

How to Form an Intercession Team

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Build

Engage a team of intercessors for your ministry — your own Moseses, Aarons and Hurs to help sustain you, protect you, and pray for breakthrough in your ministry.

“Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands grew weary... Aaron and Hur held up his hands... so his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.” Exodus 17:11-12

Intercessors are mediators. The word “intercede” literally means “to go between.” God has chosen people as a primary link to his activity in this world. Intercessors join with Jesus in mediation as they pray for the ongoing renewal of relationship between God and his creation. Intercessors see both God’s heart and human reality in any given situation. They join with Jesus in prayer until the two come together and the situation aligns “on earth as it is in heaven.”

Two integral characteristics help an intercessor become part of a fruitful intercession team:

1. **Trustworthiness.** You need a person of integrity and character, able to hold in confidence what you share and the Lord speaks, so that you feel safe and the ministry is well cared for in prayer.
2. **Faithfulness.** In intercession faithfulness means three things: First, **the intercessor is filled with faith.** They trust God and his scriptural promises. They pray with conviction and boldness. They believe and have hope, by faith, for what is to come. Second, **they believe in you and your ministry.** They trust that God has gifted and called you to serve in this capacity. They want to see you and your ministry succeed. Third, **they will be faithful in the practical sense.** They will follow through on their commitments to you. They will pray both in the corporate time with others and on their own. They will be consistent and reliable in communication.

How to invite intercessors for your ministry

“Whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service.” 1 Samuel 14:52b

- **Pray** – Ask the Lord to make this a journey of grace. Invite the Lord’s leadership over the process.
- **Discern** – Sit with and pray over your brainstormed list of intercessors; ask the Lord where to begin.
- **Cast Vision** – Connect with the people you want to invite and share your vision of building an intercession team. Encourage them to take time to pray about whether they feel called to this task.
- **Invite a leader** – Discern and invite a leader for the group and invite them.
- **Train, orient, and commission** at the initial meeting.

Launch

Gather in a Zoom or in person for one hour for the first meeting.

“Form” the room by using these questions:

- How do you know the minister you are praying for?
- Why did you say “yes” to being their intercessor? (no wrong answers)

Study Exodus 17:8-15 together using these sample questionsL

- What details stand out to you from this story? Something that sparked a thought or sparked a question?
- When you think about this intercessory prayer team and the ministry of your staff, how do the different characters in the story correspond to our situation? Who is Joshua? Moses? Aaron and Hur?
- What does this passage teach us about our role as intercessors?
- As you look at this passage, are there any ways that God is challenging you to grow?
- Consider this passage in light of Ephesians 6:12 – today, our battle is not against “flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Consider Best Practices

- What makes a prayer meeting delightful...?
- What makes a prayer meeting miserable...?
- The importance of **listening** and **leadership** in creating a lively dynamic in prayer. Listening to God and one another. Leading the team into the presence of the Lord.

Appoint a leader for the scheduling, communicating and leadership of the actual prayer meeting. Work out all the details now.

Consider a **consistent monthly meeting** on Zoom (or another digital platform).

Commission and bless the intercessors.

The minister should connect with the leader in the week before each meeting. The intercession leader should report any feedback after—words/images/Scriptures that seem important, anything sensed or discerned in prayer—all offered freely and without strings.

After a year the minister invites the team to discern continuing to intercede or jumping off the team. Fill in the gaps and reboot.

Further Resources

Sample group intercession time

1. Open with Scripture (leader discerns the Scripture ahead of time).
2. Create space for quiet confession.
3. Share the minister's requests.
4. Offer thanksgiving to the Lord for who God is, for answered prayers, or both.
5. Ask the Lord to show you how to pray. Spend 3-5 minutes in silence listening to God.
6. Pray together. Pay attention to **themes** that emerge. If a prominent theme arises, linger on it for a while, with several people praying. How does this person's prayer connect to the image that person saw, for instance. Pay attention to where there is **energy** and/or a sense of **urgency** as you pray. These all may be clues or confirmations to how the Lord is speaking.
7. Write down any **Scriptures, words** or **images** that come in prayer to share with the minister. Close with the same Scripture read aloud at the beginning.
8. Make sure your calendar is set for the next month before leaving the call.

Books

The Power of Group Prayer: How Intercession Changes us and Transforms the World by Carolyn Carney

Spiritual Warfare in Mission by Mary Anne and Jack Voelkel

Becoming A Prayer Warrior by Elizabeth Alves

Mountain Rain: A Biography of James O Fraser by Eileen Fraser Crossman

The Joy of Listening to God by Joyce Huggett

The Voice of Jesus: Discernment, Prayer and the Witness of the Spirit by Gordon T. Smith

Prayer by Richard Foster

Online resources for intercession can be found at www.24-7prayer.com