

Urbana IA Ministry, Wide Variety of Needs/Requests

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Many ministries that use the Immanuel Approach focus especially on healing for psychological trauma. In contrast, the students at Urbana will come with a wide variety of requests.

- Some may sit down with a very simple request: “I’ve heard about this Immanuel Approach thing – I just want you to help me connect with Jesus.” For these sessions, your job will be to help them connect with Jesus, and then just help them enjoy spending time with Him. And if there seems to be extra time, you can coach the recipient to focus on Jesus and ask, “Is there anything else that You have for me today?”
- Some will ask for discernment help with a specific question, such as whether to go into ministry after graduation, and your job will be to help them connect with Jesus, and then help them to engage directly with Jesus regarding the question.
- Some will ask for help with a specific issue, such as longstanding struggle with anxiety, or struggle with a persistent sin, and your job will be to help them connect with Jesus, and then help them to look at, and think about, the issue *with Jesus*.
- Some will be in current, significant distress regarding a specific issue (for example, maybe a close friend or family member has just died in a car accident), and your first task will be to help them to connect with Jesus and then just receive attunement from Jesus – experience Jesus *with them* in their distress (and this may be all you do).
- Some will come with a specific intercession request (for example, maybe a close friend or family member has just been diagnosed with cancer), and your job will be to help them connect with Jesus, and then help them engage directly with Jesus regarding their intercession need/request.
- Some sessions will start with one of the options mentioned above, and then eventually end up with a traumatic memory that is part of the picture, and part of the session will be helping them work on the traumatic memory with Jesus. For the trauma-work part of the session, your job will be to help them engage directly with Jesus as the trauma-healing therapist: help them connect with Jesus inside the traumatic memory; help them focus on Jesus, ask for guidance and help, and then describe whatever comes into their awareness; help them focus and get words for any specific issues/problems/questions that come up; help them engage directly with Jesus regarding any issues/problems/questions that get focused.
- Some students will start out with asking for help with healing for a traumatic memory, and your job will be to help them connect with Jesus, and then help them to engage directly with Jesus as the trauma-healing therapist. Again: help them connect with Jesus inside the traumatic memory; help them focus on Jesus, ask for guidance and help, and then describe whatever comes into their awareness; help them focus and get words for any specific issues/problems/questions that come up; help them engage directly with Jesus regarding any issues/problems/questions that get focused.
- And some students/recipients will start with one of the above requests, but then have trouble connecting with Jesus. And your job will be to help them to identify and resolve as many blockages as possible in the time available. If you work with one of these recipients, and the “only” thing you accomplish is to help them establish an interactive connection with the living presence of Jesus, that will be a hugely positive final outcome. You can end the session with coaching them along the lines of, “Now that you can connect with Jesus, your mission is to find an IA facilitator who can help you re-establish this connection, and then help you to engage directly with Jesus regarding your _____ (need, issue, question, problem, trauma).”

An important part of ministry at Urbana will be for facilitators to be ready to care for this wide range of possible requests.