

Ministry Model Paper

Veronica Torgerson

April 21, 2023

Katie Kuesel—April, 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:15-11:30

Katie asked for prayer because she just left her job as a full-time elementary school teacher to take a part-time, support raised, children's ministry job at our church. She said she feels really qualified in the realm of teaching and being responsible for kids but she is really lacking confidence in her ability to lead spiritually. Katie said she wanted God to give her confidence and a deep reliance on Him.

After she shared, I invited the Holy Spirit to be present with us and to reveal His will, wisdom, and love for us and then spent a while in silence listening to Him. I think I may have waited too long in silence (I know for people who aren't used to the practice of listening in prayer it can be uncomfortable and feel like hours) but I was really experiencing the Spirit's peace and felt so content to wait on Him! After awhile, I began to pray a blessing over Katie and this new role she is jumping into. I asked that God would use her stepping out in faith to strengthen her faith and trust in His power. I prayed that she would get to see firsthand what it's like to be used by God in miraculous ways and that in this work she would learn how to hear and obey the Spirit in new ways. I prayed that she would see God minister deeply to the kids in our church through her and she would be encouraged by His work.

When I ended the prayer Katie thanked me for praying but also said it didn't feel too different from how I usually pray for her. We have what we call a "core group" together where we prayer for one another and listen to the Spirit together so this wasn't an entirely new practice

for us. But I think Katie felt ministered to and I felt blessed to get to pray in the Spirit for my friend!

*Alexis Herebic—April, 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:15-1:30*

Alexis has been struggling with accepting the lack of control she has over her life and her kid's future. She is experiencing a lot of fear about what hardships could be coming for her and her kids in this life while simultaneously feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility to teach her kids about Jesus and eternity for the sake of their salvation. She was reading Romans 9 earlier today and felt so confused and afraid wondering if God would choose to save her kids. I listened to Alexis share about all of this for quite a bit of time with tears in my eyes because I have felt so many of these same things in motherhood. When she finished sharing with me, I asked the Holy Spirit to be present with us, share His wisdom and truth, and show His will. I acknowledged His deep love for us and His compassion for us as His weak children who are seeking to understand things that are so far above our understanding. I felt a lot of peace as I was praying this and I think Alexis did as well as she responded with a lot of “yes” and “mmmm”s. We spent a little bit of time in silence waiting to hear from the Lord and I felt prompted to pray God's fatherly love over her as a mother. Just like when I prayed with Katie, I didn't feel so much as if I was trying to come up with the right words or think of more things to say, but words just kept flowing for my mouth—both blessings over Alexis and requests for God to reveal His trustworthiness and goodness to her. I concluded the prayer by asking God to give Alexis a little taste of what being fully in His presence would feel like.

I realized that I didn't do a great job of keeping my eyes open while praying this time. I wasn't super attentive to Alexis' body language and physical response, but that may have been okay because she gave pretty audible indications. I also didn't ask Alexis how she was

doing/feeling after we prayed to check in on how God moved because we pretty quickly drove into conversation surrounding her struggles and the things she has been learning and the things that have been confusing. I do think our conversation was fueled by our prayer and perhaps some of the things we worked through as we talked for the next hour were an answer to our prayers!

Emily Moore—April, 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:15-8:30

Emily shared with me that she has been able to pray in tongues since she was 15 years old but has not practiced that spiritual gift lately because she felt hesitation toward it. She said she was feeling frustration with herself knowing that God has given her a beautiful gift but she is neglecting to use it. Emily also told me that those feelings are also a good picture of how she is feeling toward her relationship with God as a whole. She feels frustrated that she is not spending more time with Him and leaning into His presence more but is letting the busyness of being a working mom get in the way.

As I took some time to listen to the Spirit before praying, I saw the Spirit give me a picture of a beautiful, colorful bird that was flapping it's wings so hard trying to get off the ground but it couldn't. Then I saw God's hand come and lift the bird into the air and it began to soar. I also heard the word, "peacock" but I didn't share that when I shared the picture with Emily because it felt weird and out of place. After praying, Emily thanked me for praying and said it felt special but not significantly impactful. We chatted for awhile and I eventually got up the courage to say that I had also heard the word "peacock," while praying. Emily gave me a weird look and laughed and said it didn't mean anything to her but immediately a lady sitting next to us (who hadn't heard any of our conversation or prayer) chimed in about a children's book about a peacock who felt shame for standing out for their beautiful uniqueness and tried to cover it up and hide. This story really impacted Emily and felt like God was speaking to her

about gift of speaking in tongues and left feeling really encourage. Taking the step to risk sharing what God puts on our heart, no matter how odd, is so worth it!

Victoria Petersen—May 1, 2023 at 1:45 to 2:00

Victoria told me that she's been experiencing a lot of anxiety, self-consciousness, and sadness in the last week which is very abnormal for her. When I asked her what she wanted Jesus to do for her, she said she wanted His peace. I pressed in and asked if there seemed to be a specific time or circumstance when all these feelings got triggered and she said that she had a pretty stressful weekend that was hanging over her head for a few days with her brother-in-law and his girlfriend staying at her house as well as a few other big things. I invited the Holy Spirit to be present with us and waited to hear how He prompted me to pray.

When I closed my eyes, I saw Victoria like I was looking down directly on top of her head from up high. Nothing else happened but I heard the word "above" and the verse Colossians 3:2 popped into my head. It says, "set your mind on things above, not on earthly things." I prayed this verse over Victoria asking the Lord to help her eyes be fixed on Him in heaven, to see the things of this world as temporary and fleeting, and to see her identity set as the beloved daughter of the king. I asked the Holy Spirit to give her the peace Jesus promises He will give in John 14 and for anything that is blocking her from experiencing that peace to be removed. Victoria didn't say a lot about this prayer experience or how it felt for her, she seemed a little distracted but she was very thankful that I stopped to pray for her and asked to do it again which I am excited to do for her!

Craig Torgerson—May 1, 2023 at 10:15 to 10:30

When I asked Craig what he wanted Jesus to do for him, he said he wanted Jesus to show him how to resist a life of comfort. We chatted a little bit about how Jesus has been convicting

him of his desire for comfort and control in his life and how it has kept him from being obedient to Jesus or just having the attitude and heart of Jesus toward people.

Before I prayed for Craig, I asked the Holy Spirit to be present with us and speak His life and wisdom to us. I immediately heard the verse 2 Timothy 1:7, which says, "I have not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of a sound mind." I prayed this verse over Craig and asked the Spirit to protect him and replace any fear that is keeping him enslaved to comfort. I asked God to reveal steps of obedience for resisting comfort and to graciously and gently invite Craig into a life of more. After we prayed, Craig said he hadn't thought about fear's role in battle against comfort before and he was intrigued to press into that a bit more to see what God would bring up for him.