

PRAYER WALKING



Simple Tools to Support
Prayer Walking in Your City



*I will give you places where you set your
foot, as I promised Moses.
Joshua 1:3*

STORY



HEART



PLACE



COMMUNITY





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Things to Consider When Leading a Group Prayer Walk

Things to consider about those who are prayer walking...

- Trust God is an active participant in your prayer walk, and unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, trust God is engaged in the dynamics of the group interaction.
- As a prayer walk leader, it is our privilege to “activate” the group and each member of the group in prayer walking. What being “activated” means will vary from person to person, but it is usually demonstrated in some form of group participation.
- If there are those walking with us who have a specific connection to the place we are walking or theme we are praying for, we should invite them into a larger role.
- We will mature in our group prayer walking dynamics through experience and relationship. Be patient with yourself and the group.

Things to consider about the place you are prayer walking...

- The natural environment – the natural environment was made by God. Historically the natural environment outlives the built environment. Biblically, the natural environment has a way of keeping our perspective anchored in God.
- The built environment – The built environment is an amazing mirror to the culture of our city. We often take much for granted in the built environment where we live, and prayer walking is often an opportunity to notice afresh what we have become familiar with or blind to.
- The spiritual environment – There are ways that the spiritual environment of a place can become visible as we prayer walk. Initially, as we begin to perceive the spiritual environment of a place our focus should be upon “having ears to hear and eyes to see.” After a time of reflection and discernment we will be more effective in praying as God leads us into the spiritual environment of our city.

NOTE – anything that there is group agreement upon regarding the natural, built, or spiritual environment during a prayer walk should be stewarded through documentation.



Things to Consider When Leading a Group Prayer Walk

Things to consider about the focus of your prayer...

- Invite God's Word to be activated in your prayer by utilizing scripture.
- When confronting sin, spiritual darkness, or brokenness in the community; include prayers that come in the opposite spirit of what is wrong.
- Think and pray in terms of STORY. Our prayer walking is not simply about recognizing and fixing problems but discovering and investing towards the STORY of God being glorified in the people and land where we are prayer walking.

Pray for...

- Christians to be a faithful witness
- Leaders/ Those in places of responsibilities to have wisdom
- Those in need to receive help

Pay attention to...

- Divine appointments – people you encounter.
- Divine interruptions – circumstances you experience.
- Divine assignments – prayer points and places that grip your attention.

General helps and insights...

- In regards, to group dynamics, leading a prayer walk has similarities to leading a prayer gathering...
 - Short, focused prayers are best. Pray strong not long.
 - Agreement is powerful. Lean into WE not ME.
 - We are learners at prayer, not experts. Questions are good.
- People getting to know one another better is a good thing on a prayer walk. Welcome conversations between people as you are prayer walking.
- As soon as you start to HURRY, your prayer climate will be impacted. Be mindful of time management.



Biblical Insights for Understanding Prayer Walking

1. **Prayer walking is not something we do for God. It is something we do with God.** [Genesis 3:8 / Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5/ Genesis 18: 16-33]
2. **Prayer walking is saying “YES” to God’s design for us as His image bearers.** [Ezekiel 37:1-10/ Micah 6:8/ Ephesians 2:10]
3. **Our bodies are instruments of prayer.** [Exodus 3:5/ Psalms 95:6/ John 17:1/ 1 Timothy 2:8]
4. **Places are PLAYERS, not PROPs, in God’s glory story.** [Numbers 14:21/ Isaiah 55:12/ Matthew 2:23/ Matthew 11:20-24/ Luke 19:40-41]
5. **Persistence and consistency are key qualities in Jesus’ teaching about prayer. This applies to prayer walking as well.** [Luke 5:16/ Luke 18:1-8]
6. **Prayer walking is a process of “memorializing” a community with the love and faithfulness of God.** [Genesis 28:18-22 / Joshua 4:1-24]



Key Components for Organizing Group Prayer Walks

1. The Starting Point
2. The Route
3. The Prayer Focus/Points
4. The Organization of Participants
5. Content to Support more Informed Prayer
6. The Leadership of the Prayer Walk
7. Capturing Information from the Prayer Walk



How to Organize a Group Prayer Walk

Plan

- Where you will meet and the route you will be taking.
- When you will meet.
- Any specific prayer points you will focus on and any specific places you plan to stop for prayer. [Often the place itself provides context for a specific prayer focus - i.e. praying for youth at a school.]
- Any specific “helps” you will use.
- Prayer walking with specific scriptures for reference can often be helpful.
- Researching the place, area, or people associated with that place is often helpful.

Communicate

- Let people know the specific details of the prayer walk and any important information they might need to know to come prepared.
- Consider the following items...
- How long are you expecting the overall prayer walk to be?
- Is there an easy to see gathering place?
- Will access to bathrooms be needed?
- Is there parking available nearby? If you are starting and finishing in different places how will people get back to their cars?
- Are there any safety needs based upon the route, weather, or other elements people should be aware of (bring water, wear layers, bring an umbrella, etc.)?



How to Organize a Group Prayer Walk

Gather

- Welcome people and give them an opportunity to introduce themselves.
- Review the plan, and any ground rules you might want to share, giving an opportunity for any questions people may have.
- Help everyone PRAYERFULLY set their intention together for the prayer walk.

Prayer walk

- Prayer walking tends to be best when it is “unhurried.” As a rule of thumb, you should allow 45 minutes to 1 hour for every mile you plan to prayer walk [based upon 2-3 stopping points per mile].
- Having someone assigned to lead the group and someone to be the “rear guard” is a helpful practice.

Record/Remember your prayer walk

- It is meaningful to take time for expressing gratitude to God together as you conclude your prayer walk.
- Having a way of noting where you walked, on which date, and who was present, and any particular things that were seen, experienced, or prayed is a great way to steward both that individual prayer walk and the larger prayer walking campaign.
- Periodically review the records of your prayer walks.



Safety Considerations When Prayer Walking

1. Know who is leading and who will be “the rear guard.” Make it clear to participants to whom to speak if they have needs or concerns.
2. Know the route.
3. Know how many people are walking with you.
4. Know any special circumstances, physical or mental health needs that people may have.
5. Know if anyone has made arrangements not to participate in the entire prayer walk and what their plans are to break away from the group.
6. Follow traffic laws.
7. Work to be visible when along roadways, in parking lots, or anywhere else vehicles will be moving.
8. Make sure you have extra provisions in weather-related challenges (example - extra drinking water if it is especially hot outside.)
9. Be mindful of hazards and pay special attention to making sure each person is safe in passing. This might be a tripping hazard on the street, poison oak along the path, or even a person having a mental health episode in the area where you are walking.
10. Be mindful of the way your group might cause others who come into interaction with you to feel less safe.
11. At the conclusion of the walk, invite people to mention any potential safety concerns they noticed that should be considered for future walks.



Resources to Help Structure the Content of Your Prayer Walks

Below are a few “helps” that those prayer walking alone or leading group prayer walks might want to utilize to help structure or support their prayer walking.

1. **The three W's of prayer walking...** [read Prayer Walking: Praying On Site With Insight by Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick]
 - a. Worship – Ministry to God [1 Timothy 2:1]
 - b. Warfare – Confronting forces of darkness [Luke 10:19-20]
 - c. Welcoming – Recognizing the Holy Spirit relationally at work [Luke 10:5-6]
2. **The WALK prayer walking acronym.** Remembering the key elements of a prayer walk.
 - a. **W**orship
 - b. **A**sk
 - c. **L**isten
 - d. **K**now your land
3. **The 5 H Prayer Prompts**
 - a. Open Heavens: Pray for God's presence to be felt in the community
 - b. Open Hearts: Pray for people to be receptive to the gospel
 - c. Open Homes: Pray for households to turn to Jesus
 - d. Open Highways: Pray for God to open up access to unreached areas
 - e. Open Hands: Pray for believers to serve the community and demonstrate God's love
4. **But God scripture prompts...** “But” is a very important word. In Greek it is the word “alla” (αλλα). As you prayer walk and see areas that reflect sin, poverty, crime, community trauma, etc. acknowledge those need and then begin to pray “BUT GOD...” prayers. Below are just a few scriptural examples...
 - a. Acts 2:23-24
 - b. Ephesians 2:1-10
 - c. Colossians 1:21-23
5. **“Do it again” scriptures** – pray that God will do here and now what the scripture shows us He has done before in other places. Below are just a few examples
 - a. Genesis 28:16 – People awakening to God's presence in a place.
 - b. 1 Kings 18:39 – People turning away from idolatry and back to God.
 - c. Acts 2:37 – People hearing the Gospel, repenting, and turning to Jesus.



Prayer Tips for Prayer Walking – Learning to Pray with Your Eyes Open

A Lesson from Proverbs 24 - The book of Proverbs, especially chapter 8, makes it abundantly clear that wisdom is not hiding from us but calling to us. It is right where we spend our time and live our lives, crying out to us that we might learn and become wise. This theme is exemplified by the author in the closing verses of Proverbs 24. “I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, 31 and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. 32 Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man [Proverbs 24:30-34].”

Prayer walking involves praying with our eyes open. Learning to pray with our eyes open is an important skill in developing our prayer life and this passage in Proverbs 24 offers a few helpful insights into this journey.

Consider these simple steps from the passage...

- 1. Observe**
- 2. Consider**
- 3. Ask/Receive**
- 4. Pray**

Learning to prayer walk involves slowing down and beginning to notice what is going on around you and inside of you. This is a necessary adjustment to the hurry of our culture whether you are prayer walking alone or in a group. There are times when what is going on around us is a distraction, or perhaps just NOT what God is leading us to focus on in the moment. However, often the prayers that we are invited to pray are made poignantly clear as we pay attention to what is taking place where we are.

Proverbs 24 is one of many passages that invite us into this process, Ezekiel 37 and “the valley of dry bones” is another. In both cases, a key part of the process includes engaging a question that allows God to lead us into the prayer He wants prayed. As we grow in praying with our eyes open we get better at noticing things. This, in turn helps us grow in considering what it is we see and asking God what He might be highlighting in what we noticed. Finally, we begin to pray with greater understanding and confidence.

Sometimes this Proverbs 24 process involves multiple people. Remember that if we are prayer walking with others, our group dynamic impacts our prayer experience. If we do not create a little space between our prayers, we tend to discourage the observing and asking elements of the prayer experience because people may be feeling a desire to voice a prayer and don’t want to miss their chance. Be intentional about working together to find God’s heart as you’re prayer walking. One person may notice something, but it is another person who God shows something specific from it that should be the prayer focus at that time. As we mature in our group dynamic, this partnership in prayer becomes truly powerful.



Creating a Prayer Walking Path around Your Church

Prayer walking is a long established and biblically rooted practice of the Christian faith. To prayer walk around and through a place is to communicate stewardship of that place for/ unto God. This document is designed to encourage churches to establish a simple practice of prayer walking their campus as part of nurturing the spiritual life of the congregation and stewarding the special resource that a property and facility are in the life and mission of the church. A prayer walking ministry can require relatively little staff time and energy to get started and as it becomes utilized, it is also a great opportunity to engage interested members of the congregation in service should you want to expand the engagement.

Here are the basics –

1. **Determine the prayer route for your church property.** [Churches have found that identifying a specific “starting point and direction” is helpful for people.]
2. **Communicate a clear invitation to the congregation.** Create awareness of the prayer walk and invite members to participate, providing a simple vision, explanation of the activity, way to get involved, and place for contact. Churches have found this can be done easily on their website. Utilizing a tool like Sign-up Genius to have people sign up has also been a great way to steward the project. People can sign up for a particular date but can come at any time they would like. Churches often report that people prayer walk before and after meetings or events that are already bringing them to the church. This ministry is easily supported by a volunteer(s) in being a point of contact for questions or feedback.
3. **Have a list of prayer points available** both physically at the starting point and if possible, online. Churches have found that along with specific prayer requests, a few poignant questions for prayer have been very fruitful for spurring engagement. An example might be, “How might God want us to be a blessing to our neighbors?” or “How has God used this property over the years to help people know more about His love for them?” Churches have also found that providing a simple scripture to consider or pray through as part of the prayer walking experience is helpful.
4. **Periodically “nurture” this ministry.** Consider updating the prayer points as appropriate, perhaps in preparation for special events on campus. Invite those who have prayer walked the campus to share their feedback with you regarding how God has used it in their lives. Periodically, share testimonies related to the prayer walking ministry.

For a consultation or to receive recommendations of creating effective prayer points contact adam@feathervine.com.



Creating a Prayer Walking Path around Your Church

Here are some of the benefits connected with a prayer walking ministry on your church property...

- **Prayer walking gets people praying...**When people pray they are more likely to become people of prayer. "Prayer walking the church has encouraged me to prayer walk my neighborhood."
- **Our heart inclines towards our prayers...** "Prayer walking the church has helped me see in a fresh way that the church is my home." This feels like a "grass roots thing... in the best way." This is "re-shaping the way we see the place where we are praying." "I thought it might get boring, but it is different every time."
- **Prayer walking is conducive to remembering the faithfulness of God** through the variety of events and experiences that have happened at the church. This builds faith and a sense of gratitude to God.
- **Prayer walking encourages people to consider God as presently at work** in your congregation and at your church facility. This builds faith and a sense of connectedness to the church.
- **Prayer walking gives people "new eyes"** to see the neighborhood around the church. This builds faith and a sense of buy-in to the mission of the church.

To arrange a consultation with Adam Peacocke regarding setting up a prayer path on your church property, email adam@feathervine.com

