

# prayer team guide

CEDARCREEKCHURCH

# Welcome

We are so grateful that you have chosen to serve as a vital part of our DreamTeam. Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference by loving others the way Christ loved us. We find that when we set out to do that, it is our hearts that grow the most, so we can't wait to hear what God does through your willingness to serve him.

This handbook is designed to provide information that is applicable to all Prayer Team members.

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## On Mission

The DreamTeam is a group of incredible people on mission to show every guest they matter by living out their God-given purpose to make an eternal difference.

MISSION STATEMENT:

**We exist to introduce people to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with him.**

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## Dreaming Together

We are a team of people working and dreaming about the mission God has for us. Every single weekend, the DreamTeam understands that we are in the business of introducing people to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with him. That's what it means to make an eternal difference. It's all about God - what he is doing around and through all of us to reach those who are far from him, and to draw each of us toward loving others the way Christ loved us.

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## No Matter the Role

We understand that seemingly insignificant acts in the hands of an all-powerful God create eternal moments that change people's lives.

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## Privileged to Serve

We view the opportunity to serve our guests on the weekend as a “Get To” experience and not a “Have To” experience. We understand that we’re here to accomplish something bigger than ourselves and it’s a privilege to serve on this team. We’re honored and thankful to God for choosing us.

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## On a Journey and Helping Others

The ultimate role of the DreamTeam is to love others the way Christ loved us, helping them to take a next step in their spiritual journey.

To help someone else **KNOW GOD**

To help someone else **FIND FREEDOM**

To help someone else **DISCOVER PURPOSE**

To help someone else **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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## Becoming a Part of the DreamTeam

Is an honor because we get to serve God in the mission he has for our church and the communities we serve.

To equip every member of the team and insure the Prayer Team is the best fit, we require Prayer Team members to take these steps before serving:

- 1 Complete GrowthTrack
- 2 Complete application
- 3 Participate in interview
- 4 Complete Confidentiality Agreement

## We gather to dream & celebrate:

### DreamTeam Launch

At the beginning of each ministry year, we gather for a night filled with vision, inspiration, and worship. As a DreamTeam member, we ask that you join us to prayerfully and humbly trust God to accomplish great things in the upcoming ministry year.

### DreamTeam Celebration

Once a year, just before spring, we throw a party for our amazing DreamTeam. It is a night filled with celebration as we honor our team members for the ways they are making a difference by living out their purpose.

## Our Values

**G**

### **GOD'S HEART**

We want every guest to know that they matter to God and they matter to us.

**U**

### **UPBEAT**

We create a fun and positive environment to make an amazing first impression and for the team to serve.

**E**

### **EXCELLENCE**

We pay attention to details because it shows our guests we care.

**S**

### **SEIZE WOW OPPORTUNITIES**

We are always looking for ways to make every guest's experience something they can't wait to share with others.

**T**

### **TAKE THE NEXT STEPS**

We want every interaction to point guests to their next step on the spiritual journey.

Know God  
Find Freedom  
Discover Purpose  
Make a Difference

# Overall Prayer DreamTeam

OVERVIEW

## Our Vision

To compassionately intercede for the needs of our guests, helping them to experience the love of Jesus so that they can connect with Christ through prayer, and to supportively intercede for the ministries, staff and leadership of our church, as well as the needs of the community and beyond.

## Weekly Prayer Team

- Pray for specific prayer requests submitted on the weekend and throughout the week, along with areas and teams of church
- Every department/staff member prayed for

## Saturday Prayer Team

Prior to the start of the weekend services

- Meet before services start
- Purpose is to pray for that weekend's services and over each seat in the auditorium

..... SATURDAY PRAYER TIME.....

**Structure of the Meeting**

- Leader shares a thought on prayer/worship
- Individual prayer time over seats (15-30 min)
- Close out with corporate prayer all together at front

## Weekend Prayer Team

- Pray during each service for entirety of service in designated quiet area; this includes praying over a specific part of the service as it is happening (COMING SOON)
- Pray for individuals at conclusion of services

# Prayer Ministry

## OVERVIEW

### 21 Days of Prayer

- Takes place prior to seasons of anticipated growth and opportunities to reach new people, as well as Group semester launches
- January | Prayer and Fasting
- August | Prayer
- CedarCreek.tv/21days

### Prayer Small Groups (dependent on campus)

- Meet during our Group semesters
- Free market | Prayer Groups can take on whatever format that leader wants to utilize
- Follow approved curriculum

## DreamTeam Leaders

### Prayer Coordinator

Oversee entire ministry area

- Praying for team coaches daily
- Oversee – vision, mission, strategy, and execution
- Provide and/or insure on-boarding and ongoing training for team
- Schedule all teams, or appoint an admin for team
- Provide stories of team wins and celebrations
- Build and protect prayer best practices and DreamTeam culture
- Highly recommend leading a prayer Group



### **Prayer Coach**

Oversee day-of ministry area – Sat/Sun

- Praying for DreamTeam Leaders and Co-leaders daily
- Oversee day-of vision, mission, team preparation, logistics flow, and changeover in team; insure staffing; provide vision at each huddle
- Communicate weekly with Team Leaders
- Caring for Team Leaders
- May participate in and/or lead on-boarding and trainings
- Build and protect prayer best practices and DreamTeam culture

### **Prayer Team Leader**

Oversee the service – 5:15, 9, 10:45, 12:30

- Praying for team members daily
- Oversee the service for prayer – specific weekend logistics and details
- Working with DreamTeam Coach on equipping team members and identifying areas where training is needed
- Identify and work through issues and problems
- Build and protect DreamTeam culture
- Communicate weekly with team members – each accept or decline is an opportunity to reach out
- Care for team members
- Help every team member feel known and needed
- Celebrate team wins and share those wins with Coach

## Prayer Team Admin

Assist the service – 5:15, 9, 10:45, 12:30

- Praying for team members daily
- Assist with specific weekend logistics and details if needed
- Submit prayer requests and work with Coordinator on any issues with Rock
- Work with DreamTeam leader on identifying areas for training and equipping
- Help every team member feel known and needed
- Coordinate communication on birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days to remember of team members
- Assist in care and celebration of team wins

## Systems

**Planning Center** | How You Will Be Scheduled  
Planning Center is an online system we use to schedule team members for the weekend and communicate throughout the week. You will be given the opportunity to set up a username and password to log in; however, most team members find that receiving and responding to the scheduling request emails, as well as reviewing the updates sent to their email, is most effective.

In addition, we will also have periodic team meetings and gatherings that will be scheduled and communicated through Planning Center as well.

## **ROCK**

Rock is our church database and how we organize the prayer requests that are submitted for the weekly Prayer Team. Trainings for Rock will be part of your on-boarding with the team.

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## **Overall Best Practices**

In order to create a Pray First culture that is welcoming to all of our guests, here are some points to remember when serving on the Prayer DreamTeam:

**Prepare your own heart** first. When we want to make a difference by loving people the way Christ loved us, then our prayers for others will flow out of a surrendered heart.

**Pray for God's heart** for people each and every time you serve. Ask God how you can put someone else at ease, for the Lord to use you that day, and how you can most authentically demonstrate his love.

**Serve while authentically representing Jesus.**

You have been entrusted by our church to serve our guests through prayer, interceding for them and their family members, friends, and co-workers who may not yet know Jesus.

**Serve with heart, commitment, and excellence.**

We want you serving in your gifts and passions, in ministry that is an overflow of love and enjoyable to you. If this ministry is not a fit, if you would like to investigate a new ministry team, or if you need a break from serving for a season, do not hesitate to let your Team Leader know. This is why they are here, to walk through life with you!

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**Prayer should  
move us  
toward God.**

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# Best Practices

## Weekend Prayer Specific

### **DRESS CODE**

The attire is casual for weekend services, but use discretion. If you think your attire is questionable then simply do not wear it. We also have a lanyard with a name badge for you to wear when you serve so that the team and guests can know who you are.

**Arrive 40 minutes before the service to check in,** participate in the huddle, and get a nametag with a lanyard in the DreamTeam Room.

**It all starts with the huddle.** A huddle for a sport team is the act of a team gathering together, usually in a tight circle, to strategize, motivate, or celebrate. Similarly, our DreamTeam has an action and wins to accomplish each week.

Being on time and at the huddle helps your Team Leader plan and prepare to serve our guests well.

The huddle will also equip you as a DreamTeam member to be on mission with others in purpose and vision for the weekend services.

**Communication is crucial for building community** and carrying out effective ministry, so please let your Prayer Leader know your availability to serve or when you aren't able to serve for a scheduled time.

Scheduling will occur through a program called Planning Center. You will receive an email explaining how to utilize Planning Center and respond to scheduling requests.

**Sit in the service near where you will be serving** so after the service you can easily and quickly go forward to be available.

**Be attentive during the message to gain an understanding of the 'Big Idea.'** It may be what has prompted our guest to seek prayer, and you can incorporate it into part of your prayer or use it to give encouragement after you have prayed for our guest.

**Smile, give the guest your name, and ask them theirs.** Then ask, "How can I pray for you?"

**Attentively listen to their prayer request,** but if they start giving too much detail, gently break in and say "Why don't we just go ahead and pray. God knows the details." Then pray for their request.

**Not everyone is comfortable being touched, so please honor their 'space'.** Ask if it's ok before holding hands or touching their shoulder. While a brief touch on the shoulder is nice in conversation, during a whole prayer it can be uncomfortable. Be mindful of their comfort and space. You should not pray in a hugging embrace nor should you allow the guest to embrace you in that manner.

**If you are concerned about someone's behavior or if it is inappropriate**, look for the Safety Team DreamTeam member (black lanyard) that is stationed in the front of the auditorium. It would be good to identify him/her ahead of guests coming up for prayer.

**If you suspect they are not a believer**, ask them if they have ever prayed to accept Christ. If not, invite them to and guide them through a simple prayer of acceptance, then pray for their request. You can ask for help from another intercessor if you are uncomfortable doing that.

**Use clear, everyday language in a normal tone and volume while praying**, allowing our guest the opportunity to understand the prayer regardless of their spiritual background.

**Refrain from 'speaking in tongues'**, prayers of healing and prophecy, loud or frenzied voice, or using 'churchy', hard to understand words (e.g., justification, sanctification, righteousness, holy redeemer, etc.)

**Always be aware that others may be waiting for prayer.** Spend no longer than 3-5 minutes with our guest. Long prayers make people uncomfortable. Long talk after prayer turns into counseling and advice.

**Give a few encouraging words from the message, but do not counsel or give advice.** Pray and let God have the glory. You can, however, make some possible Next Step suggestions.

**Take the opportunity to lead guests into a next step connection.** Direct them to the prayer form, or to Guest Services where they can get information on Groups, serving on a ministry team, Celebrate Recovery, counseling referrals, financial counseling, baptism, GrowthTrack, etc.

**Don't try to solve their problems for them.**

Yes, we have a financial assistance ministry, but not everyone qualifies for it, so don't make any promises that will set them up for possible disappointment. If they ask about it, direct them to Guest Services, where they are trained in the screening and Financial Application processes. If they need food, direct them to Guest Services. We do keep some emergency bags of food on hand.

**You should not commit to following up with our guest outside of church,** as your role is not counselor or problem solver. It is prayer and encouragement. Don't advise them how to deal with their situation outside of our ministries like Celebrate Recovery, etc. If they are looking for more, have them go to Guest Services or call the office, but make no promises. If you guide them to an outside organization and it is a bad experience, it can negatively impact our church.



**If our guest wants to talk with a pastor**, direct them to Guest Services. Offer the prayer form, then add them to our church prayer list using just their first name. Assure them our Prayer Team will be praying for them and help them know they can also request prayer at [CedarCreek.tv/prayer](https://cedarcreek.tv/prayer).

**If they prayed to accept Christ**, direct them to Guest Services to get a Bible and information on Next Steps.

**Stay around for a little bit after the auditorium empties**, as some guests pick up kids first or intentionally wait for the crowd to leave.

**If no one comes for prayer, don't feel that you didn't serve that day.** Leading people to come up front for prayer is the work of the Holy Spirit. You were faithful and present, available to be used by God. If no one comes for prayer, you intercessors can pray together for our church, its leaders, a specific ministry, etc.

**If there are several intercessors but only one or two requesting prayer**, it is ok to double up intercessors to pray with them, but one intercessor should pray out loud and the other silently praying should keep an eye out in case someone else comes front for prayer, at which time the silent intercessor should move to pray with the new guest.

**After prayer time is over, offer the prayer form to the guest.** If they don't take one to fill out, at the end of the prayer, fill out one for them using their first name only, and put it in the prayer box on your way out. The prayer admin will take all the prayer request slips to enter into Rock to include on the prayer list for the Campus and church.

## Best Practices

Weekly Prayer Team

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**Pray according to God's leading.** The 'how to' is varied. Whether you pray for each request; pray in categories; pray for them one day; continue to pray for them all week; or pray for just those God places on your heart to pray for, the 'how' is between you and God.

**Commit to checking prayer requests at least 3 times a week.** As a member of the Prayer Team, requests are available to you in Rock. Requests come in throughout the week through our online request form, so new prayer requests appear as they are received. By checking the requests frequently, we can insure we are praying for requests as they come in and also responding to those who have requested a response. We recommend that at least one of those times is on Monday evening or Tuesday morning, due to weekend requests posting after services are complete.

**When praying for a request, pray beyond what's listed.** Because of space and the number of requests, we give an abbreviated version of the request. Pray also for their salvation and spiritual growth; family, God's wisdom and direction; strength to take the next step; and to get connected into a Group or DreamTeam.

**Respond with an encouraging note.** When praying for a request, if there is an option for an encouraging note, the guest has requested this. After praying for the request, you can enter a verse for them, or an encouragement that you have prayed for them. No more than two encouraging notes per request and use this as an opportunity to point them to God. Keep it brief and simple, allowing him to work through it.

**In addition to interceding for the requests of our guests, commit to pray also for our church, Elders, Leadership Teams, Staff, and families.** Pray too for God's direction for our church, our ministries, kids/students, weekend services, many to cross the line of faith, changed lives, our finances, DreamTeam/Leaders, and the next CedarCreek Campus. New overall church requests will be under central support in the campus selection so check that weekly for specific requests.

**For confidentiality purposes, we only use first names on our Prayer List from the weekend services, unless they fill out the form and**

**provide all of their information.** When unusual or easily identifiable, we edit the request or list as 'anonymous'. Please respect their privacy. If you feel you recognize who the request is about, do not talk about it with anyone. And do not go to the person you think it's about to ask how you can help. You may be wrong, or even if right, you may start a conflict between them and the one who put them on the list.

**Let your leader know how we can pray for you.** We all have areas in our own lives that could use the prayer support of our intercessors. We want to support each other as part of this team.

**Get connected in community.** We are blessed to have you as part of our Weekly Prayer Team, but it is a solitary ministry to serve in. It is our hope you would also get connected in a weekend Prayer DreamTeam, another DreamTeam, or a Group, either joining one or even leading a Prayer Group that would allow you to have community with other believers in our church.

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**Prayer is about  
who we know  
more than  
what we get.**

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