



Neighborhood Prayer Walk Guidelines

revised 5/26/2024

Prayer is “front-line” warfare. It is the ultimate weapon in our “struggle ... against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in high places.” (see Ephesians 6:10).

PREPARATION

To prepare for your prayer-walk, seek God for a fresh cleansing and covering in your personal life. Any servant of Jesus who poses a serious threat to the powers of hell will be targeted and will encounter resistance. “Satan dreads nothing but prayer.” The believer must stand guard through prayer, praying over himself/herself, their family, their church, and the work they expect the Lord to perform.

Seek God’s guidance about how you should pray for your neighbors and your neighborhood. Remember that God’s heart is filled with a deep love and an intimate knowledge of each one you will pray for, whether or not you know them or what you might know about them. As you seek Him, He will guide your steps and direct your prayers. In the Bible we see Jesus sending out the disciples two by two. Consider asking your spouse, children, friend, or someone with whom you fellowship to partner with you in your walk.

Give some thought to planning your walk. What route will you take? How much time will you invest? How will you dress and equip yourself for the forecasted weather, your fitness, etc.. Note: you do not have to cover your entire neighborhood in a single walk. Also, the “Bless Every Home” app reveals the names of those who occupy homes, by street, in your neighborhood, allowing you to pray for each person by name. As you walk and intercede for others, your prayers extend beyond your own concerns, focusing on their needs and opening yourself to see them with God’s eyes and heart. Neighborhood prayer walks are a means of asking God to give you a heart for those who live around you who you might have opportunity to spend time to get to know.

While the Bible doesn’t specifically mention prayer walking, it contains a number of examples of something similar:

- God commanded the Israelites to march seven days around the city of Jericho, lifting up prayers and praises to God for His promise to deliver the city into their hands. (Joshua 6)
- Jesus spent much time walking with His disciples throughout the land of Israel and prayer was most likely a part of those walks as Jesus observed his environment, prayed, and then taught. In one scene, Jesus looks over Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives and is moved to pray for the city. (Matthew 23: 37-39)
- It was in walking through the city of Athens that the apostle Paul was moved by the Spirit to preach the Gospel in this idol-filled place. (Acts 17:6)
- The prophet Jeremiah was told to pray for Babylon, “And seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its peace you will have peace.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

Before you start your-walk ask God to give you insight into what your neighbors’ needs might be as you pass by their homes. Your heart will be moved to pray for the things you see during the walk. For example, you might come across a yard that is extremely untidy and rundown. This might prompt you to pray for the health, both physical and spiritual, of the residents inside (you may even be moved to knock on the door of the house to see if that neighbor could use a hand). Or, as you walk past a home you could ask God to bring the people who live there to know and love Him. Ask that their children and their descendants will all become believers.

You may see neighbors walking their dog or out for some exercise of their own. Be sure to greet them and strike up a conversation if possible. Let them know that you are praying for the neighborhood and ask them if they have anything you can pray for them. Consider asking them if they know of any elderly or disabled neighbors who need to be looked in on or could use some help. Your prayers could be the beginning of a neighborhood revival!

If you walk takes you past a school, pray for the teachers and students, for their safety and peace, that they will all learn more about God, and for the schemes of the devil in their school to be thwarted. If you pass a church, synagogue, or mosque, pray for God's Spirit to reveal truth to all who attend. You can think of similar prayers for those working in businesses, firehouses, police departments, and other public buildings that you pass.

Bottom Line: You'll probably think of many other things to pray for as you go!

AIDS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER-WALKING

First, pray scripture. Carry a copy of God's Word with you as you prayer-walk. Read it out loud. You and your partner(s) can take turns, one reading a verse and then another praying a prayer based on the content of that verse. Then proceed on to the next verse and so on. Base your petitions and praise on selected passages, i.e. Paul's prayers, etc. See Crossties 40 Great Prayers of the Bible for ideas.

Second, pray in obedience to the Spirit's leading. Learn to recognize and respond to His voice as you pray. God's Spirit may even direct you with ideas of prayer gestures, i.e. kneeling down, joining hands in unity, etc. Be obedient.

Third, focus on Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is most strategic to lift up Jesus for He said, "As I am lifted up I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

Fourth, stay committed. Don't "quit" prayer-walking after one or two times. Persevere in prayer! God will use your faithfulness to grow your sense of purpose and accomplishment as you battle for the salvation of your neighbors. The Scripture makes it clear that Satan was defeated at the cross (I John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15). We must press the battle until we see in the physical realm what God has shown us to be His desire in the spiritual.

BENEFITS OF PRAYER-WALKING

One of the awesome things that happens in the hearts of those who consistently pray for community while they walk the neighborhood is that they find their heart becoming committed to the places for which they have prayed. Doesn't it make perfect sense: A Spirit-tenderized heart, sensitized to a Spirit-directed need, results in Spirit-filled acts of compassion.

We strongly encourage you to sign up with "Bless Every Home." This app identifies by name those in your neighborhood on a street-by-street basis. As a church, we have designated the first Saturday of every month for a prayer walk. There is no specific time to do the walk nor a specified amount of time your walk should take. Our hope is to simply have you pray for your neighbors and your neighborhood and see how God will include you in reaching those who need to find their way to our Savior.