

PRAYER TEAM PLAYBOOK

I. WHY WE EXIST

- A. We exist to see the fame and deeds of God repeated in our time - in other words, we want to see God close the gap between what we read about in the scriptures and what we see happening in our everyday lives. (Habakkuk 3:2)

II. WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

- A. Our mission is to help each other become passionately engaged followers of Jesus.

III. HOW WE DO THIS

- A. We do this by becoming a family that follows the path of Jesus together in 4 directions....
 - 1. Upwards: Learning to be with Jesus (knowing God)
 - 2. Inwards: Becoming like Jesus (being made whole)
 - 3. Outwards: Doing what Jesus did (joining God in the renewal of all things)
 - 4. Withward: Following Jesus in community
- B. When we do this our dream is that we would live by faith, be known by love, and be a voice of hope for our world.

IV. WHY TEAMS

- A. Joining a team is about serving the larger family that is the Church. In the same way one might prepare their home for guests by setting the table, preparing a meal, lighting candles, and playing music - we get to prepare the church each week for people to encounter God's presence.
- B. Perks: It's one of the key places where we build community together, where we celebrate together, where we pray together, and where we support the mission together.

V. TEAM VALUES: What shapes the culture of our family serving together.

- A. **EXCELLENCE:** Moving from fine to best
 - 1. *Going beyond the minimum requirements to make things awesome. The difference between settling and being proud of your work.*
- B. **SERVANT LEADERSHIP:** Moving from me to us.

1. *As leaders, we want to be constantly empowering people by both delegating tasks and training in skills, as well as sharing leading and commissioning people with authority. This way leadership is shared instead of one leader holding all power and “reigning” over others. Along with this is a posture of inclusion instead of exclusion - our attitude should be “who else can I include?” instead of “we will allow you in if you meet my requirements.”*

C. **OWNERSHIP:** Moving from spectating to investing.

1. *Every member has skin in the game. When we see a problem, we want our first instinct to be “how can I solve this?” rather than “who can I complain to?” If I am the only one left, am I still all-in?*

D. **HONOR:** Moving from criticism to blessing.

1. *We want to be people who demonstrate the value of others. Building up, not tearing down: calling out and drawing forth good in people. Think about how much appreciation we probably need to show our teams... now double the amount you’re thinking of and show that much instead.*

E. **FUN:** Moving from Cynicism to Joy

1. *Are we taking ourselves too seriously? Our heavenly father is lots of fun. Life with our church family should be the same!*

VI. Winning Team: Winning Mentality, Strategic Formations, and Right Plays

A. MENTALITY

1. SET the atmosphere

- a) By living out our 5 values
- b) By protecting the unity of our church
- c) By taking ownership over our own heart and spiritual health
- d) By doing the best you can with what you have

2. SHARE the responsibility

- a) By being committed to prayer for the church and city
- b) By inviting people to church

- c) By attending church with a “them” mindset rather than a “me” mindset
- d) By always finding ways to include and involve other people

3. SERVE the ministry

- a) By never being too big to serve
- b) By leading by example
- c) By developing a servants heart

4. SUPPORT the mission

- a) By attending Sunday gatherings faithfully
- b) By living with intention to follow Jesus
- c) By building the future with a generous heart

B. FORMATION

1. Right People in the Right Place

- a) A team may call the perfect play but if the wrong people are on the field or in the wrong spot, it does not matter.
- b) Key Prerequisites
 - (1) Spiritually Mature
 - (2) Known & Trusted in the Community
 - (3) Covenant Member

2. Levels of Leadership

- a) **Prayer Apprentice:** You are learning how to help facilitate encounters with the Holy Spirit during our Sunday response times! As an apprentice you will be invited to join pre-service prayer with an experienced prayer team member, go through the apprenticeship square alongside them during response time, and debrief your experience afterward. After a few weeks of this, you will be invited on the prayer team formally!
- b) **Prayer Team:** As a member of the Prayer Team, you will help facilitate an encounter between a person and the Holy Spirit by discerning where God may be ministering to that person and

helping them to respond. This will look different for each person; you may have the opportunity to lead someone to faith, pray for healing (physical, inner, or spiritual), and/or be used to bless and affirm someone in their identity and calling as a son or daughter of God!

- c) **Prayer Leader:** You partner with the Spirit in providing spiritual discernment and leadership for the entire Prayer Team on a Sunday morning! A prayer leader...
 - (1) Leads the pre-service prayer time
 - (2) May be asked to lead the Team Rally
 - (3) Facilitates the response time following the sermon from the stage
 - (4) Works alongside the pastoral team to discern the Spirit's leading, gather what members of the Prayer Team are sensing, and help lead the room in to respond to what God is doing in the room
 - (5) Sends the prayer team the weekly Sunday Review form to gather testimonies, and ensure that anyone who needs further support is cared for. The form can be found [HERE](#).
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C. PLAYS

- 1. **THE WIN:** To facilitate encounters with Jesus so that people can be healed, delivered, encouraged, and empowered in their calling to Jesus and his mission.
- 2. **THE WAY**
 - a) **SCHEDULING:** Be on top of block out dates and service requests.
 - (1) Set your block out dates as soon as possible. A Sanctuary Staff member will send a reminder 1-2 months in advance.
 - b) **COMMUNICATION:** Be proactive in communicating.
 - (1) If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to send the first text to switch your slot with another person.
 - (2) In the case of an emergency or unexpected illness we ask that you notify the prayer leader to let them know ASAP so

they can replace you. If you can, reach out to your team's WhatsApp asking for a last minute replacement!

(3) Be proactive in reading and responding to Prayer Leader texts leading up to Sunday as well as filling out Sunday Prayer Review Forms.

(1) Reaching out to a pastor if you need prayer or support. We are here to serve you!

c) RALLY:

(1) Rally starts promptly at 9:30 and is the place where all teams gather together to be encouraged, stay informed, and set the atmosphere for the day before breaking into roles.

(a) While not everyone on the prayer team can attend pre-service prayer, we do ask that everyone on the prayer team attend the rally!

d) BE ATTENTIVE AND PROACTIVE: Stay present and ready to respond

1. Pay attention to both the person in front of you and the Holy Spirit. Listen to what the person is saying while remaining sensitive to what God may be highlighting or doing beneath the surface.
2. Be present to how God may be moving in the larger room. Quietly intercede throughout the service and share any senses or promptings from the Holy Spirit to the prayer leader that may be for the congregation.

e) TRELLIS OF PRAYER MINISTRY:

(1) Interview

- (a) Introduce yourself.
- (b) Ask, "How can I pray for you?" or "What do you want God to do for you?"
- (c) Listen to them, and to God.
- (d) No need to amass information. If someone keeps talking, gently move toward prayer.

(2) Establish Direction

- (a) Explain what you are doing: "Thank you for sharing that! I would love to pray for you. Can I put my hand on your shoulder?" (If they say yes, invite them to assume a posture of prayer.) Then: "I am going to take a few seconds to welcome and listen to the Holy Spirit, and then I will begin praying."

- (b) Silence is okay. Ask the question: what kind of ministry does the Holy Spirit want to do here?
- (c) Check in with them and agree on a direction.

(3) Ministry

- (a) Pray into the kind of ministry the Spirit is leading (see **TYPES OF PRAYER MINISTRY** below).
- (b) Talk to them as you go. Say what you're doing.
- (c) Keep your eyes open and pay attention.
- (d) Ask questions: "What are you noticing?" Clarify what is happening for them.
- (e) As you hear from the Spirit, discern: "Do I say it, or just pray it?"

(4) Bless

- (a) Affirm the person's identity and value as one created in the image of God.
- (b) You can use:
 - A general blessing
 - A specific blessing tied to what God just did. Bless the opposite of what you prayed out (fear out, peace in; shame out, belovedness in).
 - A Scriptural blessing

(5) Send

- (a) Empower them to return to their context.
- (b) Remind them of their purpose and calling as a follower of Jesus, and His desire to use them.

(6) Brief Counsel

- (a) Be brief. "This is part of a process."
- (b) If helpful, point to a next step: collect information and share next steps if they made a decision of faith, getting connected with a small group, connecting them with a deacon, or seeking counseling.

f) TYPES OF PRAYER MINISTRY:

(1) Salvation: for someone who doesn't yet know Jesus, or isn't sure where they stand with Him.

- (a) Keep it simple and clear. Share the good news briefly.
- (b) If they're ready, lead them in a prayer of surrender to Jesus. (ABC's - Admit, Believe, Confess)
- (c) Celebrate, and connect them with a pastor.

(2) Comfort: for someone experiencing mourning, loss, grief.

- (a) Don't rush to fix. Presence comes first.
- (b) Let silence be okay.
- (c) Pray the comfort of the Father over them (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

- (3) Confession: when sin surfaces and there is an invitation to confess and repent.
 - (a) Confession is joyful. No shame.
 - (b) Receive the confession without shock.
 - (c) Pronounce forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
 - (d) Keep confidence.
- (4) Forgiveness: when someone is in bondage to hurt, resentment, or bitterness toward someone else, or condemnation toward oneself.
 - (a)
- (5)
- (6) Encouragement + Prophetic Word
- (7) Healing
- (8) Inner Healing
- (9) Deliverance