

Assignment Title: Ministry Model Paper

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For this assignment, I will reflect on five recent instances I got to pray for someone using the ministry prayer model taught in class. The ministry prayer model includes interviewing the person, making a tentative diagnosis, inviting the Holy Spirit to come, beginning by blessing the person, and taking the situation before the Lord. Through this assignment I learned to pray for others required good listening skills and being able to read between the lines.

The first person I used this ministry prayer model was Mora on February 5th, the time took approximately 30 minutes. Mora is in her thirties and has Asperger's. She was sexually harassed as a child and raped by two different men as an adult. She lives with a great amount of shame and fear. When she asked me to pray for her, her prayer request was very simple: to have a good week and that some man would love her and buy her, "flowers and chocolates." However, as I prompted more questions, I learned that there was much more to her prayer request. She went into sharing the history of her past relationships, romantically and with her family as well as in the workplace. Because of her Asperger's she understands that she cannot know when she makes people uncomfortable and this has impacted her life significantly. As we prayed I invited the Holy Spirit to come and thanked God for his presence. I thanked God for Mora, who he created, and how he has created her before renouncing the shame and fear that has manifested because of her past hurts and relationships. After this prayer, I encouraged her to share with her family that she was raped. However, she's afraid she'll get in trouble.

The second person I used this ministry prayer model was Kim on April 2nd, the time took approximately 15 minutes. This was the first time I met Kim and he asked if I could pray for wisdom with a decision he had to make. He got a job opportunity in Los Angeles, CA, and had a month to decide if that was the right choice for him to make. As we prayed I invited the Holy

Spirit to come and thanked God for his presence. I assured Kim that his presence is always with us. That even if we make the “wrong” decision he will continue to be with us, but wanted to guide us. I spoke out Exodus which states, “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” And that just because a door is open, doesn’t mean you should walk through it. So I prayed for God’s wisdom for Kim to make this decision. I sensed God was saying that he has Kim on an “adventure.” And that may be here in New York or this new job in California.

The third person I used this ministry prayer model was Candace on April 25th, the time took approximately 15 minutes. Candace used to be on the production team at my church, and I noticed I hadn’t seen her for several consecutive Sundays. I reached out to see how she was and found out that she had felt burnt out from serving and had been visiting some other churches in the area with a friend. I had no agenda for the meeting other than to see how she was and she had a lot of questions about faith. She asked about the Holy Spirit, gay marriage, how we should read scripture, praying in tongues, and relationships. We covered a lot of different topics and challenges we face today as the Church. As we prayed I invited the Holy Spirit to come and thanked God for his presence. I thank God for who he’s created Candace to be and the purpose he has for her life and prophesied that she would be a blessing to others who have tough questions about faith.

The fourth person I used this ministry model was Julie on April 30th, the time took approximately 30 mins. Julie has a kid with her fiancé of three years. She has a lot of fear decided whether or not she should marry this man. She didn’t want to have a child because of the fear of bringing someone into a world of war and anxiety. I asked her more questions and learned that her fiancé is Christian, but doesn’t go to church because of work and she would like to have

this shared experience and grow in their faith together. As we prayed I invited the Holy Spirit to come and thanked God for his presence. We surrender and rebuked fear and trust God with the outcome. I thanked God for the life and purpose he has over her son's life. I blessed Julie as a mother and the example she is for her son. I asked God would give Julie wisdom in this decision and peace. I started sensing that there was maybe something in her past that has built up this fear of the world in her and asked the Holy Spirit to reveal to Julie those moments and where Jesus was amid those memories. Lastly, I prayed for her fiancé that God would make a way for him to be in church.

The fifth person I used this ministry model was Ellen on May 1st, the time took approximately 10 minutes. Ellen is starting a women's bible study. As we prayed I invited the Holy Spirit to come and thanked God for his presence. I thanked God for the wisdom he has gifted Ellen and prayed for blessing over her bible study. That it would set an example and build up the women in the church. I sensed the word gossip and prayed that there wouldn't be gossip amongst the group, but rather build up each other and grow in character.

Through this assignment I learned to pray for others required good listening skills and being able to read between the lines. For example, as Candace asked questions about the Holy Spirit and what it means to have faith, I chose to encourage her by reminding her that her questions are a sign of great faith and not doubt because she's not afraid to ask the tough questions. In other words, reading between the lines requires being aware of impressions from God and what words of wisdom he would want me to share. In the same way, I encouraged Kim with the word "adventure" I sensed the Lord was saying or how I prompted Julie to ask where Jesus was in her memories which has an impact on her decision-making today.