



Unbound Ministry® Guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to help *ministry teams* and *leaders* provide safe, loving, and authentic Unbound ministry according to the principles and practices taught by Heart of the Father Ministries®.

Every team or individual who uses the name “Unbound ministry” to describe their ministry is expected follow these guidelines. If you cannot follow these guidelines, please do not call what you do Unbound ministry.

It is not the purpose of these guidelines to govern the informal use of the Five Keys by *individuals* who minister to friends, relatives, or people who ask for their help.

A. Proper Authority and Oversight

All Unbound ministry teams must have a pastor, spiritual advisor, or a board of directors to provide oversight and accountability for the ministry. This person or persons need not be the leader of the ministry team.

Each team should have a leader who is responsible for assigning team roles and making decisions for the direction of the team.

Special Note: Special directives that come from the team’s pastoral authority about how Unbound ministry is to be conducted should be respected and followed, even if it means altering certain aspects of the Unbound ministry session. For example, those in authority might restrict the laying of hands, or how the command is given. These directives can be followed, and the ministry can still be called, “Unbound.” We ask that you do not teach others that these directives came from HOFM or are part of our model.

B. Safeguarding, Mandated Reporting and Confidentiality

The legal regulations for the protection of minors and adults and the protection of personal information vary from state to state and nation to nation.

It is the responsibility of each Team Leader to learn and ensure full compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations for Safeguarding and mandated reporting, as well as the protection of personal information in their jurisdiction.

If the team is involved in any ministry to minors, all of the laws regarding background checks and safeguarding (protection of minors and vulnerable adults) must be followed, as well as any guidelines provided by the religious organization under whose authority the ministry team operates.

Do not schedule a ministry session with a minor without the expressed permission of a parent or guardian.

Ministry teams should keep what is shared in a session strictly confidential, except in situations that require following Safeguarding policies and/or mandated reporting (a legally required reporting of instances of abuse), reporting to prevent a clear and present danger, or reporting to stop a serious crime in progress. Ministry teams that have safeguarding policies or mandated reporters must notify people about the limits to the confidentiality they offer prior to the session.

C. Intake

During the intake phone interview prior to scheduling an Unbound session, the intake person will ask a few questions to help the person take the next steps to prepare for a session. The intake person may discover some reasons why the person is not ready for a session:

- The person cannot tell their story in a rational manner due to mental illness
- The person does not have any spiritual support or fellowship
- The person is not stable or sober
- The person is not ready to engage with The Five Keys® or does not understand Unbound
- The person did not or is not willing to prepare for a session

Intake persons may take notes so that they can share important information with the session leader prior to the session, but all notes and records regarding a person's story should be destroyed and not stored, with the exception that a mandated reporting issue is involved. Do not use intrusive or extensive intake forms or questionnaires to set up ministry sessions. Rely instead upon the intake interview (described in the Unbound Advanced Study Program) to make a personal connection with the person requesting ministry.

D. Ministry Team Members

Prior to being on an Unbound Ministry Team, individuals must have:

1. A personal relationship with the Lord and be serious about their own spiritual journey.
2. A written recommendation from their pastor or pastoral leader prior to training.
3. Read "Unbound" and become familiar with the Unbound conference material.
4. Received the Unbound Basic Training.
5. Familiarity with related spirits and entry ways.
6. Participated in an Unbound ministry session as an observer (i.e., intercessor) at least two times.
7. Discretion and respect for confidentiality
8. Willingness to use ONLY the Unbound model during the prayer ministry session
9. Received prayer ministry using the Five Keys (ideally – not mandatory)
10. Confidence in the Holy Spirit to lead and understanding that freedom is the work of the Lord, not the ministry leader.
11. Freedom from expectation that the person MUST be free by end of session; realization that the process of gaining freedom is ongoing
12. Ability to love the person, where he/she is at, without judgment.
13. Ability to listen in light of the Five Keys
14. Be approved by the leadership of the ministry team.

E. Unbound Ministry Sessions

1. Unbound leaders should listen to a person's story without expressing judgement, shock, or condemnation. Leaders should avoid excessive expressions of emotion or sympathy.
2. When ministering to a man, at least one man should be on the team. Same for a woman. This is for their comfort and protection.
3. Intercessors pray silently and are not to interrupt or distract from a ministry session. They should keep their eyes open throughout the session and have the disposition of an interested listener.
4. Always ask permission before touching a person during a session, i.e., "Is it okay if I put my hand on your shoulder?" Appropriate touch can be on the back, hand, shoulder, or head depending upon any relevant local religious organization guidelines and the person's comfort level.
5. Do not offer your discernment as the definitive description of a person's problem. Turn your discernment into a question, and cooperate with the discernment of the person.
6. Always respect the dignity and free will of the person. Do not attempt to pressure or manipulate a person into doing or saying anything that they are not ready to do. A session must end immediately if a person wants to end it. Protect a person's personal boundaries and respect their personal space.
7. Leaders and Intercessors must give the person their undivided attention, respect, and care.
8. Do not ask questions that are unusual to the Unbound interview or unrelated to what has come up in the interview. Do not ask invasive, personal questions out of curiosity or for the specific details of an event.

9. Ask “how” questions instead of “why” questions, i.e. “How did you respond to that?”, not “Why do you do these things?”
10. At the end of the interview, go over your notes with the person and have them validate or invalidate what you will lead them to do. Do not lead them to do what they have invalidated.
11. Do not provide counsel or advice during an Unbound ministry session. At the end of a session, brief advice can be given but only as it relates to staying free. Avoid theological debates or controversies during a session and be alert to the ecumenical sensitivities involved with serving a variety of people.
12. Do not tell a person that they are free. That is theirs to decide.
13. Ministry team members should encourage the person and express confident hope at the end of a session.
14. Destroy any notes you have taken during the interview at the end of a session or offer the notes for the person to take with them. Do not keep any notes from a session.
15. A standard Unbound ministry session should be scheduled for roughly 60-90 minutes. Sessions should not be exhausting and prolonged.

F. Using the Unbound Name

1. Any team using the name Unbound in their name should follow the guidelines in this document, the book *Unbound*, the *Unbound Ministry Guidebook*, and the *Basic and Advanced Training Study Programs*.
2. Please distinguish your ministry team from Heart of the Father Ministries. The team name should reflect the authority that the team functions under. For example, if the ministry is under the authority of the pastor of a local church named St. Timothy, it should be called “St. Timothy Unbound Team.” If the ministry functions under its own authority governed by a board of directors, then the ministry should take a name that distinguishes it from Unbound ministry by itself. As an example, “Connection Ministries’ Unbound Team.”
3. In their communications, advertising, and events, the team should show that they are an independent entity and not under the oversight of HOFM. For example, the statement, “This conference is not a Heart of the Father Ministries event.”
4. If you are using the Unbound model as it is taught* by Heart of the Father Ministries, and you are in a proper relationship with your local church or ministry leadership, you are welcome to use the term “Unbound ministry” to describe your ministry (Please note that the term Unbound ministry is registered with a service mark and only Heart of the Father Ministries can use this for the *sale* of goods and services).
5. If you incorporate elements of the Unbound ministry with other models of healing or deliverance ministry, do not use the term “Unbound ministry” to describe what you do.

6. If your ministry offers Unbound ministry alongside other types of ministry, such as healing prayer and counseling, please clarify and distinguish Unbound ministry from the other options so that there will be no confusion about what people are receiving.
7. Ministry teams cannot use an Unbound regional name (i.e., Unbound Chicago) without expressed permission and periodic reaffirmation from HOFM or your Regional Coordinator.
8. If your ministry team regularly offers conferences for your own region, you may ask permission from Heart of the Father Ministries or your Regional Coordinator to call your ministry a regional name, such as “Unbound Maryland,” or “Unbound San Francisco.” Prior to using this name your team must be a member of the Unbound Network in good standing.
9. Ministry teams should help new ministry teams establish a relationship with Heart of the Father so they can find the resources and training they need.
10. Ministry teams who want to be trained or establish Unbound ministry teams in locations outside of the U.S. should consult with HOFM or your Regional Coordinator to find out about any Unbound leadership or teams already in existence and collaborate with them.

*The teachings that define and explain the Unbound model of deliverance ministry are found in the following resources:

- *Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance*
- *Unbound: Freedom in Christ Study Program*
- *Unbound Ministry Guidebook*
- *Unbound Basic Ministry Training Study Program*
- *Unbound Advanced Ministry Training Study Program*
- *Unbound Ministry Resources* found here:
<https://www.heartofthefather.com/resources/ministry-resources/>

G. Unbound Ministry Network

1. Any team that has been trained by HOFM or one of their Regional Coordinators, is committed to faithfully and exclusively using the Unbound model of ministry and wishes to join the Unbound Ministry Network may complete an application.
2. This is an informal network that lists information about these teams so that they can be located and contacted by those seeking ministry.

3. These teams are not under the oversight of Heart of the Father Ministries and as such, Heart of the Father Ministries is not responsible for these groups and their ministries. The purpose of the Unbound Network is to give visibility to groups who have been trained in the Unbound model, not to endorse the ministry of particular teams.
4. Impropriety or poor judgment demonstrated by any team may result in their removal from the Network.

H. Regional Coordinators

A Regional Coordinator is a representative of HOFM for a particular region. Regional Coordinators are responsible for training and developing Unbound ministry teams and protecting the ministry name from misuses and misrepresentations. Regional Coordinators ensure that all Ministry Guidelines are followed, and they coordinate Unbound events in the region that are hosted by the various local teams. Consult our website to find out if you have a Regional Coordinator assigned to your area and how to contact them.

Unbound Regional Coordinators should be the point of contact for the development of new ministry teams and the oversight and support for existing ministry teams. Anyone interested in starting a team should call the Regional Coordinator to begin their training. If there is no Regional Coordinator in your area, contact HOFM for training.

Any training that is done outside of an existing local ministry team setting must be approved or arranged by the Regional Coordinator.

Regional Coordinators are not responsible for the operations of local ministry teams or the pastoral oversight of team leaders.

All events open to the public should be approved and coordinated by the regional coordinator who will communicate with the other teams to prevent scheduling conflicts.

I. Presentations

Below are some standards for how Unbound ministry teams should present the Unbound message so that the ministry is reproduced clearly and effectively.

Ministry teams must receive written permission from HOFM or their Regional Coordinator prior to promoting an Unbound event that is open to the public.

An event is “open to the public” if it includes anyone outside of the local ministry team in the audience.

An *Unbound event* is one that presents our teachings according to the guidelines below *without alteration*.

1. When a team presents the Unbound message, they should use the following formats:

- Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference
- Unbound One-Day Conference or Family Retreat
- Unbound: Freedom in Christ DVD Conference or Seminar

In the past, Heart of the Father Ministries has reserved these names for our events alone. HOFM will grant special written permission to ministry teams who agree to faithfully present them without alteration. ***This permission must be granted in writing.***

All requests for permission should be made to Matt Lozano, Director of Training, at matt@heartofthefather.com

2. When presenting the Unbound: Freedom in Christ message, use only the *Teaching Guide* that we will provide when written permission is granted. Do not omit, alter, or add points to the presentation. There will be places indicated where you can personalize the talks with your own stories, if it is beneficial.
3. Do not add to the presentation anything that will narrow your audience by creating an unnecessary theological stumbling block to other believers in your area or prevent the Unbound event from being a gathering that promotes unity among traditions.
4. When you promote these Unbound events, place a notice in your promotional materials indicating that you have the expressed permission of HOFM to run the event.
5. Do not offer any alternative resources at these events. Promote only the resources created by Heart of the Father Ministries.
6. Ministry teams should cooperate and not compete with HOFM when it comes to events. Do not schedule events at the same times and in the same regions as HOFM's events. Ministry teams must coordinate their events with HOFM events as well as events hosted by other teams in the Unbound Network.

To coordinate your event, contact Jennifer Lozano, Events Coordinator, at jenn@heartofthefather.com.

7. Whenever you present an Unbound event or series of events that is open to the public, please receive an offering or set aside a portion of the proceeds for Heart of the Father Ministries. There are a variety of ways to do this, please use your discretion and give according to your means.

8. In addition to these public events, ministry teams, churches, and small groups within a church may offer the following Unbound events privately to their team members and trainees:

- Unbound Basic Training Event or Study Program
- Unbound Advanced Training Event or Study Program

Written permission from HOFM for these private events is not required, but they must be approved by the pastor or spiritual authority for that church or team and your Regional Coordinator (if applicable).

9. Ministry team leaders may not provide any training events that are open to the public or for other groups without the expressed written permission of HOFM or a Regional Coordinator.
10. Please do not distribute, sell, or post recordings of your talks online from an Unbound event without written permission from HOFM.

J. Alternative Presentations

1. Some ministry teams may want to present the message of the Five Keys of Unbound in a manner that accommodates their audience, format, culture, etc. These alternative presentations are not Unbound events.
2. *You must get feedback and approval from HOFM before offering an alternative presentation that is open to the public.*
3. Please do not offer your own alternative presentations of the Unbound message without distinguishing their titles from those created by Heart of the Father Ministries.
4. These alternative presentations must clarify that they are based upon *Unbound* by Neal Lozano, but they are not official *Unbound* presentations. Please reference your sources but identify the presentation as your own.
5. These alternative presentations cannot be called “Unbound” conferences or events. Do not call it an “Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference,” or “Unbound Conference.” These titles are reserved for HOFM events and other authorized presentations.

Some alternatives can use the following titles or ones like them:

- *The Five Keys to Freedom Conference: Based upon Unbound by Neal Lozano*
- *Five Keys Workshop: Based upon the Unbound Message*
- *Joyful and Free: a presentation based upon the Five Keys of Unbound*

6. The content of these presentations must not make controversial arguments or use divisive language while presenting the Unbound message. These presentations must not contradict official Unbound teachings in any way.
7. Introducing Unbound and the Five Keys in a variety of contexts is encouraged (e.g., mission trips). When doing so, it should be clear that the overview provided is based on Unbound and that if a group is interested in a more formal Unbound conference or ministry team training, contact should be made with Heart of the Father Ministries or your Regional Coordinator.
8. ***Alternative Unbound training presentations are not permitted.*** All training talks must follow the outlines in the Unbound Basic and Advanced Training Study Programs or the content of the Unbound Ministry Guidebook, without any additions.

K. Resources and Publications

1. Heart of the Father Ministries is solely responsible for the creation of publications that teach the Unbound model of ministry, and we are not authorizing other authors to re-present the Unbound model in a way that creates alternatives to our published material or attempts to augment them with new formats or additions.
2. When it comes to resources and publications, we believe that the message of Unbound ministry needs to be presented in a singular authentic voice that represents Heart of the Father Ministries and its mission, not by a variety of versions and messages.
3. A resource or publication is defined as an audio or video recording, book, booklet, eBook, or digital literature that represents HOFM content for a wide audience. All HOFM resources are copyright protected.
4. We do want individuals and groups to share about Unbound in videos, podcasts, articles, and blogs, so long as they do not re-present a resource in its entirety. One exception to this is the content of the “Overview of the Five Keys talk”, which may be shared as an alternative, unofficial presentation and shared with written permission from HOFM. Partial introductions, portions of talks, and overviews are allowed. Handouts or outlines that are not full reproductions of our materials used during alternative presentations are also allowed. Please follow all laws regarding the fair use of copyrighted materials.
5. Please do not record, copy, or distribute any content created by HOFM without our expressed written permission. Do not post or replicate our content online without written permission from HOFM.

6. Screen sharing of any resources over Zoom or other media platforms is a copyright violation and is not permitted without the written permission of HOFM.
7. Resources that present any Unbound content, like talk recordings, cannot be sold without written permission from HOFM.
8. If you create any supplemental materials to support your team, do not distribute them to other ministry teams for use without written permission from HOFM.
9. Do not misrepresent any supplemental materials as Unbound resources. These should not be marked with the name Unbound. The creators of these materials should be clearly listed, and they should be marked as “based upon Unbound.”

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