

Neighborhood prayer walk

Prayer walking has been described as “praying on site with insight.” It has been called one of the most effective forms of prayer. For those who have never done it before, it can be intimidating and raise many questions, but it is simply praying as you walk around a specific location, whether encircling a school or walking the streets of your neighborhood. There are many models for prayer or needs for which to pray (practical needs, spiritual revival, etc.) but when you step out your front door for your prayer walk, it is of primary importance to purpose in your heart to worship, be fully present to your surroundings and the Holy Spirit and to remain watchful for the work of God. As you continue in this practice, enlarge your circle, visiting other neighborhoods or sites in the community.

Begin with a heart of worship.

The model of prayer that Jesus gave his disciples begins with the phrase, “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name...” We should begin our times of prayer with an acknowledgment of His holiness and worthiness of praise. It is a prayer that asks that His name be exalted and worshipped on this earth. A few ways we can pray this are by listening to worship songs and turning our hearts toward Him in agreement, singing a remembered hymn or chorus, or reciting a memorized psalm of praise.

Be present to your surroundings through your senses.

As you walk, look around at the sights, smell the aromas and listen to the sounds of life happening around you. If you’re walking through your neighborhood or community you may hear a couple arguing through an open window, you may see first responders or smell a lingering aroma suggesting a homeless person may be camped nearby. These sensations offer us new insights for how to pray for individuals or families.

Listen to the Holy Spirit.

As you pray, keep your heart open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It’s not uncommon for the Holy Spirit to prompt us in our prayer as we spend time in silent listening. You may ask the Lord to show you faces of individuals to pray for, call to mind situations to lift up or feel a leading to pray for needs or causes bigger than individuals or families.

Be present to the work of God.

God always goes before us. Notice evidence of his working and give Him thanks and praise. If you notice a parent and child working or playing together, you may thank him for the gift of family and children. You may notice a garden producing an abundance of flowers or produce and express your gratitude for being the God who makes things grow or presume that God is already at work drawing people to reconciliation to one another and to him and give him thanks for working in people’s lives every day.

Use the following prompts as starting points.

Pray for your eight adjacent neighbors by name.

Pray for households who are struggling with infertility or infant loss.

Pray for immigrant families who are experiencing insecurity or fear.

As you walk by a home for sale, pray for the transition of the new family into the neighborhood.

Walk a larger section of the neighborhood, praying for the families in all the homes.

Pray for the administrators, teachers and children at your neighborhood school.

Pray for the children at the neighborhood park. Pray they feel loved.

Pray for the safety of our first responders who serve our communities.

Pray for those who are elderly, housebound or terminally ill.

Pray for the families who are enduring challenging situations.

Pray the members of your community will come to know Jesus.



Pray for a legacy of faith to be passed down to children in the homes.

Pray for parents and caregivers to have patience and wisdom as they care for children.

Pray for those who are caregiving for parents, siblings or others.

Pray for families who may be struggling for financial provision.

Pray for those you see at work in the neighborhood: delivery drivers, landscapers, utilities, etc.

Pray for connections to grow between families in the neighborhood.

Pray for families who are struggling with depression, mental illness or hopelessness.

Pray for couples who are becoming parents for the first time.

Pray for households of faith to be beacons of light and hope to the neighborhood.

Pray for teenagers to find a secure identity in Christ as they grow into adults.

Pray for restoration for family relationships that are in conflict.

Pray for perseverance and grace for families with special needs children.

Pray for God's will to be done in your neighborhood & community.