

Life Happens

By Lee Yates



Every day, people find their lives interrupted by the unexpected. A sudden illness or an accident can do more than alter the daily schedule. Lives are changed. Often, prayer is our best and only available response.

For

Young Adult

Season

Fall

Needed

Directions to a local emergency room or public clinic



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Prepare in Advance

Choose a place to pray in a local emergency room or public clinic, and decide if you will go alone or invite someone to join you.

Activity Plan

1. Go to an emergency room or public clinic and find a seat out of the way. Your goal is not to make contact with anyone, but simply to pray. If you can avoid being in a crowd, that is best. In some places, this will not be possible due to the volume of patients. Make sure to clean your hands before you go; and if you are feeling sick, wait and go another day. Set a time limit for your visit.
2. Open in prayer. Here are some words if you need them:
O God, help me to be open to the struggle of the people around me and guide me to respond with compassionate prayer. Amen.
3. Be attentive to the people who enter the room. Do not make contact with anyone; you do not want or need to know personal information. The medical community has strict rules about sharing patient information, and you don't want to make anyone uncomfortable. As you observe individuals who are physically and emotionally hurting, pray for them. Pray also for the people with them and the medical staff who will care for them.
4. If someone asks what you are doing, just say you are praying for people. Try not to make a scene or a big deal about your presence.
5. If something happens and you end up praying with someone or are asked to pray for someone, respond as you are comfortable, but remember you are not a minister. Here are some things you might do if this situation arises:
 - Offer to find a chaplain or call the person's pastor or priest.
 - Listen politely and thank them for sharing with you.
 - Don't try to speak for God. Don't promise that everything will be OK.
 - Don't try to help fix problems (hospital administration, money, home life).
 - If you are very uncomfortable, leave quietly.
6. Honor your time limit. After you leave, spend some time reflecting on this ministry of prayer. Pray to God about your experience and talk with another person about it. You might invite this person to try this activity with you in the future.

