



## PRAYER WALKING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**Prayer walking** is just what it says...praying while walking. As someone once said, it is praying “on site” with “insight.” Prayer walking engages all your senses to help you pray specifically and effectively, as you see and hear the sights and sounds of where people live. As you meet people along your walk, you have the opportunity for a personal touch, a conversation that can to spiritual topics. Prayer walking is one of the ways we begin to get God’s heart for where we live, work or play. It is “tilling the soil,” asking God to do His work before we plant even one seed of the gospel in someone’s life. Here are seven practical things we’ve learned that help us as we go out to pray over our neighborhoods, communities, and cities.

**#1** As you walk, pray for the people in the homes you pass by. Take notice of the clues that help you know how to pray; a child’s bike in the driveway, a flag or statute that reveals something about the family that lives there. Pray for God to draw unbelievers to Himself and stir up the faith of those who know Him.

**#2** Listen to the Holy Spirit. If you are walking with a partner (highly recommended!), commit to focusing on prayer and don’t be distracted by conversations with one another. If the Holy Spirit prompts you to speak to someone, or impresses on you to take a different route, listen, and obey.

**#3** Make eye contact with the people you pass. If they meet your eyes, smile, and say hello. If they engage you, then take that as an opportunity that God is opening a door for you to have a conversation.

**#4** If you have opportunity to talk to someone you meet, be genuinely interested in the person you are speaking with and trust God to lead your conversation. Take the pressure off yourself to follow a script or get to the end of a “presentation.” God’s Spirit will guide your words.

**#5** Be honest if people ask what you are doing. Tell them you are praying for their area and ask if there is anything you can pray for them. This question alone will often reveal where they are spiritually.

**#6** Trust that God uses what you have opportunity to say, no matter how little or how much. Opening the eyes and heart is His job; we are simply to be faithful messengers when the opportunity arises.

**#7** Be flexible. Once, our prayer walk turned into an hour spent in a coffee shop encouraging a young believer. We trusted that God directed our steps to spend that time with her, just as much as if we’d walked several miles around the neighborhood. Don’t let *your* plan get in the way of what *God* has planned!

As we walk and pray, we ask God to fulfill Joshua 1:3: *Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.* We are believing God for a great harvest of new believers in the cities and neighborhoods where we are praying. We know that He hears our prayers, and that it is His will that people come to salvation. We trust that in His time, our prayers will bear fruit for the gospel.