

Preparing Students for Public Ministry

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Tools for Public Ministry

Before you empower your students to minister in public through a city outreach, mission trip, church service, or another opportunity, we encourage you to equip them with the tools they need to be successful. We believe this begins with instilling beliefs into your students that reflect kingdom culture. At BSSM, we have developed core values and guidelines to equip our students to minister with love, honor, and power. We want to share those with you to help equip your students to minister effectively. This resource also provides models for salvation, the prophetic, and healing that we believe are helpful for beginners. As you empower your students to be activated in public ministry, we encourage you to provide covering and ongoing instruction.

Core Values

Below are the five core values we draw from when we train our BSSM students for public ministry. We believe that when our students embrace these truths in their lives, they will reveal the King and His kingdom. As you draw inspiration from our core values for public ministry, we encourage you to discover your own based upon the culture you live in and the needs of your community.

1. *God Is Always Good*

God is a loving Father who desires good things for His children. He is not angry with us nor seeks to punish us. We share a new covenant with Him that was made available through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, we can be confident that He is pleased with us and gives us full access to His presence. When we recognize that only good things come from our Father, the supernatural begins to invade both our personal lives and the world around us. Our revelation and experience of the Father's true nature leads us to invite others to encounter His goodness when we minister to them. (See Romans 8:28)

2. *Nothing Is Impossible*

When we realize the truth that nothing is impossible with God, we become aware of how He wants to shift circumstances supernaturally in lives, cities, and nations. We can most clearly see this core value in the life of Jesus, who demonstrated a lifestyle of dependence on the Father and performed miracles, signs, and wonders. Indeed, every impossible circumstance Jesus confronted was shifted supernaturally! He healed the sick, restored the broken, and raised the dead. Jesus is our model for ministry, and as His ambassadors, we have been given authority to do even greater works than He did. (See Matthew 19:26)

3. *We Have Complete Victory in Jesus*

Jesus' victory on the cross gave us so much more than just freedom from sin. In fact, the cross grants us total freedom and wholeness in every area of our lives, including our bodies, hearts, relationships, finances, and more. This core value gives us a deep confidence that nothing is too big for our God. It helps us stay anchored in truth, even in the face of the most trying circumstance. When we minister to others, we pray from the place of victory we have in Jesus. We pray knowing that nothing can separate us from the fullness of the life and love He has for us. (See Romans 8:31-32)

4. *We Love, Honor, and Empower*

When we operate from the love of God, we reveal His nature to the world. We might heal the sick, prophesy with accuracy, or speak in tongues, but apart from love, we will not cultivate the true fruit of the kingdom in our lives. A supernatural lifestyle that is rooted in the love of God and produces abundant fruit starts with abiding in intimacy with Him. Through connection to His heart, we learn how to honor and empower those around us, revealing the greatness and value He has placed inside of them. Our ministry out of love sets us up to succeed because love never fails. (See Ephesians 5:1-2)

5. *We are Saints, Not Sinners*

Our old, sinful nature was crucified with Jesus and we are no longer slaves to sin. We have become God's chosen sons and daughters who have been fully justified. We are righteous in His eyes. It's important that we view ourselves as God sees us because our lifestyles will reflect such revelation. When we embrace the freedom He offers us, we can invite others to experience the same. It was for freedom's sake that Jesus set us free! (See 1 Peter 2:9)

Guidelines for Public Ministry

To help our students approach individuals with the right heart posture, we provide the following guidelines for public ministry. They are a helpful baseline for those who are learning to minister to others in public and growing in spiritual discernment. These guidelines especially support students to minister in a way that is honoring and respectful.

- When we minister, we are seeking to bring people into an encounter with the Holy Spirit. We are not using it as an opportunity to display our gifts or discernment.
- When we minister, we do not seek to counsel, correct, or point out a negative thing in someone's life. Instead, we declare what God wants to do. We don't focus on the problem. Rather, we bring encouragement and solutions.
- When we minister, we do not pray with the opposite sex one-on-one, unless we have permission from our leader. We either pray for the same gender or pray in pairs. For example, two women can pray for a man.

- When we minister, we take our hands off a person if we start to physically manifest because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can keep praying, but we want to be respectful of those we minister to. We also do not push, grab, blow in the face, or pray in tongues loudly when ministering to others.
- When we minister, we treat each person with love and respect, especially through our words. We create a pleasant and inviting environment. This includes using breath mints and deodorant.
- When we minister, we keep our eyes open and pay attention to the person in front of us. This helps to prevent them from getting hurt if they fall and helps us see if they are still receiving.
- When we minister, we release the freedom we have received through Jesus. If we are struggling with our identity or a lifestyle of sin, it's important that we first seek support and freedom in that area before ministering to others.

Ministry Models

Below are several models we use to train our students for public ministry. The models provide additional guidelines that are helpful for those who are just beginning to step out in taking risks to minister in public settings. While these models provide a solid framework for salvation, the prophetic, and healing, we encourage you to continue to teach and demonstrate to your students what it looks like to minister in these areas.

Salvation Model

Salvation starts with embracing the belief that Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin, and then rose from the dead to give us new life in Him. When we share the Gospel with others, we invite them to experience freedom in Jesus as they repent from their sins and choose to follow Him.

Here are some key points of the Gospel you can share when leading someone to receive salvation:

- God has created you and loves you (John 3:16). He has a plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:29).
- All of us have sinned (Romans 3:23) and no one is perfect (Isaiah 53:6).
- When we confess our sins to Jesus, He is faithful to forgive us (1 John 1:9).
- Jesus died so that we could live free from sin (Romans 10:9-10) and have abundant life in Him (John 10:10). We are saved by grace alone, not by our own works (Ephesians 2:8).

When leading someone to the Lord, it's important to share that receiving salvation is a voluntary act. God is pursuing the person's heart. He or she has the choice to enter into a personal relationship with Him. When you are sharing the Gospel, make sure to communicate that God's grace is His undeserved love that gives us power to be changed. His grace brings us into right relationship with Him and sets us free from all that hinders us from experiencing the fullness of His love.

Before you lead someone in a salvation prayer, make sure these three things are in place:

1. The person knows that Jesus loves them and died on the cross so that he/she would experience freedom.
2. The person wants to ask forgiveness for his/her sins and enter into a personal relationship with Jesus.
3. The person has a desire to embrace God's plan for his/her life.

When the person is ready, lead him/her in a simple prayer. Invite the person to share with Jesus whatever is on his/her heart. After praying, ask the person to describe what took place. Take time to celebrate the person's decision and that he/she is now part of God's family. Also, take time to share any other words of encouragement.

Next, share with the person about the access he/she has to the Holy Spirit. He is a gift that enables believers to hear God's voice and experience His presence every day. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come dwell in that person. When it's time to leave, make sure to make plans to reconnect with the person to see how he/she is doing. Also, offer your support to help the person find a church community.

Prophetic Model

God is always speaking to His sons and daughters. Since He continually invites us to experience greater levels of intimacy with Him, we have access to His voice. He has given us the gift of prophecy so that we can share messages from His heart that draw others closer to Him. We are called to use this gift to build up and comfort believers so they may fulfill their destinies (1 Corinthians 14:3).

There are many ways we can hear from God when we prophesy. Here are some of the unique ways He speaks to us through our senses:

- Pictures and images we receive in our minds
- Visions we see in our minds, or with our physical eyes
- Dreams we have as we sleep
- Scriptures that come to mind
- Colors, which have different meanings in the Bible
- Numbers, which have different meanings in the Bible, or could be specific to a person
- Impressions, emotions, or feelings
- Words that come to mind or that we can physically hear
- Smells or other sensations in the body
- Words of knowledge that include specific information about a person.

To release life and encouragement to others through our prophetic words, we use the following guidelines for prophetic ministry:

- When we prophesy, we don't prophesy mates, dates, or babies. We don't prophesy about these intimate areas when we don't have a close relationship with someone, accountability for the word, or authority to share the word. A wrong prophetic word in this area could be potentially damaging to a person.
- When we prophesy, we don't share negative news. We don't want the person to feel exposed or embarrassed. If we see something negative, we declare the opposite.
- When we prophesy, we don't correct others or try to convince them that we heard from God. We demonstrate honor by letting people make up their own minds.
- When we prophesy, we encourage them to talk to God about the truth of the word we shared and whether or not it was from Him.
- When we prophesy, we use language that people will understand.

Healing Model

We believe that pain, sickness, and disease are not from God! He desires for every individual to be well. As it is God's will for all to experience fullness of life, we have the opportunity to partner with Him to bring healing to those in need of physical healing. It is His great delight to see others restored to health through us. We know that we are called to heal because:

- Jesus is our model (Luke 4:18-21)
- Jesus instructed the disciples to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-6)
- Jesus commanded us to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18)

When we pray for healing for a person, we use the following guidelines:

1. Introduce yourself to the person in need of healing and ask if you may pray for him/her. Do a quick interview by asking the person to briefly explain what he/she is physically experiencing. If the person is in pain, ask him/her the pain level he or she is experiencing on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the least amount and 10 being the highest amount).
2. Ask for permission to lay your hand gently on the place where he/she is experiencing pain, sickness, or disease. However, don't place your hand on an inappropriate place. Remember, you don't have to lay hands on a person for him/her to get well.
3. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and minister to the person. Remain sensitive to His direction and use the authority God has given you to release the reality of heaven (which is free of all pain, sickness, and disease). While ministering, remember to use a normal tone of voice and to keep your prayers short and simple. Also, use language that the person will understand.

4. Encourage the person to test out his/her body. Ask if there is any progress of healing.
5. If the person received full healing, praise God! Tell him/her that He demonstrates His love for us by setting us free from all pain, sickness, and disease. Ask if the person knows Jesus. If not, ask the person if he/she wants to receive salvation and enter into a relationship with Him.
6. If the person did not get fully healed after you prayed, ask him/her if you can pray again. If there's been any change, thank God for what He is doing and continue to pray. Remember, you are not striving for healing. It's not dependent upon you because it has already been accomplished through the cross! Also, continue to ask questions and be aware if the person still wants to continue to receive or if he/she is ready to leave.
7. If nothing has happened, explain to the person that something always happens when we pray, whether we are aware of it or not. Sometimes healings come gradually after we pray. Also, make sure that the person knows that it is not his/her fault if there is no physical breakthrough. It's important to leave the person feeling loved and encouraged.