

A guide to facilitating prayer

Be praying about who you might invite to receive prayer, based on any sense or prompting in your gut you might have from the Lord. While remaining sensitive to the Spirit's prompting, pay attention to tears, strong emotions, weariness, or discouragement. These are often (but not always) a clue for where to focus your attention. If possible, let your spouse (if married) or another trusted leader help you choose.

Once you choose someone, ask them if they would allow you to pray for them. Put a chair in the middle of the circle, and ask their permission to lay hands on them.

Instead of interviewing the person and asking them how you can pray for them, simply invite the Holy Spirit's presence to bless, speak, and act, and then invite the group to be silent for a minute or two, warning against viewing that silence negatively, and seek to listen to the Lord.

Pray any Scriptures, pictures, words, thoughts, or impressions that come to mind.

Function like a facilitator, and in moments of silence, ask those present "Are you getting anything?" Invite those who feel nervous or scared to take a small risk and step out and share anything that they feel might be from the Lord. "I know there's probably one more here who should share, and it's probably freaking you out, but I encourage you to step out." Sam Storms advises along these lines, "Make room and time... for people to express what God has laid on their heart. Give everyone an opportunity to share any prophetic insights or words of knowledge. Encourage them to step out in faith (take a risk!). But be certain that you've established a safe environment for them to do this. They need to know that it's okay to fail or to miss it and that no one will be judged or excluded or laughed at if they don't always hit the nail on the head."

Pray into and out of silence as a group. Don't feel rushed. Keep your eyes open and observe the person being prayed for, as well as those praying for them.

If you have time, feel free to debrief with the person who was just prayed for. You can gently ask them, "Did any of that particularly stand out to you?" or "Did any of that feel particularly meaningful or accurate?" You can then ask the group members a similar question.

If you have time, invite another person to receive prayer.

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1. *Invite someone to receive prayer*
 2. *Normalize silence and invite the Spirit*
 3. *Observe and pray simultaneously*
 4. *Work to draw others out*
 5. *Debrief with the one who received prayer*
 6. *Debrief with the group*

