

MINISTRY GUIDELINES

FOR DTI TEAM AND YOUTH LEADERS



One of the things we're really passionate about at DTI is meeting with God. During the main meetings we will always try to let God lead what's going on and make space for him to meet with us. As part of this, during the main meetings, we will make time to wait on God's Spirit and pray for groups of people they believe God particularly wants to meet with. This is a great opportunity for God to work in our lives and it's brilliant to be as open to him as possible.

Don't worry if you've never had prayer offered in this way, or if you're not sure how to pray; Susie and the team will talk you through what's going on and some basics for praying.

What happens?

Ministry times usually begin with an invitation from someone on the main stage for people to wait on and respond to the Holy Spirit. The most important thing to remember is that this is God's work, not ours. Try to stay open to what God might want to do in your life and invite him to speak to you. Everyone responds differently to meeting with God so try not to focus too much on your reaction or the reactions of those around you. We can experience God in all sorts of ways and physical manifestations aren't the important thing. If you'd like to receive from God just stay focused on him. If you'd like to pray for other people, have a read on for some helpful tips.

A guide to praying for others...

When you're praying remember that you are there to encourage those seeking God and to bless what the Holy Spirit is doing. There is no 'right way' to pray for each other but we've included these guidelines as they are tried and tested and tend to work quite well! While you're with us please stick to the advice given. Lots of it is just straight-forward common sense! In general, we suggest that girls pray with girls and guys with guys.

Don't be afraid to ask someone what they would like you to pray for and what God is doing even if the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully on them (in Luke 18v40 Jesus asks the blind man 'What do you want me to do for you?'). However, be aware of not turning this into a long conversation; this is a time for the Holy Spirit to offer counselling, not you!

If appropriate you can speak into the situation or condition in Jesus' name, but be sensitive and recognise that you may be wrong. If you have a prophetic word or picture, offer these as a prayer or in such a way that the person being prayed for can make their own decision as to how appropriate they are. Never insist that what you have to say is a word from God and always seek to strengthen, encourage and comfort the person you're praying for (1 Corinthians 14v3)

Encourage the person to receive from God and be still, rather than pray for themselves. Some people may show this attitude by opening their hands in front of them.

The laying on of hands to pray is Biblical. We see Jesus touch a man to heal him of leprosy (Mark 1 v40-45) and he lays hands on the children to bless them (Matthew 19v13-15). That said,

not everyone is comfortable with this - especially during COVID and so please be aware of that and ask permission before you do it. We recommend restricting laying on hands to those that are in your bubble. Please also use common sense about where you place your hands so it doesn't become distracting for the person you are praying for.

Keep your eyes open when you pray for someone. This means you are more aware of what God is doing and how the person is responding. It also means you can grab them some tissues if they start crying or be prepared if they look like they may fall over in the power of the Spirit. Each bubble will have their own box of tissues and a bin bag for disposal.

If someone does fall over in the power of the Holy Spirit then please make sure they are in a comfortable position, not draped over anyone else and that their dignity is maintained (i.e. nothing is on show that shouldn't be). If you can, put a jumper or jacket under the person's head. It is not always necessary to stay with them for the whole time but if you move away encourage them to keep receiving from God and keep an eye on them to check they are safe. It can be helpful to whisper to them that you will return in a little while so they know that they are not forgotten.

Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and encouragement, and be prepared to wait, this is God's work, not yours. If you feel like God has said something to you, offer it gently and pray into it if appropriate.

The person you are praying for may tell you about things that have happened in their life. Don't appear to be shocked by any disclosures. Confidentiality is vitally important to create a safe atmosphere for ministry but if someone under the age of 18 tells you they are in an abusive or dangerous situation there is a duty of care that this is reported.

This year at DTI we are asking each youth leader to work within their own safeguarding policies and procedures. This means if a disclosure happens that safeguarding policies/procedures are followed from your church or organisation. So if you as a youth leader are fully responsible for the safeguarding of your young people.

If as a youth leader you would require some support then we will have a team of people who may be able to give some advice, a listening ear or help with some next steps.

For those who are on team and a young person discloses to you a safeguarding concern then you will need to speak to Aaron Smith ASAP. Aaron will then liaise with the lead youth leader from the group so that they will follow the safeguarding procedures for their church/organisation.

In all circumstances youth leaders or DTI team members must not promise to keep anything a secret but contact a member of the DTI Team or Equip Team who will provide further support. For any person, regardless of age, who is currently at risk (e.g. wants to commit suicide) this should also be reported to the DTI Team/Equip Team so that appropriate support can be found to keep that person safe.

It's very important to allow the expression of feelings and this might mean people cry, shake or

respond in other ways to what God is doing. This is totally fine but be careful not to suppress or to build up the situation. Alternatively, some people might not seem to respond physically at all. That's fine too. We want God to do what he wants to do, we don't want to get in the way of that and we want to make sure people leave a time of ministry feeling loved and valued.

If someone has been crying for a long time, or releasing deep pain, they may start breathing too fast. Encourage the person to concentrate on breathing slowly – this won't stop what God is doing and will make sure the person is OK. Remember you can always call over a member of the DTI Team/Equip Team if you are worried.

It's brilliant to have more than one person praying for someone at a time so feel free to go over and join someone who's praying already (in your bubble). That said, it can be distracting if a large group gather around someone when the ministry is of a sensitive nature so please ensure people have enough personal space.

If at any time you feel out of your depth, then ask for help from the DTI Team/Equip Team. We all find ourselves in situations that we can't handle alone. This is not failure and it's often good to pray with others, plus it's a great way to learn more!

Praying for physical healing

When Jesus healed people in the Bible he spoke to the sickness and ailments and commanded them to be healed. Jesus gives us the power and authority to do the same in his name. So, for example, if you are praying for a sight problem, speak to the eye and tell it to 'Be open and see in Jesus' name'. If you're praying for an ear, speak to the ear and tell it to be open and hear in the name of Jesus.

When praying for injuries that cause pain or immobility, ask the person what level of pain they have on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest pain possible). Speak to the condition in the name of Jesus and command it to be healed. Speak to the pain and tell it very firmly to 'Stop it,' in Jesus' name (but remember you don't need to shout!). If appropriate speak to the mobility of the joint or limb and tell it to be healed in Jesus' name. After this short prayer ask the person to test for pain and mobility in the injured area. Ask for the number out of 10 of the level of pain and mobility to see if it has gone down. Repeat the prayer, if necessary, as many times as you are both comfortable with.

And finally...

Not everyone is familiar with ministry and prayer times and some people feel a bit concerned or nervous when they become aware of God working through his Holy Spirit. We need to help people who are receiving feel comfortable and safe, and to encourage them to reach out to God. Always be sensitive and respectful, keeping in mind how you would like to be prayed for, and constantly asking for God's help. Reassure those being prayed for that God has heard sincere prayers and the cries of our hearts and encourage them to expect answers. Speak healing, peace and release in the name of Jesus and remember the place of repentance, forgiveness and being forgiven.

If someone would like extra prayer - we encourage them to seek ongoing ministry support from their home youth group. Don't make any appointments to pray with people you don't know

outside of the meeting.

All these are tips to help you let God work through you. Remember: don't worry. The DTI Team and the person leading the meeting will be giving directions and advice to everyone and the Equip Team will be present in all of the meetings. The important thing is that you are ready and willing to pray for those around you.

How are ministry times going to happen at DTI in a COVID secure way?

As you know in 'normal' circumstances it would be our heart to have young people come to the front for times of response. Due to the current situation we are going to limit this to just a few situations (e.g. responding to Jesus for the first time / very sensitive pastoral responses) - to mitigate risk.

Every youth group will be sitting in a bubble and we will be asking young people to respond and stay where they are in the room. This may be by standing up, putting their hands up or something similar. As soon as ministry starts the Equip team will be on the move in the room seeing what God is doing and helping to equip people to pray.

We will require everyone to wear a mask when in the main auditorium and moving around indoors (unless they are medically exempt). Alongside this we are going to (where possible) ask people to pray in their bubbles. We would expect only a couple of people (3 max) to be praying for each person, for them to not be invading personal space and for any physical touch to have been authorised by the person being prayed for and to be appropriate. We would recommend that only those in the relevant bubble lay on hands. Tissues will be placed in the group bubbles (along with a bin bag) and more will be available from the Equip team if needed.

Equip team will be able to walk around their zone and help facilitate ministry.

There may be occasions where it might be appropriate for a young person to come to the front and pray individually with an Equip team member / youth leader (this will only be in an extreme case - and those leading the ministry from the stage are confident only a handful of young people will respond). In this case, we will have markers on the floor for both young people, and team members - so we can ensure there is enough space.

All of these key elements of ministry will be communicated from the stage by Susie or Zeke so that people hear it as well as being equipped by the team.

THE DTI TEAM