognize and value every person's stream.

- Example: Seeker Stream, Passion Stream, Holy Spirit Stream, Spiritual Formation Stream, Missional-Incarnation Stream

5.0

Deliverance Prayer Guidelines

- 5.1** If the person is requesting deliverance prayer or a demonic manifestation is happening, pray for them simply and BRIEFLY following the points to remember below, if at all possible making sure the prayer facilitator or a pastor is with you when you pray. If you are unfamiliar with deliverance prayer, if possible wait until someone more experienced is with you.
- 5.2 ALWAYS** refer that person to RPM first for an inner healing/deliverance session, where more time can be given to pray with them
- 5.3 ALWAYS** let the prayer facilitator and/or supervising pastor know right away if this happens, so that appropriate follow-up can be scheduled
- 5.4** Demons desire as much attention as they can get, often causing a scene. But they are not worthy of our attention. Since the person is our focus, if at all possible, go to a private place or back corner where the demon doesn't have the opportunity to publicly embarrass them.
- 5.5** Talk to the person and find out his/her name. Don't talk to the demon. If the demon talks to you, simply tell it to be quiet and that you want to talk to the person. Get the person's attention and eye contact.
- 5.6** The goal and outcome of an encounter involving a demon should always be the same
 - To genuinely love the person
 - To introduce him/her to the Father's heart and to Jesus
 - To have him or her set free
- 5.7** Points to remember
 - Do not look for demons while ministering
 - Do not talk to demons. They lie.
 - The demon's name is not important, the person's dignity is
 - Always talk to the person. There is no need to raise your voice since you are speaking to the person and not the demon.
 - How did Jesus cast out demons? With a word (Matthew 8:16).
 - Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit
 - Speak identity to the afflicted person. Tell them who they are.
 - Love the person well. Learn to love the devil out of people.
 - We're not in a fight with the devil. Simply turn on the light!
 - The devil is defeated. Operate like you believe it.

6.0 Leading Someone to Jesus

- Every believer is commissioned to lead people to Jesus
- Focus on Jesus as God's Son and our resurrected Savior. Explain the love of God and that Jesus was sent to restore us to the Father.
- Explain the promise of complete forgiveness, full acceptance, a brand new creation and eternal life when we come to Jesus
- Invite the person to pray, repeating after you (see sample prayer below)
Jesus, I need you. Forgive me for everything I've done that has separated me from you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin and giving me eternal life. Jesus, I surrender my whole life. You are in charge now. Thank you for saving me.
- Encourage the person to connect on the Pathway at Journey

I have fully read the above Journey Prayer Team Guidelines and agree to follow them.

Signature

Date