

Volunteer Starter Guide

Prayer Team

Name:

Date:

Welcome!

We are so happy to have you join the prayer team and be part of what God is doing through Eagle Brook Church.

Our goal is to create an environment that shows people how much they matter to us and to God. As a member of the prayer team, you will have the opportunity to pray with others. When we pray, we are acknowledging the reality that God is responsible for our deepest needs.

This guide will help you get off to a great start. It covers how your role fits into God's plan to encourage and give hope, as well as practical and relational items you'll need to know to make a difference. Please keep it with you the first few times you serve.

With Gratitude,
The Prayer Team

Our Mission and Focus

We support our church's mission to reach people for Christ by expressing God's love through listening and praying. Prayer Team volunteers provide compassion and care for attenders who may be struggling. Knowing that someone cares about them and that God's wisdom and guidance is being requested can provide a deep source of encouragement and hope. Prayer team volunteers also play a critical role in reaching people for Christ. Through prayer, hearts are softened and a relationship with Jesus can begin.

Being Prepared to Serve

In order to effectively show God's love for others through prayer, we need to be well prepared. Below are specific ways to prepare before, during, and after serving.

Before

Prayer team volunteers typically serve once a month during both services on a Saturday or Sunday. After a schedule has been established, you will receive email notifications reminding you of and confirming your serving schedule.

- Stay up-to-date on communications.
- Know your serving schedule. (Head to MyEBC to confirm your serving schedule and to fill openings when others can't make it.)
- Come prepared to serve for your full serving time commitment.
- Dress to serve in relevant, welcoming, and modest clothing.
- Make sure to practice good oral hygiene—brush teeth and grab a mint or stick of gum.
- Refrain from using fragrances when serving, as many people have allergies or are sensitive to fragrances.
- Check in and attend the all-volunteer huddle time. Prayer team volunteers may be asked to pray out loud for the upcoming services during the huddle.
- Participate in volunteer training and development events applicable to your role
- Become familiar with the Eagle Brook Church **Vision Culture**. These principles drive everything we do as an organization.

Prepare Your Heart

Prepare your heart prior to your scheduled time to serve. Spend time with God and pray for the Holy Spirit to speak through you as you pray with others. The most important goal of the prayer team is for attenders to feel loved by us and loved by God. We want them to know that God is with them no matter what they are going through. We want our prayers to give attenders the sense that God is with them and for them.

Prior to praying at the end of services, you have a great opportunity to be praying with other prayer team volunteers or by yourself for:

- The teaching pastors
- Everyone attending the service
- Eagle Brook Church Ministries (Small Groups, Divorce Care, One-on-One Care, GriefShare, Quest 180, Students, Kids, Care, Next Steps)

- Campus Teams (Campus Pastors, Pastors of Ministry, Pastors of Groups, Pastors of Guest Services, Pastors of Student Ministries, Pastor of Kids Ministries, Kids Leaders, Worship Pastors, Tech Teams, Facility Teams)
- Leadership team and other office staff
- Volunteers

Start conversations and develop relationships with other volunteers. Ask how you can pray for them. Feel free to walk around the campus (inside or outside) and pray. Kids spaces will become secure after their volunteer huddle time, so you may want to pray over these spaces earlier. If an attender looks lost or troubled, ask if you can help and/or pray for them.

During

Be prepared to stand on the floor in front of the auditorium platform immediately as each service ends. A good time to walk unnoticed is to quietly move forward during the closing prayer once everyone is standing. To avoid being a distraction, sit in a side aisle seat so that you can walk quickly along the edge before the prayer ends and attenders start walking out.

Attendees requesting prayer will walk toward you! Take a step or two forward and acknowledge them with a comforting greeting and a smile. Ask their name, and then ask, "How can I pray for you today?" While you serve, we encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Restate what you have heard and ask general questions to clarify the prayer need.

Try to keep the prayer time focused and avoid offering counseling, advice, or attempting to "fix" problems. Our role is not to solve people's problems but to reach out to God on their behalf and to connect them with Him.

If it seems appropriate, you may ask if the attendee is comfortable with touch as you pray (e.g., holding their hand or putting your hand on their arm). If an attendee has a serious issue (i.e. thoughts of suicide, homelessness, abuse), include a pastor in the conversation and prayer.

Attendees come from a variety of church and religious backgrounds, or even no religious background at all. Pray as if you were simply talking with God the way we talk with each other. Avoid "churchy" language. Keep your prayer simple and easy to understand so that the experience is comforting and encouraging and doesn't come across odd or bizarre.

Sometimes attendees prefer to pray with someone of the same gender. Be sensitive and accommodating of this request. If someone of a different gender wants to pray with you and another prayer team volunteer is available, feel free to draw him/her in.

Please remain in the auditorium until all attendees have received prayer, even if you are finished and no one else is waiting. Doing this keeps you available if another volunteer needs support.

Confidentiality is critical. Keep prayer concerns to yourself unless someone is in imminent danger. In that case, connect immediately with a pastor.

Prayer Baskets

There are prayer supply baskets at each campus underneath seats in the front row of the auditorium. Included in the prayer baskets are:

Tissues – Sometimes attenders cry as they share their concerns or as they are being prayed for.

Breath Mints – In close environments like prayer, it is important to be aware of our approachability, demeanor, and personal/oral hygiene. We want the best possible experience for the people we serve.

Care Ministries at Eagle Brook Church Cards – Feel free to give one of these cards to attenders so that they are aware of the resources we offer. These cards list our current ministry opportunities, as well as recommended Christian counseling agencies and encouraging Scripture references that relate to anger, anxiety, guilt, and faith. Please become familiar with other care ministries at Eagle Brook Church (Divorce Care, One-on-One Care, and Quest 180).

Follow Jesus booklets – This booklet will walk you through how to pray with an individual who is ready to start a relationship with Jesus. Additional training resources are available if needed.

Congratulations on Making a Decision to Follow Jesus! Card – If an attender makes a first-time decision to follow Jesus, ask them to complete one of these cards. The attender can request to receive our 12-Week New Believers Guide (eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever). This guide is a series of emails giving the new believer information on topics such as what it means to be a Christ follower, how to read the Bible, and spiritual gifts.

New Testament Bibles – These can be used to share an encouraging verse or given to an attender who accepts Christ for the first time if they do not have a Bible at home.

Anointing Oil – Prayer team volunteers are representing church leaders as they pray. There is nothing uniquely spiritual or holy about the oil. It is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, an acknowledgment that it is God who heals and meets our needs. Healing may be needed for spiritual, emotional, physical, relational or financial healing.

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
James 5:14-16

You can ask the attender if they would like to be anointed in this way. If so, ask if they prefer anointing on the forehead or on the back of their hand. Use your finger, with a dab of oil, to make the sign of the cross as you pray, asking God for healing and comfort. You may say something like "In the name of the Father who created you, the Son who redeemed you, and the Holy Spirit who is always with you, I pray for God to . . . "

After

Continue to pray for those you've prayed with. Again, remember to keep prayer concerns confidential. Be in prayer for your campus' prayer needs.

Make the **Eagle Brook Church's online prayer site (eaglebrookprayer.com)** your home page as a reminder to pray for individuals who have submitted prayer requests. These requests can be sorted by campus. Those requesting prayer on this site receive an encouraging email letting them know someone just prayed for them.

We recommend you develop a daily habit of praying! Prayer is simply conversing with God. There's no magic formula, however the acronym ACTS can be a guide as you pray:

Adoration: Give God praise and honor for who He is, as Lord over all.

Confession: Honestly confess and repent of the sin in your life.

Thanksgiving: Verbalize what you're grateful for in your life and in the world around you.

Supplication: Pray for the needs of others and yourself.

Just as in any conversation, you will do some talking and some listening. How does God speak back to you? The Holy Spirit living inside you can bring the wisdom of God to your thinking, often through the Bible. You might want to start by reading a chapter from the Bible each day (sign up online for our daily Bible Reading Plan). Consider writing a key thought from what you've read and how you can put it into practice. Ask yourself: "How will I be different today because of what I've just read?" You could also write a prayer to God regarding the Scripture you've read and your key thoughts. This may help you stay focused and also give you an opportunity to look back to see what you've been learning!

Prayer By Appointment

Prayer by Appointment is an opportunity for attenders to receive additional prayer support typically with a pastor and members of the prayer team. This can take place during the week or between/after weekend services. A pastor or prayer team director/lead may contact you with the details of the need and one or two possible prayer times. Prayerfully consider whether you will participate and please respond one way or another.

Day-Of Prayer

- Before arriving, prepare yourself to serve through prayer.
- Arrive a few minutes before the scheduled time to be ready when the attender requesting prayer arrives.
- The pastor or prayer team director/team lead will welcome and introduce everyone.
- He/she will read some Scripture and offer prayers of thanksgiving, focusing on God, leaving personal issues behind for the time being.
- There will be a time for reflection and confession (aloud or silent).
- The attender requesting prayer will share their story while the team listens carefully. It is not a time to problem-solve or make suggestions—it's a time to listen to the attender and to the Holy Spirit. It may be appropriate, however, to ask clarifying questions.

- The team will gather around the attender, laying hands on his/her shoulders (if the attender is comfortable with this) and the pastor or the prayer team director/team lead will anoint the attender with oil (again, only if the attender is comfortable with this).
- The team will then take turns praying out loud regarding the attender's situation.
- The pastor or prayer team director/team lead will close the time of prayer.

Resources

Selected Bible References Related to Prayer

Psalm 17:6	I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray.
Matthew 6:9-13	Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.
Ephesians 6:18	Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.
Colossians 4:2	Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.
I Timothy 2:1	I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.
James 5:16	The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.
I John 5:14	And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

Prayer Resources

The Bible (especially Psalms)

Talking With God: What To Say When You Don't Know How To Pray by Adam Weber

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference by Philip Yancey

Before Amen: The Power Of A Simple Prayer by Max Lucado

Prayer: Finding The Heart's True Home by Richard Foster

Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God by Timothy Keller

Praying For Your Pastor: How Your Prayer Support Is Their Life Support by Eddie Byun

Don't Sing Songs to A Heavy Heart: How To Relate To Those Who Are Suffering by Kenneth Haugk

NAME		BEST WAY TO CONTACT
Director		
Team Lead		
What should I do if I can't make it to serve the day of?		
What should I do if I can't make it and know in advance?	Decline the MyEBC serving request and take a different day that month.	
What should I do in case of an emergency or injury?	<p>Tell the nearest staff person as soon as possible. They know who's trained in CPR/First Aid, and, if needed, can call 911 and give the accurate address and directions.</p> <p><i>For your awareness, all Eagle Brook locations have automated external defibrillators (heart starters). You aren't expected to know how to use one, but it's a good idea to at least ask staff where the closest one is to your serving area, just so you know.</i></p>	
How will I know if we are cancelling services due to inclement weather?	Check the Eagle Brook website or any Eagle Brook social media sites to find out if we are cancelling services or not.	



Sites to Bookmark

Eagle Brook Volunteer Site

Need training? Can't find your serving calendar? Inclement weather? Find more information here.

eaglebrookchurch.com/ebcvolunteers

MyEBC

Ensure your contact info is up-to-date so you stay connected, and use it to view your schedule and MyEBC how-to videos (e.g., how to take a serving need).

myebc.ccbchurch.com/login.php

Username:

Password:

Eagle Brook Blog

Find daily devotionals or read posts about spiritual growth, personal development, relationships, and parenting.

eaglebrookchurch.com/blog

RightNow Media

Think of it as the Netflix of spiritual growth! It's full of videos and Bible studies to make growing in your faith easier.

eaglebrookchurch.com/rightnowmedia

Congrats!

Starting something new can be intimidating, but you did it—and we're so grateful! Eagle Brook encourages everyone to grow in our five values. Serving can help us grow in these values to become people who:

Follow Jesus

Spend Time with God

Connect in Community

Serve Others

Live Generously

Your input and ideas are welcome, as are any questions you may have as you learn more about the ministry in which you serve. Thank you for serving others and being so generous with your time!

RVSD 2/19

