

Prayer walking made easy

Whenever we look to partner with God in a new area, we start by prayer walking the streets to prepare our hearts and the harvest. We see throughout the Bible that God calls people to walk the land and as we do, this physical act becomes a spiritual one.

Genesis 13:17 *'Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.'*

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

Prayer walking helps us to really see the area and its people through God's eyes. We can hear what God is saying and get an understanding of how the Holy Spirit might want to engage the people who live there. When we prayer walk, all our senses become part of our prayer as sights, smells and sounds prompt our discussion with God.

Prayer walking is not about standing on a street corner praying out loud and preaching. Rather, it is a time of learning, listening and importantly, intercession on behalf of the people we want to reach.

Not only is prayer walking a great first step when looking to reach a community, it is also a powerful way to begin building a team. Prayer walking together can lead to a shared vision and passion for your area and the people you have a heart to reach.

There are many ways you can prayer walk - here are a few ideas to get you started.

Before you begin

- Invite others to join you to pray - two (or more) are always better than one.
- Gather everyone together and check-in to see what they know about the area.
- Read a passage of the Bible to help focus your prayers.
- Ask God to open your hearts, minds and eyes, giving you insight into where he is already at work.
- Before you start give a short introduction about safety awareness (see Safety Tips below).



As you walk

- Keep your eyes open, using what you see to fuel your prayers.
- Pray out loud (if you are walking with others), as if you're having a conversation.
- Consider the following questions, look and pray:
 - Who lives here? Where do people gather? Who don't you see? What's important to this community?
- You can pray for:
 - God to draw people to His heart (John 6:44)
 - miracles, signs and wonders in the area
 - disciple-making workers to be raised up (Luke 10:2)
 - God to reveal people of peace (Luke 10:5-6)
 - the Holy Spirit to direct you as you walk.

Take time to stop and talk to shop keepers, people waiting at a bus stop or others you meet along the way. Listen to people and prayerfully consider what God's already be doing.

After the walk

- If you prayer walked with others, spend time chatting through what you noticed as you walked and if God shared anything with you.
- Keep a record of what God showed you and continue to pray about these things. Ask God how he wants you to respond.
- Use what you learnt from your prayer walk to continue to pray for the region. If possible, aim to prayer walk the area again soon.

Safety Tips

- Consider how safe the places you prayer walk are (e.g. busy streets and paths).
- Be aware of potentially unsafe places for certain groups of people to walk (e.g. dark alleyways, pubs/night clubs, brothels etc).
- **Are kids involved?** How safe is the environment for them? **Parents need to supervise their children at all times.**
- Consider the size of prayer walking groups (we recommend no more than 4 in a group).
- Do not go alone into places that would make you vulnerable and unsafe.
- Be aware of weather conditions and the need to be prepared for those conditions.
- If in new areas have maps and designated meeting points so people don't get lost.
- Make sure people have contact mobile numbers for each other.



Want to go deeper?

- Contact Praxeis (connect@praxeis.org) to learn more, see if there is a Hub near you or find a coach.
- Read *Contagious Disciple Making: Leading others on a journey of discovery* pg. 79 - 193.

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