

# Praying For My Campus

## Prayer Walking Foundations

### What is Prayer Walking?

At the core of every thriving ministry and Spirit-led revival, there's a common foundation: prayer. Prayer walking not only helps us understand and identify with God's loving heart but also gives us a powerful opportunity to share this love through prayer with the people we meet on campus. Prayer walking is an innately spiritual act, praying against these "spiritual forces of evil" that Paul describes and asking for God's protection over the campus, every student and faculty, and us as well.

When you prayer walk a campus, you (and potentially a small group) walk around your local campus, praying for classes in particular buildings, groups of students and faculty, and areas of struggle or hope, above all else following the Spirit's direction.

Don't worry if you can't walk, whether that's due to disabilities, virtual classes, or you're far away. This doesn't mean you can't prayer walk!



### Why Prayer Walk?

1. **The Power of Physical Presence** – Throughout the Bible we see moments like the Passover that had very physical components while having a greater spiritual significance. Similarly, there's something spiritually significant about actually being at the place you're praying for.
2. **The Right Perspective** – When we prayer walk a campus and see just how many students and how many corners of campus there are, we're reminded that ministry doesn't really happen because of us. God's the primary mover.
3. **Developing Our Instincts** – The more time you spend prayer walking, the more likely you'll just naturally start praying as you're on your way to meet with a student or lead a Bible study. You'll be more open to the Spirit's leading and to seeing new opportunities for ministry.

## How to Prayer Walk

### Preparing

Choose a campus to prayer walk. Consider your own campus, or if you don't have one, choose one nearby or one you have a personal connection to. Consider these things as you pick a campus:

- Check out the college's website, social media, or brochures.
- Find a campus map.
- Look for potential contacts who can tell you about campus life.
- Request a prayer guide for the campus from [everycampus.com](http://everycampus.com).
- Do a web search for the campus. Have they been in the news lately? What for?

### Logistics:

- Plan when you'll do the prayer walk. Plan for 15 minutes to 1 hour of prayer walking.
- If you want, find intercessors willing to pray for you before, during, and after the prayer walk.
- Bring a Bible, water, snacks, pen and notebook (or phone) for observations, and money for parking.
- Consider inviting others (1-10 people). This can work virtually as well.
- If the campus is small, notify the Dean of Student Life or the Chaplain's Office as a courtesy.

### Going

## General Prayer Walking Guidelines:

- **Start with worship** through music, prayer, or Scripture. Remember that God will go before you.
- **Consider praying with your eyes open.** We don't want you to trip!
- **You don't have to walk the whole time.** It's fine to sit and focus on a particular space. If you're praying with others, take turns praying. But avoid having conversations during the walk.
- **Expect God to work.** Expect conversations and that the Spirit to direct you and open your eyes to needs and opportunities. Record observations and contact info of any people you meet.
- **End by thanking God.** Close with gratitude to the Lord for hearing your prayers and loving the campus.

## Group Recommendations:

- **Gather together.** Meet on campus or nearby. Give introductions, explain prayer walking, why it's valuable, and let them know what they'll be doing on the prayer walk and what to pray about.
- **Talk through any anxieties they have about prayer walking.** Let them know it's okay to be nervous. Encourage them that they're doing a good thing by stepping out in faith. Pray through these concerns with them and try role-playing through potential scenarios.
- **Keep it small.** Break larger groups into teams of two or three. If you're doing it virtually, use breakout rooms to pray in smaller groups.
- **Clarify when and exactly where to meet afterwards.** You don't want to scramble to find each other after a nice long prayer walk, especially on an unfamiliar campus.

## Prayer Locations and Topics:

- **The quad, student union, or other campus gathering spot** – That each person you see would know the love of God and the good news of Jesus Christ.
- **Academic buildings and departmental offices** – For their research to lead to human flourishing, peace, and justice in our world. For a Christian witness to be present in every department.
- **Dorms and Greek houses** – That they would be safe places where students can live and learn together. For residents, Resident Assistants (RAs), and facilities/custodial staff.

## Questions to ask God:

- God, what do you want to show me? Where should I look?
- What values are advertised and promoted? Where and how?
- What barriers are there to ministry on this campus?

## Debriefing

## Logistics:

- If you prayer walked with others, meet up at the agreed-upon time and place.
- If you're by yourself, you can go through the following steps at home, in the car, or at a quiet spot on campus.

## General Guidelines

- Take a few minutes to be silent before God. Let the Spirit draw things to mind.
- Start going through your observations and reflections.
  - Where did you experience God? What new questions came up as a result?
  - What did you notice? What stuck out to you? Did any Scripture or images come to mind?
  - Where did you feel encouraged? Where did you feel distressed like Paul in Athens ([Acts 17:16–34](#))?
  - List two items that you want to keep in mind as you minister on campus.

- Who should you tell about this prayer walk?
  - When should you prayer walk the campus again? Schedule it now before you forget.
  - How will you circle back to any people of peace you met?
- If you're debriefing in a group, encourage everyone to share even if they feel like they don't have anything new to add. Try to find patterns and common themes within the group. As the leader, it's important to point out that you're not an expert at listening to God, and it's possible that you may be misinterpreting. Pray for the Spirit's wisdom and confirmation.
- Develop a list of three to four major prayer requests based on all your observations. Share these with your intercessors who prayed for the prayer walk. Be sure to keep track of these requests, expecting God to move and work in the coming weeks and months.
- Finish by spending a few minutes praising God.
- Rest and relax.

## Get Walking!

Here's some practical things you can do to set up your prayer walk:

- Think of some people you want to prayer walk with and send them a text message invite.
- Pick a time in your calendar where you can prayer walk the campus.
- Download on your phone or print out [this prayer walk guide](#).
- You can also just exit out of the Playbook and head straight to campus!

## Related Resources

- [Prayer Walk Guide](#)
- [Every Campus Virtual Prayer Walking](#)
- [Every Campus Prayer Walk](#)

## Recommended Courses

- [Growing My Networks](#)
- [Inviting Well](#)
- [Sharing the Gospel](#)

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