

Prayer Guide:

Listening Prayer

In listening prayer, we come before the Lord to spend time quietly listening to His voice on behalf of someone. The heart of listening prayer is to “listen” to God’s voice for direction; to bring edification, encouragement, and comfort to someone. This is a discipline that takes practice and humility as we quiet our own internal thoughts and the noise of the world, and learn to recognize the voice of the Father.

1. Choose someone to listen on behalf of.

2. Begin with prayer – First, thank God for His presence and confess your need for Him. Ask that God will speak to you through Holy Spirit. You can even ask God to help you discover new ways to pray and listen.

3. Wait and Listen – Spend some time listening to what God is saying to you. As you listen; you may receive a verse from Scripture, a single word, a phrase, a picture, or an encouragement to later share.

***Discernment** – As you listen, ask Holy Spirit to help you discern what you are hearing. We often have competing voices in our head; our own, the Lord’s, and others. Consider if what you are hearing aligns with Scripture and the character and ministry of Jesus. Ask if what you are hearing is for sharing now or at a later time. Ask if what you are hearing is for you, or for the person you are praying for.*

You may be given only a piece of what the Lord wants to say to someone. We don’t need to add to what we hear, or try to explain what the meaning may be. It is often through collective sharing that we get a clearer picture. We are made to do this in community.

4. Close listening with prayer – After listening one person can close with thankfulness for God’s presence and a prayer of encouragement over the person.

5. Share – Share what you feel God spoke to you for the person. Do this with humility and simplicity, recognizing we are not perfect and may get things wrong. A simple way to do this is by starting with; “I don’t know if this is from me or the Lord...” or “I feel the Lord might be saying...”

***Edification** – If what you heard for the person reveals a struggle or something potentially embarrassing; you can reframe your insight as an encouragement. For example; rather than sharing you sensed a deep despair or struggle; pray for hope, peace, and breakthrough.*

After everyone has shared, ask the person being prayed for if they are comfortable sharing anything that resonated with them. This can be a beautiful time to see how God works through multiple people and in different ways. It can be both a testimony for that person, and encouraging for those that listened.

6. Close with prayer – Close out the session in prayer, thanking God for what He did, and asking for continued discernment and protection over what was spoken.