

1: HOW OFTEN DO WE OFFER TO PRAY FOR OTHERS?

When was the last time you asked a complete stranger or someone who doesn't claim to be a Christian if you could pray with them?

2: HOW DO WE GET OVER OURSELVES?

How do we overcome fear of embarrassment, shame and the worry that we might look strange when asking to pray for someone.

We find the phrase below a helpful reminder that it is okay for people to say no when you ask them for prayer.

REMEMBER: "IT WOULDN'T BE REQUEST IF THEY COULDN'T SAY NO!"

PRACTICE

This may sound a little clinical but we find it actually helps if you practice praying for others, do it with some friends or in your group. You may even want to record yourself praying. All of this will help you refine your use of overly religious terms that people don't understand.

HELPFUL TIPS

HERE ARE SOME POINTERS THAT WE FEEL WOULD REALLY HELP YOU WHEN ASKING TO PRAY FOR OTHERS, REMEMBER: **"IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE"**

"DO YOU MIND IF I PRAY FOR YOU?"

BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY PRAY:

1. You need to clarify if they want you to pray for them on the spot or just pray for them later
2. Location: if it's busy or crowded it may be helpful to move
3. Tell them they can keep eyes open or closed (whatever they prefer)
4. It's good to ask if they would like to say "AMEN" explain that this basically means I agree
5. If you want to put your hand on their shoulder ask first
6. If they have asked for healing you need to ask if you can touch the area that needs healing, it's okay if they say no, God is bigger than that!

WHEN YOU START TO PRAY:

1. Remember to watch for Christian language
2. Don't pray for too long
3. Make sure you pray for what they have asked for
4. If they have asked you to pray about a specific situation pray about that situation but always ask that God would give them peace
5. Always try and find something to say thank you for in the prayer
6. If you can, in an appropriate way, try and bring in a bible verse into your prayer
7. Pray in name of Jesus
8. If you feel confident when you have finished ask them if they would like to pray.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK GOD HAS GIVEN YOU A PROPHETIC WORD FOR SOMEONE?

Once again this is about language, you may want to write it down or you may just want to add it into your prayer.

THE BIBLE: We have found that taking a small message version of the bible out with you to give away, and then writing a message in the front of it is a very affective way of giving a word to someone.

REFLECT

We would recommend that as a group you look through the gospels and examine how Jesus prayed for others.

PRAY

Father God, we pray that you would help us as we seek to bring the power of prayer out into the world. **For the sake of Your Kingdom, Amen**