



**bless our
neighborhoods**

PRAYER GUIDE

BLESSED TO BLESS





an invitation to bless and pray

The pages that follow are an invitation to you and those you share life with. We believe that something happens when we pray for and bless the people and places where we live. It's as if Jesus is inserted into their circumstances, His Spirit becomes present, new life is shared, and things seem to change! What would happen if this became part of our weekly habits? Whenever we receive an invitation we have an option: to say "yes" or say "no." Our hope and prayer is that you will say "yes." Thanks for being a believer who knows you are "blessed to bless!"



**“I AM GIVING
YOU EVERY
SQUARE
INCH OF THE
LAND YOU
SET YOUR
FOOT ON.”**

—JOSHUA 1:3

how to prayer walk

WHAT?

Prayer walking is stepping out and praying for your community as you walk. This prayer tool will help you to get started.

WHY?

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’” —Abraham Kuyper

a quick introduction

One of the most effective forms of spiritual warfare is prayer walking.

Inspired by God's promise to Joshua, we can walk the victory of Jesus into every part of our neighborhoods, cities and nations.

In faith we walk, believing that as the soles of our feet hit the ground, we are appropriating the work of Jesus over the principalities and powers influencing the atmosphere and shaping the narratives of our city.

Each step we take in Jesus' name, we weaken something of the enemy's grip in the Heavenly realms and subvert the systems of evil and injustice.

Prayer walking thrusts us out of our church buildings, forcing us to resist the temptation to stay inward-focused, stirring us to keep the mission front and center. It engages all our senses, rousing us to cry out to God as we walk with defiant hope into every crack and crevice of our cities.

While we walk in victory, and therefore pray in victory, let us remember the way that victory was won—sacrificial, self-emptying, love.

As we prayer walk, let's not get so consumed with the forces of darkness and our own adrenaline rush of triumphalism that we get our eyes off Jesus. Let us kneel in our streets in a posture of humility, repentance and unity, and let us declare that Jesus' sacrifice is more than enough for the redemption of all peoples and places.





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do it: how to prayer walk

This uses WALK as an acronym and contains four simple steps:

*Content from 24/7 Prayer Toolshed
How to Prayer Walk
www.prayercourse.org

WORSHIP: As you set off walking, begin with your eyes on Jesus. Say the name of Jesus; recite a Psalm; hum a worship song; speak quietly in prayer—basically anything that helps declare the Lordship of Jesus over the streets you walk on.

ASK: Flowing from your worship, begin petitioning God for His Spirit to fall on the streets you walk on, the homes, businesses, schools and other churches you walk past. Begin to get specific and pray for people and situations, the ‘people of peace’ you know God has brought you into contact with who are opening up doors of opportunity for the gospel within your community.

LISTEN: As you worship and pray, leave space to listen to what God might want to say to you—then pray that back. Often God may give you promises from scripture or prophetic words and pictures; listen for promises and literally walk these promises all over your community. If you are prayer walking in twos, listen to one another’s prayers and you will find yourself sparking off one another’s words and thoughts.

KNOW YOUR LAND: Get (and keep) yourself informed around the area you are prayer walking; research some of its history; some of its ongoing problems; so you can pray for breakthrough. Get to know some of the current situations that require persevering prayer and also celebrate the particular graces that rest on the area, asking God to make your area a blessing beyond its borders.



blessings for neighborhoods

BLESSING OF NEW LIFE

*“This is what the Sovereign Lord says:
‘Come, O breath, from the four winds!
Breathe into these dead bodies so they
may live again. So I spoke the message as
he commanded me, and breath came into
their bodies. They all came to life and stood
up on their feet—a great army.’”
—Ezekiel 37:9-10*

Lord, we thank you that you love every person in this community and today we partner with you to bless dead hearts to come alive! We welcome the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to blow through neighborhoods and workplaces bringing your breath of life to all who are in need of your reviving presence. Breath on us, O Lord!

BLESSING OF REFUGE AND HEALING

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor...”
—Isaiah 61:1-2*

Lord, we thank you that you are good news! We bless our city as a place of refuge,

welcome, healing and freedom. We bless our city with Kingdom models of care and restoration that would see lives completely transformed by you. We thank you that you care for the whole person, body, mind and spirit and we pray that people would find a “healing home” here and experience the beauty of the Kingdom from your people.

BLESSING OF UNITY AND HUMILITY

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” —Philippians 2:1-4

Lord, we bless believers in Pella with Christ’s humility and with lives marked by unity and compassion. We pray that followers of Jesus would look for opportunities to serve their families, neighbors, and co-workers with sacrificial love. We pray that you would tear down dividing walls of hostility between believers and churches and that you would make us one in spirit. We pray that our neighbors would be drawn to you by the love we have for one another in Jesus’ name.



BLESSING OF THE LIGHT OF SALVATION

*“I will appoint you as...a light to the nations,
to open eyes that are blind, and to free
captives from the prison...”*

—Isaiah 42:6-7

We bless our neighbors to walk out of darkness into the light of your love. We pray today for those who are still in darkness but are right on the verge of stepping into Your light and life. We bless you to call them to yourself, free them from their prisons, and give them the courage to follow you. Bless us with opportunities to share how your light has changed our lives forever.

BLESSING OF GOD’S KINGDOM

*“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as it is in heaven.” —Matthew 6:10*

We bless our neighbors with knowing the beauty of your Kingdom and the goodness of following you as King. We welcome your heavenly rule and reign over the lives, homes, and lands that we walk today. We are praying that we would see heaven break through to the earth in powerful ways so that people might be saved, healed, and set free in Jesus’ name.





keep it going

It's our hope that we would choose to love our neighbors through the simple and practical acts of connecting, caring, and praying. In that light, we would encourage you to keep this prayer guide and neighbor map handy—practicing the weekly calls to action throughout the year. Here are the invitations...

WEEK 1: CONVERSATION

Engage in an intentional conversation with a neighbor and learn a way you can be praying for them or their household. If you are comfortable, you can share with them that you'll be praying. Consider writing the request down in their "box" on page 12..

WEEK 2: WALK & PRAY

Walk your neighborhood and pray the prayers on pages 8-10.

WEEK 3: FOLLOW-UP

Check in with your neighbor. Follow up on what you learned: how are they doing?

WEEK 4: ONE DAY EXERCISE

What's a "one day?" It's one day a month where you and your household do something kind for your neighbor. Examples—bake cookies, shovel their driveway, invite them over for dinner.

WEEK 5: WALK & PRAY

Walk your neighborhood and pray the prayers on pages 8-10.



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

For this prayer map we define our neighbors as those we live in closest proximity to—those in our own households, friends, co-workers and actual neighbors. Take a moment to pray and listen, asking God to highlight eight people or households that you can be intentionally praying, serving and connecting with over this next year. As God brings them to mind, write their names in the boxes below. Use this “neighbor map” as an ongoing tool and reminder for intercession throughout this year.

Most of all we want to pray that our neighbors would encounter the LOVE OF GOD! We would invite you to pray that you receive God’s heart of love for those for whom you pray—and that as the Spirit leads, you would have opportunities to express that love in kind and servant-hearted ways.

		



a prayer for my neighbor

Write out a prayer for a neighbor, co-worker, friend, close family member or an actual neighbor.



**“THE LORD
BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU;**

**THE LORD
MAKE HIS FACE
SHINE ON YOU
AND
BE GRACIOUS
TO YOU;**

**THE LORD
TURN HIS FACE
TOWARD YOU
AND GIVE YOU
PEACE.”**

—NUMBERS 6:24-26



THIRD
CHURCH

708 E 13th Street
Pella, IA 50219

Phone: 641-628-3051
office@trcpella.com
www.trcpella.com