

Neighborhood Prayer Walks

What Is a Neighborhood Prayer Walk?

It's not just walking around. It's not just praying. It's walking through your neighborhood or "parish" praying with your eyes and your heart wide open. Notice signs of hope and need, and how God calls you to both. Re-imagine how your ministry could join God and your neighbors.

Guidelines for Prayer-Walking

- Whether you're near your church or in another neighborhood, plan your route in advance. Walk on a variety of days and times, not just Sunday morning. What's happening Tuesdays at 5pm?
- Meet at church and pray before you leave.
- Form groups of 2-6 people, ideally covering different areas. If the group is too large, you may focus on each other instead of the neighborhood.
- If your area isn't very walk-friendly, head to common gathering places: shopping centers, groceries, dog parks, town squares, community gardens, the church's 5-block radius, and more.
- As you walk, look with care and pray either in silence or aloud softly. Limit chat or focusing on each other. Focus on the neighborhood.
- Don't call attention to yourselves. Respect the dignity of community members. "Be on the scene without making one."
- Though it's not primary, be open to interaction with people on the way.
- If anyone asks what you are doing, be prepared to respond: "We're from _____ Church, and we are praying and getting to know our neighborhood better." Offer to pray, if it feels appropriate.

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
– Jeremiah 29:7

How Should We Pray?

- **Discernment:** Ask God to show how you can pray with greater insight for the people, events, and places in the community.
- **Blessing:** Pray for each person, home, school, business, situation you see.
- **Empathy:** See and feel what your neighbors live with every day. Pray for brokenness and for blessings and gifts in the community.
- **Scripture:** Prayer based directly on scriptures like Jeremiah 29:5-7; Luke 10:1-2; Mark 12:30-31; or Revelation 21:3-5a.
- **Silence:** Allow silence for God's spirit to speak to you, or through you.

Concluding the Neighborhood Prayer-Walk

Immediately afterwards – perhaps over a meal – gather to share your prayers and observations:

- What did you learn about the neighborhood?
- Where was God's presence especially apparent?
- What surprised you?
- What was hard? What was engaging?
- What ministries and what worship are already apparent? What might you share? With whom could you partner and learn?