PRAYER TEAM GUIDELINES
August 2017

PURPOSE
We pray for those in need of prayer either from an online request or in person after one of
our Lifepoint services. We are also responsible for praying during the week for those who
attend Lifepoint online or at our campuses.
2 Peter 3:9
“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is
patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

POSTURE
We pray from victory for victory, from freedom for freedom (Galatians 5:1)
We pray with the authority God has given us as His sons and daughters
(Matthew 28:18-20)
Romans 8:14-17 (NLT)
“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead,
you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now
we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm
that we are God’s children. And since we are his children, we are his
heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we
are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.”

WE ARE:
• Carriers of Holy Spirit
  o “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be
  my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the
  earth.” Acts 1:8. We pray through the Holy Spirit and His strength.
• Guests to those asking for prayer
  o “Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the
    prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,”
    he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip
    to come up and sit with him,” Acts 8:30-31.
  o When someone asks for prayer, they are inviting us into the hurt and pain of
    their lives. It is important to remember how uncommon this is in our society
    and respond to them with compassion.
• Deliverers of the word
  o “The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about,
    himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of
    Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.” Acts 8:34-35.
If a person has questions, we are to respond with the gospel of Christ and truth from scripture, not information from our own experience.

HOW TO PRAY

- Invite the person to tell you what they want prayer/freedom from. Ask them to be specific. When specific, they will know when God has given an answer. Remember God answers with "Yes," "No," and "Not yet." Every answer is for our good. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- Pray bold prayers knowing that God listens and responds according to our requests. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us," 1 John 5:14
- Matthew 6:9-10: Ask the will of God over their life and any decision they have to make.
- Matthew 6:11: Ask and declare God’s provision over their needs whether they are spiritual, physical, and financial.
- Matthew 6:12: Speak God’s forgiveness over the pain they may have caused. Speak God’s word over them if the Holy Spirit leads.
- Matthew 6:13: Ask and declare healing and freedom over dark areas of their life.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Make sure you have fresh breath.
- We pray man to man, woman to woman. Groups of three are permissible.
- Introduce yourself, remember their name and personalize the prayer.
- We do not counsel. When prayer lasts more than five minutes, from description of the need through prayer, you’ve let things go too long.
- Pray according to their requests. Don’t add to them unless Holy Spirit says to pray out loud for something additional, then ask the person’s permission first.
- If someone has made the decision to follow Christ, we celebrate with them, pray over them, and give them a new believer packet.
- Encourage people to register for a Group for long term love and care – walk them to Guest Services or help them find one on your phone – and for GROW to discover their purpose.
- When crises arise, we involve the proper teams (see below for scenarios and actions)

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Care Resource Cards
  - These are on various topics that might come up in prayer requests. Use them only if the person seems to need more during the week
  - Walk through the content with them and answer questions they may have
- Need Care? Cards
  - These provide a person with link to Benevolence application and Care Ministry Request forms.
SPECIFIC SITUATIONS AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

LEADING SOMEONE TO SALVATION

- **Affirm** them that becoming a child of God is the best decision they could ever make.
- **Explain** to them briefly what it means to give your life to Christ and become a child of God.
- **Lead** people to Christ by inviting them to ask for the forgiveness of their sins, repent of (turn from) their sinful lifestyle, and acknowledge that Jesus Christ will be the Lord (boss) of their life. One way to do this is by leading them through this set of scriptures
  - Romans Road
  - 3:23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
  - 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - 5:8 – “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
  - 10:9-10 – “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”
  - 8:1 – “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”
  - 8:14 - “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”
- **Invite** them to repeat a prayer similar to this one
  - “Lord Jesus, I believe that you died on the cross for me and rose again three days later, giving eternal life to me because I believe this. I accept your free gift of salvation, and turn away from my sins. Thank you for paying my debt. I love you, Amen.”
- **Celebrate** with them.
  - Luke 15:10 says, “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- **Give** them a new believer packet
- **Connect** them to GROW

EXPLAINING BAPTISM

- Baptism is the outward sign of an inward change
- We follow Jesus’ example
  - Matthew 3:13-17 – “Then Jesus “arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he “permitted Him. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him.”
- We symbolically identify ourselves with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection
  - Romans 6:4 – “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”
  - Colossians 2:12 – “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”
FAQ’S ABOUT BAPTISM

• When should I be baptized?
  o As soon as you have believed. There is no reason to delay.
    ▪ “But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12)

• Why should I be baptized by immersion?
  o Because Jesus was baptized by immersion
    ▪ Matthew 3:16 - “As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.”
  o The early church baptized by immersion
    ▪ Acts 8:38-39 - “Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ...”
  o The Greek word “baptizo” (where we get our word baptize) means “immersion”.
  o It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

• What about infant/child baptism?
  o The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the person did not request it. All instances of baptism followed a person’s decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation. In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But, He did not baptize them and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. Baptism is a public profession of salvation, so only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.
  o At Lifepoint Church, we wait until a child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them!

FORGIVENESS AND REPENTANCE

• The Holy Spirit may convict people to repent of a specific or general sin. When God convicts people, He does so lovingly and with great compassion. If people confess a sin, please show great compassion as you lead them in prayers of repentance and renewal
  ▪ “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.
  o When someone comes forward in need of forgiveness, we point them to Christ, who can and will forgive all sins.

PHYSICAL HEALING

• If we pray through faith according to the will of God, it will be given to us in Jesus’ name. In times of miraculous healing, it is crucial to remember that God did it, not us.
  ▪ “And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.” James 5:15
• Assume that healing will occur in God’s perfect timing. If the results are not immediate, encourage the person to trust in God

UNspoken REQUESTS

• Some individuals might not feel comfortable sharing sensitive information and might ask for an ‘unspoken’ prayer request. In these moments we must pray the will of the Father and proclaim God’s promises over their life
• If appropriate, invite them to pray first and respond to their prayer with truth and love. If they’re uncomfortable praying, remind them it’s just talking their thoughts to God and He knows those thoughts already. Most will take the risk and pray.
ABUSE/ASSAULT/CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/SUICIDE TALK
- We respond to these type of prayer requests by gathering information from that person (name, phone number, email), praying for them, and getting Security or the Campus Pastor to handle the rest of the situation. Have one prayer team member pray with the individual while another involves the Campus Pastor/Security
- It is not our responsibility to contact the authorities for this type of situations. ALWAYS let Security or the Campus Pastor handle it.
- Develop a subtle hand signal for alerting your team leader to the need for security.

BENEVOLENCE
- Take them to Next Steps to complete a request form.

RECOMMENDED WEEKEND PRAYER TEAM ACTIVITIES
- Praying through the seats in the auditorium before service in preparation for those who will sit there.
- Greet people who are seated in the auditorium before service
- Intercessory prayer team (goal of three people for each service)
- Pray during services behind the scenes where they can

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES
(Request these through your Campus Director/Pastor)
- Tissues
- Pens
- Connection cards
- Care Resource cards
- Need Care? Business Cards
- New believer packets
- Breath mints

MEMBER ON-RAMPING
- Members should be adults with some Bible knowledge and some relative maturity, however, make sure you select people that match the demographics of your campus in ethnicity, age, life stage and gender.
- Those who are interested in serving must attend GROW and Dream team Orientation, complete the application, be interviewed, and have a background check before serving. lifepoint.org/newleader
- Only prayer team members who have completed the above process are permitted to request and wear the “NEED PRAYER“ shirts. Dispose of old shirts. Do not give them to others.
- Those who are students or young in faith should be encouraged to pray, but not with the people in the service who come forward. They can participate in pre-service prayer with the worship team and through the auditorium, interceding during the week for the campus, campus pastor/staff and Pastor Daniel.