

# Planning a Prayerwalk



Where has God called you? To the jungles of Africa? The bustling cities of China? What about your neighborhood? If He has called you to reach your community, consider prayerwalking to accomplish this mission.

Prayerwalking is walking with the purpose of praying for others and for a specific activity. Answer God's call to reach your community by gathering your church members or small group and walking with a missional purpose.

## What's the goal?

Church members will "go on mission" in your community by prayerwalking. The event will end with a fellowship and praise time.

## Who's it for?

Prayerwalking is the perfect event for any age group. From children to senior adults, everyone can serve the Lord in this way. This event is designed for a churchwide group, but see the Adaptations section for other ways to use this event.

## When should it be? How long will it last?

Consider planning this event on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon. Plan for the event to last about three hours.

## Before the Event

### Prepare

- Educate yourself on prayerwalking. *Follow Me: Becoming a Lifestyle Prayerwalker\** is a six-week study that prepares believers for onsite praying, local and global ministry, and spiritual warfare.
- Form a planning team. Choose people from different areas and ages in your church. Solicit the support and participation of your ministerial staff.
- Choose a location. Consider the neighborhood around your church (see Adaptations for other ideas). Divide the area you want to reach into a manageable walking distance for your prayerwalkers.
- Secure permission if you plan to prayerwalk on areas that are private property, such as businesses or hospital grounds. In some neighborhoods, you will need permission from a homeowners association.
- If you divide prayerwalkers into multiple teams, then designate a team leader for each team. Determine the specific routes each team will take, and communicate this to each team.
- Designate a convenient place for your prayerwalkers to meet and then reconvene to celebrate their experiences after prayerwalking.
- Invite a creative person to create a prayer plan or prayer cards to use during the event. Make sufficient copies for the prayerwalkers.
- Delegate the responsibility to provide water to your prayerwalkers to a member of the planning team.
- Ask a team to plan food for the prayerwalkers' celebration, which may be as simple as a light snack or dessert.
- Secure items needed for organization: table for distributing information before the event, note cards and pens/pencils for prayerwalkers to record their impressions, water, prayer cards, and gospel tracts.

### Promote

- Provide event information through all your church channels.
- Create an event page on your church website or social media, and encourage people to register for the event.

## ***During the Event***

- Invite a volunteer to lead a brief devotional and pray before the event.
- Send prayerwalkers on their way. Designate a return time.
- Form a circle when all prayerwalkers have returned to the designated place. Include the prayerwalkers and all other volunteers who helped with the event.
- Ask volunteers to share their experiences. Use questions like these: Did you feel a special anointing by the Holy Spirit? Were you moved to pray for someone you saw along the way? Did you have an opportunity to share your beliefs with someone? How did God speak to you during this experience?
- Guide team members to summarize the experience in one statement on a note card. Collect note cards before they leave.
- Enlist a pastor to close with prayer after volunteers have shared their experiences.
- Conclude with a song.

## ***After the Event***

- Meet with the planning team. Review the number of people who participated and the impact the prayerwalk had on them. Read the note cards team members completed.
- Pray for those who participated and those whose lives will be touched by the prayers of the prayerwalkers.
- Evaluate how you can improve the process for a future prayerwalking event.

## ***Continue the Experience***

- Send a note to all who participated that they, too, have been prayed for.
- Ask participants if they would like to form a permanent prayerwalking team, which goes out regularly.
- Share with others how God's call for you to prayerwalk has impacted others and you.
- Follow up with "objects" of your prayerwalk as is appropriate—administrators or teachers at schools, coordinators at community centers, etc. Let them know you have prayed for them. Give them information about the ministry of your church.

## ***Adaptations***

- Prayerwalking can be done in groups of any size and age.
  - Consider planning a prayerwalk for your life group, Bible study group, missions group or youth group.
  - Plan a prayerwalk for families in your church.
  - Partner with churches in your area for a community prayerwalk.
- Prayerwalking can be done for many purposes.
  - During your next mission trip, prayerwalk the areas you will serve.
  - Prayerwalk for a specific event, such as the start of a school year, Vacation Bible School, etc.
  - Prayerwalk your community before Easter. Consider prayerwalking on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, Good Friday or the Saturday before Easter, or have separate teams prayerwalk all three days.
  - Prayerwalk in your church, focusing on children's areas, small-group classrooms, staff offices and areas of corporate worship.
- Prayerwalking can be done with a narrow focus.
  - Focus on the marriages in the homes you pass.
  - Pray Christian teachers would make an impact for Christ as you walk near schools.
  - Concentrate on spiritual warfare in a community.
  - Ask God to call a missionary to an area.

\* Purchase online through Books & Bible Studies at [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com)