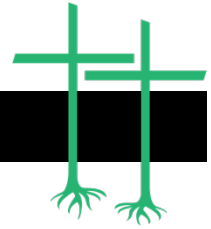


ROOTS TRANSFORMATION TEAM



Your Role in Ministry

Week 9

Am I ready to minister to people? What do I need to know about the legalities of ministering in an official capacity? How do I take everything I've learned in the last ten weeks and use it to walk someone through transformation prayer? How do I prepare for such a ministry session, and how do I follow up?

☐ The Heart of the Prayer Minister

○ Identity in Christ

- **If you find your identity in your own past wounds, you're likely to be triggered by other people's issues.**
 - As prayer ministers, we may always have things the Lord needs to reckon dead on the cross. Only active, willful sin disqualifies us from ministry. Everything else is part of the process of sanctification.
- **If you find your identity in ministry, you'll be miserable in eternity.**
 - All our earthly ministry roles only exist until all things are made perfect (Ephesians 4:11–13).
 - You are not your ministry. You are a child of God.
 - Your first role is to be loved by the Lord. Your second role is to love Him back, captivated by a beautiful and fulfilling union with Him. Your third role is to let that love overflow toward others. Those three things are eternal (1 Corinthians 13:13).
- **If you find your identity in Christ, you'll be free to partner with Him in a healthy and powerful way.**

○ Humility

- **If you think you know what you're doing, don't go into prayer ministry.**
 - While we grow in maturity and skill through experience, it is not our skill or our methods that set people free. It's the Lord.
 - The moment you think you know what you're doing is the moment God will humble you and remind you how much you need to depend on Him.
 - **Proverbs 16:18–19 – Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.**
¹⁹ **Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.**
 - There will never be a moment when God lets you fly solo in ministry to others. You need Him.

- Your goal is to work yourself out of a job with each person, anchoring them in truth and helping them know the Lord and live as new creations.
- **Trustworthy**
 - Your decisions to consistently keep people's information in confidence will increase your trustworthiness in ministry.
 - **Proverbs 11:13** – *A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.*
- **Clergy Confidentiality: Principles and Laws to Know**
 - **An overview of clergy privilege law**
 - Clergy privilege law applies not only to professional clergy but also to anyone who a person *assumes* to be professional clergy. This includes house church pastors and anyone conducting organized prayer ministry—especially in the name of a church.
 - Clergy privilege laws render certain communications with you inadmissible in a court of law.
 - So, if someone confesses to you in a ministry setting that they beat their spouse (or that their spouse beat them), clergy privilege laws prevent you from testifying in court as a witness.
 - If in a prayer session, someone confesses to a crime, your testimony to the authorities would be unacceptable in obtaining a warrant. (The exception in Michigan is in matters of child abuse.)
 - A privileged conversation is defined by the law as *any confidential communication given to a minister acting in his or her professional capacity as a spiritual advisor.*
 - Clergy privilege does *not* apply to public confession in a church meeting or passing conversations outside of official meetings.
 - In Michigan (and 2/3 of states), a communication is considered confidential if made privately and not intended for further disclosure (except to other persons present for the purpose of the communication).
 - Unlike 1/3 of states, the presence of a third party (like a spouse) does not negate clergy privilege laws.
 - **How to remain compliant**
 - If conducting ministry in a church building, communication is understood to be confidential by default. But since we do most of our ministry in homes and in public, extra discretion is needed.
 - Be sure to clarify with someone whether they are speaking to you in your official role as a minister or just as a friend. (If it's a scheduled Gospel Encounter with two ministers, it's automatically considered official.)

- “For a conversation to be privileged according to the law, the minister cannot be acting as a friend or social acquaintance at the time of the conversation. When a conversation takes place in public or any context outside of a traditional church setting, it’s recommended that a minister always ask why the counselee is speaking to them. Simply ask, ‘Are you speaking to me as a minister acting in my professional capacity as a spiritual advisor?’” (AG Financial. “Church Liability: Clergy Privilege, Confidentiality, and Reporting.” <https://www.agfinancial.org/resources/article/church-liability-clergy-privilege-confidentiality-and-reporting>. Retrieved on December 5, 2022.)

- If they specify as a friend, then anything they say will be admissible in a court of law, and you can be called as a witness.
- If they specify as a minister, then nothing they say will be admissible as evidence in a court of law, and you cannot be called as a witness.
 - The exception is if you ask their permission to disclose the information to the authorities.
 - If they say no, there is nothing you can do legally.
 - If they say yes, then your action is legally permissible.

- **The difference between clergy privilege and the duty of confidentiality**

- “It’s important to understand the difference between clergy privilege and the duty of confidentiality. Privilege simply means the information cannot be shared in court. The duty of confidentiality applies in all contexts and is an ethical matter every minister must navigate carefully. A minister’s duty of confidentiality is breached when they disclose confidences to anyone, anywhere. However, there may be times when it is appropriate to share confidential information, under extreme circumstances where people may be killed or severely injured. There are only nine cases in the history of this country where a minister was sued for breaching the duty of confidentiality. Of those, only three of the cases found the minister civilly liable for sharing confidences. In the other six cases, the courts concluded there was no duty under the circumstances for the minister to keep the confidentiality. So it can be concluded that ministers who decide to share confidential information should not in most cases be held personally liable from a legal standpoint, but they certainly won’t be held legally liable for not sharing. The exception to this rule is child abuse. In 41 states clergy are mandatory reporters of

suspected or known child abuse.”

(AG Financial. “Church Liability: Clergy Privilege, Confidentiality, and Reporting.”

<https://www.agfinancial.org/resources/article/church-liability-clergy-privilege-confidentially-and-reporting>.

Retrieved on December 5, 2022.)

○ **Confidentiality principles in prayer ministry**

- Do not share with any outside party any details that were disclosed to you.
- If you feel that a person’s pastor ought to know about something the person shared, ask the person for permission to share that information with their pastor.
- If you’d like to share a testimony about something God set a person free from, obtain their permission first.
- If you feel anyone other than yourself needs to know certain information, encourage the person to share on their own, or ask permission to share.

○ **Can I tell my spouse?**

- Consider the legal ramifications of sharing information with your spouse.
 - Sharing some details with a spouse can create a legal paradox in which your spouse is legally obligated to testify, but the testimony is worthless.
 - Your spouse is not protected by clergy privilege laws and would be expected to testify in court (assuming the person’s situation takes them into the legal system). But your spouse would also be expected to disclose the source of their information, which would demonstrate your own breach of confidentiality. Furthermore, this would make the information inadmissible.
- For non-legal matters:
 - Discern the difference between gossip and sharing for reasons of prayerful counsel from a trustworthy partner.
 - Gossip tends to be identified by:
 - Pride about being privy to salacious details.
 - A desire to make someone else look bad.
 - A desire to make oneself look good.
 - Consider the emotional or social weight being placed on your spouse if you were to disclose any details given in confidence.
 - Now your spouse has to interact with the person, pretending that they don’t know something that they actually do know.
- The best option, if you want to share anything with your spouse, is to ask the ministry recipient if they’re okay with it.

■ Child Abuse, Neglect, Suicide, and Mandatory Reporting

○ Am I a mandatory reporter?

- If you are a house church pastor (even in an unofficial capacity), the State of Michigan considers you “clergy,” and you are therefore a “mandatory reporter” in cases of child abuse or neglect.
 - This is the exception in clergy privilege laws in Michigan.
 - With that said, clergy privilege laws in Michigan also create a legal gray area, which means that the threshold of what you consider “likely” abuse can be higher than other mandatory reporters. If you don’t have reasonable suspicion, you will not be in legal trouble if you wait for more information before reporting. But don’t make that an excuse for delaying necessary action.
- If you are officially conducting prayer ministry as a part of Roots Church, but you are not a house church pastor, the mandatory reporting laws do not apply to you. However, if you have reasonable cause to suspect current child abuse or neglect is taking place, please report it so the children can be helped.
- You are not required to report abuse that happened a long time ago to a person who is no longer a minor.
- You are not required to report abuse that is happening to an adult (unless you suspect children are in danger), but do help them find appropriate help.
 - We never counsel a person to remain in an abusive relationship.
 - We also cannot force them to leave (although we can help them leave if they want it).

○ In the State of Michigan:

- **If you suspect child abuse or neglect, report it any time, day or night, online or by calling 855-444-3911.**
- *See “Extras” handout on mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect.*

○ What about suicide?

- Michigan law does not require reporting of a person’s suicidal thoughts, but such people do need help.
- There is a difference between someone saying they have thought about escaping their problems through suicide and someone who has considered how they would actually do it. The latter is more serious and needs immediate action.
- Refer people to medical professionals.

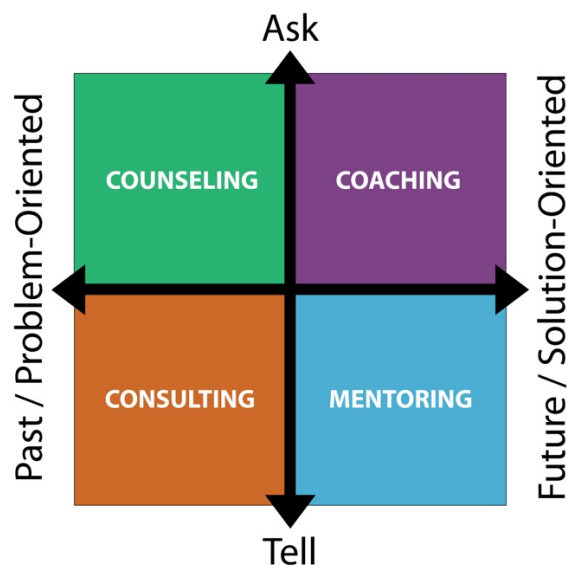
▪ **Ministering to suicidal people:**

- What is the person's current state?
 - If the person is currently in the act of committing suicide, call 911.
 - If the person is overly worked up and you cannot calm them down, drive them to an emergency room.
 - If they are open to conversation and stable enough for prayer ministry, listen to their complaint, and see if they will let you pray to address the root.
 - If you're not sure what to do, call another prayer minister or pastor who you trust.
 - Suicide often connects to deep woundedness from being unwanted (even prenatal), a death wish (guilt or shame for surviving someone else's death), self-hatred, or another deep emotional wound.
 - Hopelessness and despair are merely symptoms of deep wounds.
 - Help the person see another way out.
 - Once these wounds are dealt with, command the spirit of death to leave in Jesus' name.
 - You may want to make sure they have someone who can be with them for the next 24 hours or until they know they're stable and feel safe.

□ **Helping people stay free**

- **Remember that prayer ministry is only one piece of a person's holistic transformation.**
 - Make sure they're connected to a healthy, gospel-centered Christian community.
 - Help the person get into a meaningful discipleship relationship.
 - Refer the person to professional help if needed or desired.
 - *See the notes from Session 2: A Holistic Approach to Inner Transformation.*
- **If you're in a relationship in which you are the primary person to provide ongoing accountability, there are some important things to know:**
 - **Healthy accountability is identity-based, not behavior-based.**
 - If all we address is the person's behavior, then we only deal with the fruit and not the root.
 - The gospel is not a behavior-management plan; it's a transformation plan.

- **Help the person determine their own next steps toward lasting wholeness.**
 - If a person determines their own next steps, they're far more likely to follow through than if you simply tell them what to do.
 - Learn to ask good coaching questions.
 - Coaching questions are open-ended, not leading.
 - A leading question might look like, "Do you think you ought to see a professional marriage counselor?"
 - An open-ended question might look like, "What options are available to you that you think might help you develop some better relational patterns with your spouse?"
 - Coaching questions are future-oriented.



- See Ministry Tool #17: Coaching Questions

□ **Transferences and Countertransferences**

- **What is transference?**
 - Transference happens when a person subconsciously transfers their feelings about a particular person (most often parents) onto someone else. In the case of prayer ministry, that "someone else" may be you as a prayer minister.
 - For example, if you ask a probing question and the person starts crying and accusing you of scaring them, there's a good chance that the person had a fear-inducing experience with a parent or other authority figure who asked a similar question in the past. It's a trauma response.





- There are three main categories of transference that professional therapists bear in mind as they work:
 - **Positive transference** is when enjoyable aspects of past relationships are projected onto the therapist. This can allow the client to see the therapist as caring, wise, and empathetic, which is beneficial for the therapeutic process.
 - **Negative transference** occurs when negative or hostile feelings are projected onto the therapist. While it sounds detrimental, if the therapist recognizes and acknowledges this, it can become an important topic of discussion and allow the client to examine emotional responses.
 - **Sexualized transference** is when a client feels attracted to their therapist. This can include feelings of intimacy, sexual attraction, reverence, or romantic or sensual emotions.
 - **Source:** Melissa Madeson, Ph.D. "Transference vs Countertransference in Therapy: 6 Examples." Positive Psychology.
<https://positivepsychology.com/countertransference-and-transference/> Retrieved on December 6, 2022.
- There are also five different types of transference within those categories:
 - **Paternal transference**
Seeing the therapist as a father figure who is powerful, wise, authoritative, and protecting. This may evoke feelings of admiration or agitation, depending on the relationship the client had with their father.
 - **Maternal transference**
Associating the therapist with a mother figure who is seen as loving, influential, nurturing, or comforting. This type of transference can generate trust or negative feelings, depending on the relationship the client had with their mother.
 - **Sibling transference**
Can reflect dynamics of a sibling relationship and often occurs when a parental relationship is lacking.
 - **Non-familial transference**
Happens when clients idealize the therapist and reflect stereotypes that are influencing the client. For example, a priest is seen as holy, and a doctor is expected to cure and heal ailments.
 - **Sexualized transference**
Occurs when a person in therapy has a sexual attraction to their therapist. Eroticized transference is an all-consuming attraction toward the therapist and can be detrimental to the therapeutic alliance and client's progress.

- **Source:** Melissa Madeson, Ph.D. “Transference vs Countertransference in Therapy: 6 Examples.” Positive Psychology.
<https://positivepsychology.com/countertransference-and-transference/> Retrieved on December 6, 2022.
- **What is countertransference?**
 - Countertransference refers to how we as ministers respond to people’s transferences. How much do we identify with the role being projected on us.
 - Countertransference can also happen when you find yourself identifying with the person’s struggle in an unhealthy way.
 - For example, if you grew up in an abusive home and played the role of rescuer for a sibling, any unresolved issues regarding that history can cause you to spring into “rescuer mode” with a person who shares about an abusive past. Suddenly you’re not following the Holy Spirit but instead your unhealthy emotions and fears.
 - This is one of the reasons it’s important to be transformed ourselves. If we’re not free in our hearts and secure in our identities in Christ, the transferences of others can tempt us to take on roles that don’t belong to us.
- **How do we recognize transference or countertransference in prayer ministry?**
 - **Recognizing transference:**
 - Is the person expressing unexpected, uncalled-for, strong emotions in response to your ministry?
 - Is the person directing their emotions about the past toward you, as though you were the offender?
 - Is the person blaming you or angry at you for things that were clearly and objectively done by someone else?
 - **Recognizing countertransference:**
 - Do you have an unreasonable dislike for the person?
 - This may be because they remind you of someone else you dislike, even yourself.
 - Are you overly emotional or preoccupied with the person outside of prayer sessions?
 - You may be acting out of a past wound rather than compassion.
- **How do we avoid transference and countertransference?**
 - The only way to avoid transference is to avoid ministry and relationships altogether. We can, however, be aware of it and manage it.

❑ Engaging in Ministry

- **Our ministry is simply that of welcoming Jesus to shine light on motives of the heart.**
- **1 Corinthians 4:4–5** – My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.
 - Healthy Christians live with free consciences.
 - This doesn't mean we're perfect before the Lord. It simply means that there is nothing He is presently confronting that we are resisting.
 - Healthy Christians can have free consciences because we regularly welcome the Lord's correction.
 - When Jesus shows up, He brings to light the things hidden in darkness and discloses the motives of our hearts.
 - **Psalm 139:23–24** – Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- Everything we do in a Gospel Encounter is allowing the Lord to shine His light on specific dark places in a person's heart.
 - It's not our job to shine a light in the direction we want to go. It's His job to shine a light in the direction He wants to go. Our job is to follow.
 - **It's important to discern when Jesus is leading, when the enemy is distracting, when the flesh is hiding, and when you are fishing.**
 - **Times when you are fishing:**
 - There's nothing wrong with fishing when you're not sure which direction to head.
 - Examples of fishing:
 - Asking about the person's relationship with parents.
 - Asking about the person's picture of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.
 - Asking the person to recall any particularly traumatic events that they know still affect them.
 - Blessing stages of the person's life and asking if they sense anything or if any key memories come to mind.

- **Sometimes, Jesus is subtle:**
 - A feeling of approval.
 - A fleeting thought.
 - A sense of peace as you proceed in a particular direction.
- **Always, Jesus is loving:**
 - If you don't feel like you're loving the person, you're probably heading in the wrong direction.
 - With that said, remember that surgery is loving, even when it doesn't feel that way.
 - Jesus is the Chief Surgeon. You're the one who holds the person's hand and comforts them through the process, encouraging them to persevere while the Lord does His work. (And sometimes you're the stick they bite down on! Don't take things personally if someone lashes out at you while Jesus is performing surgery.)
- **There is no formula**
 - Every person is unique.
 - Just like untangling a knot, there are certain principles that always make sense (like identifying the ends of the rope and working the knot to loosen things), but every knot is different and requires a different approach.
 - Don't rely on ministry tools to get the job done. Rely on the Holy Spirit, and trust the gospel to be enough.
 - **Proverbs 3:5–6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**
- **Pathways to Freedom**
 - **Always start by listening to the person.**
 - Don't be in a hurry to start addressing roots.
 - Give open-ended prompts that invite the person to share details.
 - Tell me about your relationship with your parents.
 - How did that make you feel?
 - Do you remember the first time you felt that way? What was that experience?

Encounter	
Death	
Resurrection	
Union with Christ	

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- Everything you do in prayer ministry follows these four steps, because these steps are the pathway of union with Christ.
 - We cannot be in union with Jesus as He *is* (1 John 4:17) if we do not first unite with Him as He *was* in His death (Romans 6:5).
 - The doorway to resurrection life is shaped like a cross. The cross is the place where sin dies.
- **Understanding the trajectory:**

Encounter



- - As a person tells you their story, identify the things that need to die. Ask the Lord for insight about what sort of encounter will help bring these things to death.
 - There are two types of encounters:
 - **Second-hand**
 - **Personal Testimony**
 - When you share your personal testimony, your story carries with it the power to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:11).
 - Your story reveals God's power in a practical, applicable, relatable way. This helps the person understand what God wants for their life.
 - **Prophetic Ministry**
 - Sometimes God will give you a prophetic word for the person. Always see if He will speak this to the person directly first. Add the word you receive as an extra affirmation on top of whatever God says to them.
 - **Gospel Presentation**
 - When you proclaim the gospel, the power of God is present to minister to the person.
 - **Luke 5:17** – One day Jesus was teaching . . . the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.
 - **Romans 1:16** – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

- **First-hand**
 - **Listening Prayer**
 - When you invite the person to ask God questions and listen for an answer, He speaks directly to their heart.
 - [See Ministry Tool #7: The Father Ladder](#)
 - [See Ministry Tool #10: Presenting Jesus](#)
- **Use second-hand encounters to set up a first-hand encounter.**
 - Second-hand encounters work best for gently easing the person into a first-hand encounter.
 - If a second-hand encounter doesn't lead to a first-hand encounter, then the work is not complete.
 - The person must have their own experience with God, or they will become unhealthily dependent on you.
 - It is always better to have a person walk away from a Gospel Encounter saying, "I'm changed because I met with Jesus," than saying, "I'm changed because I met with that minister."

Death



- **Physical ailments**
 - Death looks like being healed.
 - [See Ministry Tool #16: Healing Ministry](#)
- **Sin**
 - Death looks like repentance.
 - [See Ministry Tool #3: Real Repentance](#)
- **Entanglements**
 - Death looks like breaking unholy ties.
 - [See Ministry Tool #6: Applying the Gospel to Family Identity](#)
 - [See Ministry Tool #15: Binding & Loosing](#)
- **Unrighteous beliefs**
 - Death looks like renouncing the lies or bitter root judgments and expectancies.
 - [See Ministry Tool #8: Addressing Bitter Roots](#)
 - [See Ministry Tool #13: Renouncing & Replacing](#)
- **Demons**
 - Death looks like destroying the stronghold and casting out the demon(s).
 - [See Ministry Tool #3: Real Repentance](#)
 - [See Ministry Tool #11: Deliverance Ministry](#)
- **Ouch! (old wounds)**
 - Death looks like forgiving the offender(s).
 - [See Ministry Tool #8: Addressing Bitter Roots](#)
 - [See Ministry Tool #12: The Forgiveness Cross](#)

Resurrection



- - **Physical ailments**
 - Resurrection looks like being healed.
 - **Sin**
 - Resurrection looks like changed behavior.
 - **Entanglements**
 - Resurrection looks like freedom and a sense of belonging in the family of God.
 - **Unrighteous beliefs**
 - Resurrection looks like rightly perceiving God, ourselves, and others.
 - **Demons**
 - Resurrection looks like freedom from demonic influence and destruction of the stronghold.
 - **Ouch! (old wounds)**
 - Resurrection looks like openness and no more pain attached to the memory.

Union with Christ



- - A rightly transformed identity is found in Christ
 - **Colossians 3:1–3** – *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*
 - Lead the person to ask God what He thinks about them.
 - A revelation of identity is most impactful when heard directly from the Lord.
 - Before each segment of ministry ends, affirm the person's identity in Christ.
 - Now that God has spoken to the person directly, you can add any prophetic words you've been sensing.
 - *Ministry Tool #4: Hearing God & Prophetic Ministry*
 - Speak words of encouragement to the person that build up their identity in Christ.
 - *Ministry Tool #5: Encouragement & Giving Peace*
 - In the name of Jesus, affirm what God has said about the person. Reiterate the truth that was revealed and declare that it is true.
 - *Ministry Tool #14: Authority in Christ*

- **Special situations:**
 - **What happens if I have the person ask Father God something, but they aren't hearing anything?**
 - Ask them about their heart-level picture of the Father.
 - If their perspective is skewed, walk through the Father Ladder exercise.
 - If their perspective is appropriate, you may need to teach the person how to listen for God's voice in their thoughts.
 - **What happens if we're working through "Presenting Jesus," but the person cannot sense the Lord or recognize anything He's saying?**
 - Ask them about their heart-level picture of Jesus.
 - If their perspective is skewed, walk through the Father Ladder exercise with regard to Jesus.
 - If their perspective is appropriate, there may be a different issue that needs to be addressed first.
 - Maybe set that aside and try a different approach as the Spirit leads. Sometimes other issues need to be addressed first.

□ **Simplifying Everything**

- **Everything we address in a Gospel Encounter comes down to three main things:**
 - **Flesh**
 - Sometimes the person is just choosing to live in their flesh. Confront flesh with the gospel, bring it to the cross, and help the person see their new identity in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - **Unforgiveness**
 - Does the person need to forgive anyone? Talk about forgiveness, and lead them to put unforgiveness on the cross, trusting Jesus to forgive through them.
 - **Lies**
 - These could be lies believed about God, oneself, or others.
 - Help the person recognize the lie, renounce the lie, and ask God to speak truth that counteracts the lie.
- **Focus on only one issue at a time. Follow the Holy Spirit.**

MINISTRY TOOLS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS LESSON:

- **MINISTRY TOOL 1:** Awareness and Discernment
- **MINISTRY TOOL 17:** Coaching Questions