

## BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK GUIDE

Invite God's presence into your community by walking around it and praying at the same time! Prayer walking propels us out of our church buildings, allowing us to resist the temptation to stay inwardly focused. It stirs us to keep the mission of God at the forefront of our prayers.

Psalms 65:5-7 tells us that the God who calms the roaring waves of the sea and the turmoil of the nations answers our prayers with awesome and righteous deeds! Is there roaring waves and turmoil in your community? Pray!

Jesus instructs us in Matthew 6:10 to pray to God asking that "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Do you desire to see God's restoration and reconciliation brought about in your community as it is in heaven? Pray!

Prayer walking can be done on your own or with a group of others who, together, want to pray for your community. And prayer walking is as simple as it sounds — you just pray as you walk!

### Before You Walk:

- Start and end together. Begin with a group prayer.
- If it is a large group, break up into groups of 2-3. Plan your walking path ahead of time to cover as much area as possible.
- Plan to walk for about a half hour. If there are others who wish to participate but cannot walk, invite them to do a prayer-drive around the neighborhood instead.
- Before you head out on your walk, begin with a time of prayer focused on praising God for all that he is! Confess to the Lord the ways you may have overlooked those in your community and the struggles they face. Ask him to give everyone walking the eyes to see your neighbors the way he would see them, as his children.

### As You Walk:

- Act naturally and keep your eyes open. Be observant about the people who live and work in your community.
- If anyone asks what you are doing, be prepared to tell them that you are praying God's blessing on your community. You may want to ask them if there are ways you can pray for them. Be open to how God might lead a conversation.
- Pray for discernment to see the ways God is already at work in your community. Pray to have a deeper understanding of the people in your community. Offer God thanksgiving when you see how he is moving!

## BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK GUIDE

- Pray for blessing over every person, home, and business you walk by. Ask God to step into each life and for his will to be done throughout your community.
- Pray on behalf of the brokenness you witness as you walk by — damaged relationships, addiction and oppression, jobs, those living in poverty, safety. The things that break the heart of God are the broken things we pray restoration and reconciliation over.
- Use Scripture to pray over your community. As a verse comes to mind, you can offer a prayer based on God's word on behalf of your neighbors.
- Pray boldly in the name of Jesus! He has empowered us to be light in the darkness.
- Welcome silence. There might be times you don't have words to pray. Ask God to reveal his will for your community to you and be still and listen for his voice.

### As You Walk:

- When you are finished, meet back up to share your prayers, observations, and experience. Thank God for the ways you discovered he is working in the community and what he revealed to you.
- Encourage people to continue to pray for your community.