



How does Bethel Sozo work in the UK?

What is Bethel Sozo?

Bethel Sozo is a unique inner healing and deliverance ministry founded by Dawna DeSilva & Teresa Liebscher, originating from [Bethel Church in Redding, California](#). By dealing with (not dwelling on) hinderances from the past, people experience a deeper connection, awareness of and intimacy with their heavenly Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. In a safe environment that respects and honours the individual, greater freedom comes when;

- Wounds are healed
- Strongholds are broken
- Truth replaces lies

In this way, people walk free to move forward in their Kingdom calling & destiny.

Bethel Sozo is not counselling or directive, the main focus is the individual communicating with and hearing from God for themselves – even when that has not been their previous experience. It does not create or encourage dependency, rather it empowers the individual to walk free and powerful.

Principles.

The Bethel Sozo ethos is to equip and empower the wider church. Bethel Sozo UK embodies the following principles;

- It is a relational network
- Sozo teams are church based and are commissioned by and accountable to their own church leadership
- New Sozo teams are mentored and supported by experienced team members (called Facilitators) from other churches.
- The UK National Facilitators are available to support church leadership and teams at their request.
- With a few "safeguarding" exceptions, everything that happens in a Sozo is strictly confidential to the people in the room.

- Sozo sessions are offered and conducted according to the safeguarding protocols of the church offering the ministry.
- All the training resources are widely available for churches and individuals to use with no requirement to be connected with the Bethel Sozo community.
- When a church offers the “Bethel Sozo” ministry, it must reflect Bethel Sozo values and practice. Sozo team leaders are accountable to the Sozo UK leadership for these.

What happens in a Sozo session

The session is normally conducted by 2 people and lasts about 90 minutes.

The “First” takes the lead and the “Second” usually remains silent. The role of the Second is to pray quietly, they may also occasionally pass a note to the First with anything they feel God might be saying.

Most importantly, they write a record of all the truth and good news that the guest hears from God. This is given to the guest at the end of their session as a reminder of all that God has said and done. We do not record the problems or the issues – they are now behind. All notes, with the exception of the record of the truths the guest has heard from God and what He has shown them, are destroyed at the end of each session.

What about money?

Churches are free to implement their own policy in relation to donations for having a Sozo session. For example, some churches invite a donation when people come from outside their own church membership, but not from their own members. All we ask is that financial hardship or the inability to make a donation should not be a barrier to having a Sozo session.

Typically, churches ask for a voluntary donation of between £30 & £40 for a Sozo appointment.

Environment and Paperwork

Sozo appointments should take place in a private room where you will not be disturbed. Comfortable seating is important, water and tissues are likely to be useful during the session.

The following forms are used in arranging a Sozo session:

- Application form – to be used to arrange the appointment
(www.bethelsozo.org.uk/downloads/Bethel-Sozo-UK-Sample-Ministry-Application)

- Indemnity release form – to be signed before the sozo session starts
(www.bethelsozo.org.uk/downloads/Bethel-Sozo-UK-Sample-Liability-Release)
- Client feedback form – while optional we recommend it as useful
(www.bethelsozo.org.uk/downloads/Bethel-Sozo-UK-Optional-feedback-form)

These forms should be personalised for your church and their use approved by your church leadership.

- Forgiveness sheet – to be read beforehand – this form is best used 'as is' by sending it to your Sozo client before they attend for their Sozo
(www.bethelsozo.org.uk/downloads/Bethel-Sozo-UK-Forgiveness-sheet)

During a Sozo appointment the team will need pens, paper/notebook, Post It notes or equivalent.

Gender Protocols

Bethel Sozo strongly recommends that this best practice is followed in relation to gender "mix" during a Sozo session;

- Women Sozo women
 - If two women are not available to Sozo a woman, it is preferable that the Sozo should be conducted with a married couple, the wife should lead the Sozo.
- Men should Sozo men
- Female Firsts may Sozo men provided this is with the agreement of their church leaders.
- Ideally there should be a man seconding but we recognise that may not always be possible.
- In any event, the guest must be comfortable with the gender mix of the First and Second in their session.

Local church ministry

Bethel Sozo is being offered in hundreds of churches across the UK from almost every denomination & stream. They have opted to offer this ministry within their own church community. Accordingly, they do not appear on the Bethel Sozo UK website.

What is a Sozo Church?

'Sozo Churches' are those that have trained and experienced Sozo teams, whose church leaders support them to provide Bethel Sozo ministry for people from outside their own church, as well as their own. The church leadership will have commissioned their Sozo team on the recommendation of a Bethel Sozo Facilitator. These churches appear on the Bethel Sozo UK website (marked with "S") as offering Sozo sessions.

What is a Resource Church?

'Resource Churches' have an experienced Sozo team whose church leaders not only offer Bethel Sozo ministry for people outside of their own church but support other churches to establish their own Bethel Sozo team.

If churches want to become a Resource Church for Bethel Sozo ministry, that decision will be made jointly by the church leader and the National Facilitators of Bethel Sozo UK.

Roles and Responsibilities

What do Bethel Sozo UK National Facilitators do?

The role of the UK National Facilitators (Scotland has its own country Facilitator) includes:

- Supporting the development and resourcing of Bethel Sozo UK
- Supporting Facilitators in their role and organising regular facilitator days
- Regularly observe the practice competencies of Facilitators & Trainers
- Acting as a central point for information about Bethel Sozo.
- Responsibility for the Bethel Sozo UK website
- Liaising with the Founders of the ministry at Bethel Church, Redding.
- Maintaining a national overview.
- Hosting National events
- Co-ordinating team visits to the UK for Bethel Church Sozo leaders, California

What do Bethel Sozo Facilitators do?

- Bethel Sozo Facilitators are appointed by the UK National Facilitators with the agreement of their church leadership
- Bethel Sozo Facilitators will already be leading a Sozo team in a Resource church.
- They remain responsible for their own Sozo team.
- Maintain contact with the UK National Facilitators to ensure understanding & practice stays up to date.
- Represent and promote Bethel Sozo, upholding the values and best practice
- Liaise with the senior leadership of churches they are working with to develop their church Sozo teams.
- Maintain contact and provide support and information to team leaders who relate to them.
- Arrange 2 or 3 group meetings a year for the Bethel Sozo team leaders who relate to them.
- From time to time Bethel Sozo Facilitators will observe Sozo team leaders to ensure that their understanding & use of the Sozo tools continues to reflect the Bethel Sozo model. This will also give the opportunity for Facilitators & team leaders to learn from one another.

What do Bethel Sozo Team Leaders do?

- Maintain connection with their church leadership and keep them informed about what is happening with the Sozo team.
- Maintain connection with their Bethel Sozo Facilitator and attend Sozo group meetings arranged by their Facilitator.
- Take responsibility for building their Sozo team and ensuring that team members;
- Have their own personal Sozo,
- Watch the Sozo training videos or listen to the CDs
- Attend a Live Basic Training
- Observe / sit in on Sozos conducted by an experienced First
- Be responsible for the ongoing training and development of their team, and maintenance of best practice.
- Maintain oversight of the organization of the Sozo ministry within the church.

How do we get started?

Interest in having the Sozo ministry may come from the church leadership or individuals in the church that know the ministry. Either way there will be discussion & agreement between church leaders and potential Sozo team leaders about progressing the ministry within their church. Bethel Sozo Facilitators are always willing to meet with church leaders to answer any questions they may have about the ministry in their church. They will also offer a personal Sozo to them, so they can experience a Sozo for themselves.

Having identified potential team members they should then;

- Contact and arrange for the team to meet with a Facilitator
- Watch the training videos or listen to the CDs
- Have their own personal Sozo with an experienced First
- Attend a live Basic Training
- Practice the use of the tools within the team.

Finding a Bethel Sozo Facilitator?

- Bethel Sozo Facilitators are experienced Sozo team leaders in a Resource church. These churches are on the website map, marked with an "R".
- You can choose a Facilitator who you already know or use the UK website to find your preferred Facilitator and arrange to meet.
- Arrange a mentoring day or individual mentoring sessions between members of the resource church's Sozo team and the 'new team in training'. At these sessions members of the new team may well sit in on Sozos as observers and possibly receive their own Sozos.

All the National & local Facilitators work on a voluntary basis, and we ask that churches reimburse their expenses and consider a gift.

How are people commissioned to offer Bethel Sozo?

Local Commissioning (Sozo for members of their own church)

- The team leaders and team members who will 'First' must have attended a live Bethel Sozo Basic Training led by an approved Bethel Sozo trainer.
- The Facilitator will have sat in as a 'Second' with the team leader(s) as they lead at least two Sozos to assess competency in the use of the basic tools and ensure people are safe.

- Their Facilitator is assured that the practice of the team leader(s) reflects the Bethel Sozo values and best practice.
- The Facilitator recommends to the church leadership when the Sozo team are ready to be commissioned to Sozo members of their own church.

Trans-local Commissioning (Sozo for members of other churches)

The team leaders and team members who have been commissioned as that team's Firsts will have attended Bethel Sozo Advanced Training

They will have become familiar with the tools through the videos or audio recordings and practicing on one another.

Their Facilitator will have observed the team leader(s) as they lead at least two Sozos. This is to assess their competency in the use of the advanced tools.

The Facilitator will be assured that the practice of the team leader(s) reflect the Bethel Sozo values and best practice.

The Facilitator then confirms to the church leadership that the Sozo team have been observed as competent to Sozo people from outside the church.

If the church leadership approves, the church may also be listed on the Bethel Sozo UK website as offering Sozo sessions.

Safeguarding and Complaints

Bethel Sozo UK is a church based network. As such, when Sozo practitioners offer Sozo sessions they do so being accountable to their home church leadership.

Any and all complaints, including safeguarding concerns, about a Sozo session should be referred in the first instance to the church leader(s) and if appropriate to the church safeguarding officer. This should be done in accordance with the local church protocols & procedures.

We would anticipate that complaints would be resolved at that local level.

Should there be an unresolved complaint, after that local referral and process, individuals may contact the Bethel Sozo UK leadership by email at priority@bethelsozo.org.uk who will consult with the church leadership, the UK leadership team and UK Trustees as appropriate. That email should have either "COMPLAINT" or "SAFEGUARDING CONCERN" in the subject line. You will receive an acknowledgment within 48 hours which will include the name of the person dealing with your mail. The UK leadership reserve the right to refer a matter directly to the relevant authorities should they believe that a safeguarding issue is not dealt with appropriately at that local level.