

Session Four

Take A Step

Early Offer of Prayer

Marie Reavey



Early Offer of Prayer

As followers of Jesus, what makes us different from any other group or people? It's the fact that we are children of God and carriers of the Presence of God!

Look at Jesus' life: wherever He went, He was performing miracles and demonstrating the Kingdom of God. There are many accounts of Jesus healing the sick to demonstrate the compassion and love of the Father and bring the Kingdom to earth, or providing for a need.

If someone tells you they are sick, or have a pain or injury or that there is some difficulty going on in their life, the most loving thing we can do is offer to pray for them.

It doesn't matter if they say no; to offer prayer should be the most normal and natural thing we do, and the reason we offer isn't because we want to convert someone. We offer because Jesus loves them and we are who He uses to extend His love and Kingdom. Jesus is our role model - so if Jesus prayed for the sick or for provision for people, then so should we.

(continued)

Read Acts 8:4-8

If someone is sick, what can you do? Here's a simple scenario.

Say something like: "I'm a follower of Jesus and I believe Jesus heals today." Then share a quick story about someone you know who has been healed, if that helps (I often do this). Then ask, "Can I pray for you now?" If they say yes then keep your eyes open as pray for them. If you are able to lay hands on someone, always make sure you get permission first and don't put them anywhere inappropriate. *(Remember whilst social distancing is in place to not put hands on them).*

Start by thanking God for the person - remember, we want them to know they are loved and special in God's eyes. Then pray for the need. If it is a sickness, speak directly to the sickness/pain and tell it to leave, and tell the body part to be healed in Jesus' name. Be bold! Remember, you are a child of God who is seated in heavenly places, and Jesus has given you His authority.

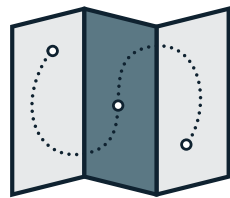
Take A Step

We want to encourage you this week to take a step and pray for someone who doesn't know Jesus.

If you regularly pray for people, take a step and ask the Father to show you something specific about that person He wants you to share with them to help them to know how much He loves them.

Small Group Questions

1. Does anyone have any stories of when they've offered to pray for someone who's not a Christian?
 - How did you do it?
 - What did they say?
 - What happened? (stories of miraculous healings are amazing and so encouraging but it's also just as inspiring to hear stories of the inevitable times people turn down the offer, they're not healed etc. because like the video said, it's God who heals not us, our responsibility is to make the offer and be obedient)
2. The video talked about how as Christians we're unique in that we carry the presence and power of Jesus with us. How does this truth impact you're thinking when it comes to offering prayer?
3. What obstacles do we face at the idea of offering prayer to non-Christians? How can we overcome them?



Take A Step

relationalmission.org/takeastep