



OWN YOUR OWN SECTION MINISTRY

HOST TRAINING MANUAL

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ
has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

—Romans 15:7



Prestonwood

FOREWORD BY PASTOR

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve our church by volunteering in the Own Your Own Section ministry. I am so excited about this ministry and the incredible impact it could have on those who are visiting or those who have not yet plugged in to Prestonwood.

I know that for some people, Prestonwood may seem to be too big. But I know that once they experience the heart of our church and have plugged in to our Bible Fellowships and ministries, they will see that we are a big church with the heart of a small church.

Through you and our Own Your Own Section ministry, we are able to share that heart with people as soon as they are seated for the Worship Service.



Your commitment and love for our church is greatly appreciated.

In Christ Alone,
Jack Graham



GOALS OF THE OWN YOUR OWN SECTION MINISTRY

1

Make a good
first impression on
our guests; help them to
feel a sense of community.

2

Help people plug in to
Bible Fellowships and/or other
ministry opportunities.

3

Be a prayer partner with our
guests and members.



CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- » Arrive on time. Aim to be in your section 15 minutes prior to the Worship Service. You have only a brief time to visit with those in your section.
- » Even though an announcement video may start playing about five minutes before the Worship Service begins, if you are in the middle of a conversation, you may keep talking until the worship music begins.
- » Be faithful in your attendance. For some people, you may be the only familiar face, or the only one to greet them each week beyond the “hello” from our greeters and ushers.
- » Be visible in your section. Wear your “Host” identification badge. When in the Worship Center, the “Host” badge should supersede any other name badge you may have.
- » This is not a sitting ministry. Walk around your section rows so that people can see you, and you can maximize the contacts you make each week.
- » Keep your eyes open for anyone who is new in your section.
- » Greet people with a smiling face and a breath mint.
- » Use the talking points that will be provided each month as conversation starters.

SECTION COVERAGE

- » Hosts assigned to a specific section need to work together and spread out to ensure that you are providing adequate coverage for your assigned section.
- » We urge you to sit in the rows where you minister, or to even sit on a row just behind the rows where you minister. This will allow you to potentially recognize any late-arriving visitors whom you can greet

immediately after the service.

- » If you prefer to sit in one section and visit in an adjoining section, provide us with the section number you will be covering.
- » We are continually recruiting section hosts. If you know of someone in your section who would be a good candidate, pass that information to us at host@prestonwood.org.

ENCOURAGING INVOLVEMENT



ENCOURAGE GUESTS TO REGISTER

- » As you meet guests in the Worship Service, encourage them to register using the form in the Worship Guide (*Prestonwood Today*).
- » Let them know that they can turn in their guest registration form in the offering plate when it is passed around, or to preferably turn it in at Guest Central, where they will receive a small gift.

ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE IN A BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

- » Find out if those in your section are regular attenders of Bible Fellowship.
- » If not, encourage them to go to Guest Central for assistance in selecting one.
- » You can also direct them to find a class online at prestonwood.org/class-finder.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- » Seek to help people plug in to other ministries such as Women's Ministry, Friday Morning Men's Bible Study, missions opportunities, etc.
- » You can point them to Guest Central for more information.



BEING A PRAYER PARTNER

PRAYER AND OTHER NEEDS

- » As you get to know people and build relationships with them, inquire about whether they have prayer needs. If appropriate, you can pray with them right then. You can also ask them if it's OK for you to pass their prayer request to the church staff to call and pray with them. You may communicate prayer requests to the staff by e-mailing host@prestonwood.org.
- » Beyond prayer requests, you may come across other needs that should be communicated. For example, a person may want the church to know that he or she is having upcoming surgery at a specific hospital. Or he or she may want to share a new phone number or address. It's always a good idea to have a pen and paper with you to capture these requests. Again, you may communicate this information to host@prestonwood.org.

GUIDELINES FOR PASTOR'S PRAYER TIME

- » An important part of this ministry is to be available to personally pray with people who come to you when instructed in the Worship Service.
- » These periodic corporate prayer times will be determined by our Pastor. We will notify you in advance by e-mail when these times are scheduled.
- » When Pastor asks the ministers and section hosts to stand up for a time of prayer, stand up by your section and have an inviting posture. Stand up straight, with your hands clasped together in front.

- » If there is more than one host in a section, spread out in the aisles by your section. Be open to praying with those from other sections who come to you.
- » When a person comes to you, look him in the eyes, take him by the hand, introduce yourself, get his name and the nature of his prayer request within the first 30 seconds. If he is nervous and begins to ramble in voicing a prayer need, help him to focus by asking, “Exactly how can I pray for you?” As soon as he voices a request, begin praying. Due to time constraints, your prayer should not last longer than about 60 seconds.

PRAYER TIPS

- » Two Prestonwood couples, Dennis and Betty Jo Conner, and Jim and Kaye Johns, are prayer trainers and have prepared some prayer helps to assist you in praying for those who request it.
- » Each couple has crafted sample prayers for the eight most common prayer requests. You can memorize these, take elements from them, blend them, or use them in any way that helps you prepare to pray for others. You will find the prayers listed at the end of this manual.



SAMPLE PRAYERS



GENERAL HEALTH NEED

O, Father, thank You for inviting me to partner with _____ in prayer right now. We are both so thankful that we can come to You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son! And we know You will not only hear this prayer, but You will answer it also! Lord, You have heard the request and we are asking for Your divine intervention into this situation. Right now, as we pray, we call upon You as *Jehovah-Rapha* (“God who heals”) to touch _____’s body as well as his/her soul and spirit; and bring the specific and perfect healing that only You can do! And while You are healing _____, would You reveal Yourself in a fresh, new way to him/her? May he/she experience a new awareness of Your love and grace that will not only fill him/her with an abundance of joy, but also inspire him/her to share that love with others! We ask You for this blessing upon _____ in the mighty and matchless name of Jesus Christ and for His glory. Amen and amen!

CRITICAL HEALTH & TERMINAL ILLNESS

O, Father, thank You for this divine appointment You have orchestrated between _____ and me in this specific Prestonwood service on this specific Sunday. Your Word says that You direct our steps, so I know, without doubt, that You wanted the two of us to pray together, not just separately! Lord, You already know about the critical health issue that _____ is facing, and how it often appears that there is no hope! But, we also know You as *Elohim* (“Creator God”), who created the world (Genesis 1:1) and everything in it, out of nothing! We are asking You today to create a miraculous healing for _____ where nothing seems to be available! And until Your healing comes, would You bless _____ with that same all-sufficient grace, filling his/her body, soul and spirit as You did for the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 12:9). We pray this “in agreement” (Matthew 18:19) in Jesus Christ’s name and for His glory. Amen and amen!

MARITAL DIFFICULTIES

O, Father, how blessed we are today that You have proven over and over that You not only hear our prayers, but also answer them! Thank You, Lord, that I have the privilege of partnering in prayer with _____ today. Lord, as our omniscient God, show this couple how their marriage can be divinely reconciled and restored to that sacrificial love that You speak of throughout the Bible, that unique bonding of their hearts at the wedding altar. Since it was You, Lord, who created the husband-wife relationship (Genesis 2:24–25) in the beginning, would You stir the hearts of this couple to seek godly counsel and encouragement? Help them to purposely focus on drawing closer and closer to You and be amazed as You supernaturally draw them closer and closer to each other. We pray this “in agreement” (Matthew 18:19) in Jesus Christ’s name and for His glory. Amen and amen!

PRODIGAL CHILD

O, Father, what a privilege it is to pray with _____ today. Thank You, for not only listening to our prayer, but also answering it as our faithful God! Lord, I want to lift up _____ to You right now. He/she has decided to go his/her own way. Thank You that we can know You as *Jehovah-Shammah* (“God is there”). While this family is deeply burdened for the return of their son/daughter, they can be confident that You are right there with him/her, watching over and protecting him/her. Would You also speak to his/her heart as You did to the Prodigal Son in the Bible (Luke 15) and help him/her to clearly see the error of his/her choices? Would You pour out such love and Holy Spirit conviction upon him/her, that he/she will come running back home to You first and to the family? I also pray Your supernatural peace upon _____, fully trusting You to bring _____ back home! We pray this “in agreement” (Matthew 18:19) in Jesus Christ’s name and for His glory. Amen and amen!

FINANCIAL ISSUES

As the One who is our provider, may You bless _____ with much grace during this time of “upheaval.” Father, search the heart of _____ to see if he/she is abiding in Your Word concerning the principles of finances. Thank You for guiding his/her steps to those who can instruct him/her with godly counsel (Psalm 37:23, 30). If _____ does not yet know the joys of giving to You and others, let him/her begin today (Acts 20:35). May he/she develop patient endurance as he/she waits for You to meet his/her every need. You have told us that we are not to worry about our daily provisions but to ask You to provide them. May _____ claim Your promise that if we seek You first, You will add all these things to us (Matthew 6:25–34). Thank You, Lord, for Your Word assures us that we will have all that we need (Philippians 4:19). May our contentment rest in You and not in the things of this world (1 Timothy 6:6–8). In Jesus’ name, so be it!

JOB LOSS

Thank You for being *Jehovah-Rohi*, our “shepherd.” May _____ fix his/her mind upon You in the midst of this confusion/pain (Isaiah 26:3). May he/she take the same posture that Jehoshaphat took when the enemy surrounded him and he said, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you” (2 Chronicles 20:12). Keep _____ focused upon You! You have promised to direct the steps of the righteous (Proverbs 16:9). You said that the prayers of the righteous avail much, so we come in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, asking You to direct _____ to the next place of service (James 5:16). Let _____ know, beyond any doubt, that it is Your glorious hand that has led the way to the next position! May _____ grasp that hand extended to him/her right now; and by Your mighty power, show him/her how to walk in this new place of employment. Your kingdom come and Your will be done in _____’s life as it is in heaven! All of this is asked in the matchless, strong name of Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord! So be it!

LOSS OF LOVED ONE

Father, You are *Jehovah-Shalom*, “the Lord of Peace.” Praise You for the life of this loved one. You hear the cries of those in grief. In their sorrow, You have a place of peace for each of these. You are compassionate and know what grief and loneliness are all about. Lord Jesus, You suffered greatly so that our grief would be less than that of those who have no hope. You are our hope and peace and comfort. Holy Spirit, come now upon this entire family during the service, this week, and all the days to follow. Father, thank You for being the strength and shield for this family and their friends during this week and in the coming days. You are their ever-present help in times of sorrow. As the days go, so may their joy increase. May others see the joy of the Lord as the strength of their lives (Psalm 28:6–8). Bless Your holy name, the one and only God of all peace. Because of Jesus, so be it!

ENCOURAGEMENT

Father, You have heard the heart of this dear one. You are *Jehovah-Nissi*, their “banner” (Exodus 17:15–16)! This is a beautiful name that shows once again all the love You have for Your children. Many times we become discouraged in the battles of life. What a comfort to know that Your love banner flies high over us in whatever circumstances we face in our daily walk (Song of Solomon 2:4). May _____ sense that flag of Your presence high over him/her as the protecting cover of all of Your strength and love. May any fear that wants to engulf _____ be cast far from him/her as he/she casts each care upon You, for You care for him/her (1 Peter 5:7). You tell us to encourage and build each other up daily. That is what this prayer time and the preaching of Your Word is all about (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Matthew 6:11). Thank You, Jesus, for being the banner over us (Isaiah 11:10). Amen!



PRAYER GUIDELINES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- GOD:** Begin every prayer with a focus on God.
- PERSON:** Acknowledge the feelings of the person you are praying with as you pray.
- NEED:** Incorporate scriptural truths as you pray for the need.
- KINGDOM:** Close with a kingdom purpose.

JOB LOSS

- GOD:** Father, we come to You as *El Shaddai*, “our sufficiency and our sustainer.” You are the Lord God Almighty, all-knowing and all-powerful, our ever-present help in trouble.
- PERSON:** Losing a job is a terrible shock to a family man, and it’s obvious that _____ is discouraged. You are his shepherd, and I ask you to lead him. Help him to sense Your presence.
- NEED:** Help him to trust You with all of his heart and not lean on his own understanding. Help him to pray every day and seek Your guidance. Show him the next steps to take—direct his path, keep him on track with You.
- Let Your favor rest upon him. Establish the work of his hands—open the door to the job You want him to have, a job where he can be salt and light and live as a witness for You.
- KINGDOM:** Use this crisis in his life to show him Your faithfulness. Answer our prayer for the right job for him in such a way as to bring glory to Yourself and advance Your kingdom.

In Jesus’ name, amen...

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GENERAL HEALTH NEED

- GOD: Father, we come to You as the Lord who heals, our Great Physician, the Balm of Gilead. You are our Lord who looked upon the people with compassion and healed them, and You are the same yesterday, today and forever.
- PERSON: I can see that _____ is concerned for _____. He's obviously a good friend, and I ask You to help him sense Your presence and trust in Your control of this situation.
- NEED: You hold our lives in Your hands, and that's true for _____. Watch over him, his health, his surgery and rehab. Protect him from errors of any kind, and strengthen his body which is fearfully and wonderfully made, with a strong immune system and ability to heal itself.
- Lord Jesus, we come as those who lowered their paralyzed friend through the roof so that You could heal him. We lay _____ at Your feet for the healing he needs.
- KINGDOM: We don't know why this illness has come upon _____, but we do know You can use it for his good and Your glory, and that's what we ask You to do. Make him strong again, so that he can serve You and Your kingdom, whatever You ask him to do.

In Jesus' name, amen...

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CRITICAL HEALTH NEED/TERMINAL ILLNESS

GOD: Father, we come to You as our God for whom nothing is impossible. You parted the Red Sea and brought down the walls of Jericho. You are also a God of love, who cannot act toward us except in perfect love, love that was demonstrated at the Cross.

PERSON: We know it is important that we keep our eyes on You and not on our circumstances, but that's hard for _____ to do right now. The circumstances are huge, and she is feeling overwhelmed and helpless. Sustain her with Your grace.

NEED: You are the God of hope. Fill her with joy and peace as she trusts in You. Help her to overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let the hope she has in You, our living God, be her strong witness wherever she goes.

Lord Jesus, we believe, but like the father who brought his son to You, we cry out—help our unbelief. Do what only You can.

KINGDOM: Father, do what will bring You the greatest glory through these lives. Use their faith to advance Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, amen...

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MARITAL DIFFICULTIES

- GOD: Lord, You are the sure foundation for our lives, the rock on which we stand. You are our strong tower and our fortress. You offer us shelter beneath Your wings when storms come into our lives.
- PERSON: I sense that _____ is feeling like she's caught in a storm; the marriage that has given her stability in her life for these years seems to be coming apart. Give her the shelter, the sense of safety that she needs in the midst of so much uncertainty.
- NEED: Lord, we're told in the Scriptures to cast our cares on You, for You care for us. You said we are to bring our burdens to You. Help _____ to do that, to let go of the weight of problems that are overwhelming her. Help her to put her eyes on You, to trust that You will do what is best and right for her marriage and their family.
- Work in _____'s heart and make him willing to try again. Help this couple to have a Christ-centered marriage that will grow stronger every year.
- KINGDOM: Heal this marriage and hold this family together—show everyone who knows them how faithful You are. Make their relationship one that You can bless, and use them both for Your kingdom, purpose and glory.

In Jesus' name, amen...

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FINANCIAL NEED

- GOD: Father, we come to You knowing You are our provider, the giver of every good and perfect gift. You are our loving Father who gives us more than any earthly father could.
- PERSON: You know our needs before we ask, so I know You are aware of _____'s situation, how desperate he feels, how much he needs You to show him what to do and so I ask You to be there for him in a special way.
- NEED: You have taught us to ask for our daily needs to be met, and I come now on his behalf, asking You to take the resources he has and multiply them as You did the loaves and fish so that somehow, some way, he will have enough. You are faithful and true, able to meet our every need. Help him to trust You to meet his needs in Your timing and in Your way.
- Increase his faith, and provide for him in such a way that he will know it's You, working in his life as only You can.
- KINGDOM: May Your provision for _____ come in such a way that You will get the glory and Your kingdom will be advanced.
- In Jesus' name, amen...*

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LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

GOD: Father, You are a great and awesome God who is tender, loving and kind. You are the lover of our souls and the lifter of our heads, and we praise You.

PERSON: _____ needs Your love, Your presence to be very real in her life. Her loss is still very great, and she feels so alone. Be her comforter as she struggles to find her way.

NEED: You are close to the broken-hearted, and I ask You to help her sense Your presence and Your love. Anoint her with joy in the midst of her grief, and let Your joy be her strength. Surround her with those who love her, who want to come alongside and help her when she needs someone to help carry her burden.

Be her friend and comforter. Hold her close.

KINGDOM: Bring her through this season of grief. Give her the privilege of one day being powerfully used in Your kingdom, and may everything about her life give You glory.

In Jesus' name, amen...

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PRODIGAL CHILD

- GOD: Father, thank You for the parable that shows us Your great and forgiving father's heart, the story of the Prodigal Son who returned to him and found him welcoming him with open arms and total forgiveness.
- PERSON: It is so difficult to watch one of our children run from You and from all they've been taught, from the way they were raised. It's hard for _____, Father, and she needs to see You moving in her son's heart and life.
- NEED: You are our shepherd, the shepherd who watches over Your flock—who will leave the 99 to go and find the one who strays. You know Your sheep and call them all by name, and not one of them is missing. Be her son's faithful shepherd.
- Help _____ to rest in the truth that You love her son even more than she does.
- KINGDOM: Do the work in her son's life that only You can do. Use him someday to help advance Your kingdom for Your glory.
- In Jesus' name, amen...*

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ENCOURAGEMENT

- GOD: Father, You are great and worthy of our praise, our God who rejoices over us with singing. You are our most high God who welcomes us into the secret place with You.
- PERSON: It is hard to see You in that light when we are discouraged, and that is how _____ is feeling now. He needs You to turn his darkness into light, to bring him out of this season of discouragement.
- NEED: I ask You to encourage his heart, and strengthen him in every good thing he does and says. Send him people who will encourage and build him up, those who will come alongside him daily. Be the bright morning star in his life. Give him a new song to sing, a song of praise to You.
- Give him the joy that is the fruit of the Spirit.
- KINGDOM: Be his encourager, and glorify Yourself in his life. Let him find the joy of serving You and Your kingdom purpose.
- In Jesus' name, amen...*