

Learning Community Ten

Prayer Walking

20-30
minutes

Personal Check-in:

Facilitator Instructions: Instruct everyone that they have 15 minutes to go for a walk in groups of two or three. As they walk they are to pray for various needs in the community. They can pray silently or out loud as they walk, whichever they are most comfortable with. Allow the following words that start with “P” to be their prayer guide.

- Pray for **P**eople
- Pray for **P**ain
- Pray for **P**roblems
- Pray for **P**eace

Debrief

Once everyone is gathered back together, spend some time debriefing the experience with the following questions:

Question #1: What was the experience like for you?

Question #2: What are some of the possible benefits of praying while walking in a community?



15-30
minutes

Homework Debrief:

Instructions: Below is a list of the homework assignments from the last meeting. Ask each pastor to update the group on how they responded to each of the items. After everyone has checked in regarding the homework, take some time to talk about lessons that are being learned so far. Capture the discussion on a whiteboard or a flipchart.

1. Apply Bridges' model of transition to your congregation by filling out the Me and Transition Worksheet below.

2. Watch *Prayerwalking Your Community* and come prepared to discuss your major learnings and personal applications from the DVD (see DVD Review Questions). You can order the DVD from Nelson Searcy at www.churchleaderinsights.com or call 800-264-5129. When going to the website, click on the **Store** button and then type in **Prayerwalking** in the Product Search window. Total running time for the DVD is 23 ½ minutes.

Me and Transition Worksheet

Instructions: On a separate piece of paper, reflect on the following questions related to transition and your church leadership:

1. How is the transition process going for me personally?
2. Where is the church right now in Bridges Transition Model?
3. What 3-5 issues must I address to successfully manage our transition journey?
4. Where could we get stuck in the transition process?
5. Who in the congregation can help me stay the course and ensure that we make it to the Promised Land?



5. How were you personally challenged by *Prayerwalking*?

6. What barriers or obstacles need to be cleared away to enable you to try prayer walking personally and corporately?

7. What are your five most important take-away insights from the DVD?

45-60
minutes

Case Study Interaction:

Instructions: If a pastor is lined up for this meeting, give him 10-15 minutes to talk about his church. With the remaining time, ask the group to give feedback on the following questions and to spend time interacting with the pastor about the following:

- 1. Please share the prescriptions you received from the Weekend Consultation.**

- 2. What progress have you made toward implementing the prescriptions?**

- 3. What are the most significant challenges you are facing in implementing the prescriptions?**

- 4. Have you done your time study? What did you learn about your use of time? What are you doing to make changes in your use of time? How are you getting these changes rooted in your life for the long term?**

- 5. What leadership skills are you focused on developing? Share your sense of progress and your challenges.**

- 6. Have you built new bridges into the community? If not, why not? If so, how? What are the results so far? How can you improve your vision casting for reaching the community?**

- 7. What are you doing each week to create a sense of urgency? Are you seeing an increase in Sunday worship attendance?**

- 8. What are your plans for the next three months?**



30-45
minutes

Learning Activity: Prayerwalking

Facilitator Instructions: Point everyone to the article entitled “Prayerwalking”. Ask everyone to read the article slowly and to highlight ideas that seem important to them. After everyone has read break the group into twos and threes to discuss the questions at the end of the article. If you have time, bring the whole group together at the end to discuss a few of the questions.

Prayerwalking

In hundreds of cities across the globe, ordinary believers are prayerwalking through the streets of their communities. They pray while walking, with eyes open for the spiritual awakening God is bringing.

There is no set pattern or proven formula. Prayerwalkers have set out with every imaginable style. There’s nothing magical about praying while walking. God’s Spirit is simply helping us to pray in the midst of the very settings in which we expect Him to answer our prayers. We instinctively draw near to those for whom we pray. Getting up close to the community focuses our prayer. We sharpen our prayers by concentrating on specific homes and families. But we enlarge our praying as well, crying out for entire communities to know God’s healing presence.

Prayerwalks give us a simple way to continually fill the streets with prayer. Many are praying city-size prayers while ranging throughout their towns with disciplined regularity in small bands of two or three. In limited access countries, thousands of “tourists” walk the streets interceding for the lost in their own communities. Thus prayerwalkers keep near the lost in order to touch them with the Gospel and transforming service. Quiet triumphs often follow as God changes the city day by day and house by house.

Getting Started: 7 Steps to Consider in Prayerwalking

Join with other believers. Join your faith with others to help prayer flow in an engaging, conversational style. Large groups sometimes fail to give everyone a chance to participate. Pairs and triplets work best. (For example, a group of eight could naturally divide into pairs as they walk, but keep in sight of each other or meet back together at a certain location.)

Set aside time. Allowing one or two full hours gives prayerwalkers a good chance to manage preliminaries and follow-up discussions, although much can be done in less time.

Choose an area. Ask God to guide you. It's best by far to learn the joys of prayerwalking in unfamiliar neighborhoods. You'll return to your own neighborhood with fresh vision. Centers of commerce and religion are fascinating, but there's nothing like touching families, schools, and churches in residential areas. Use elevated points to pray over a panorama. Linger at specific sites which seem to be key.

Pray with insight. Pray for the people you see. As you do, you might find the Spirit of God recalibrating your heart with His own sensitivities. Enhance these responsive insights with research done beforehand. Use knowledge of past events and current trends to enrich intercession. Above all, pray Scripture. If you have no clear place to begin praying, select just about any of the biblical prayers, and you will find that they almost pray themselves.

Focus on God. Make God's promises rather than Satan's schemes the highlight of your prayer. Seek a restraining order from heaven upon evil so that God's empowered people may bring forth God's intended blessings on the city.

Re-gather and report. Share what you have experienced and prayed. Expressing something of your insights and faith will encourage others as well as yourself. Set plans for further prayerwalking.

Coordinate efforts. Enlist other praying people to join with friends to cover special areas. Give leadership by forming and mixing prayer bands. Seek to collect written notes recording which areas have been covered and what kinds of prayers have been prayed. Pool your insights to ascertain whether God is prompting a repeated focus on particular areas. Eventually aim to cover your entire town or city, unless God guides otherwise.

Creative Things to Pray during a Prayerwalk

1. Attempt to keep every prayer pertinent to the specific community you pass through. As you do, you will find prayers naturally progress to the nation and to the world.



2. Use a theme passage of Scripture. Unless God guides you to use another, try 1 Timothy 2:1-10. Many have found it to be a useful launching point for prayerwalking. Verse 8 speaks of the important territorial dimension to prayer connected with God's desire that all people be saved. "I want the men in every place to pray" (*italics added*). Copy this and other passages in a format easy to read aloud several times during your walk. Each of the following prayer points emerge from this passage.

3. Concerning Christ: Proclaim Him afresh to be the one Mediator and the ransom for all. Name Him Lord of the neighborhood and of the lives you see.

4. Concerning leaders: Pray for people responsible in any position of authority for teachers, police, administrators, and parents.

5. Concerning peace: Cry out for the godliness and holiness of God's people to increase into substantial peace. Pray for new churches to be established.

6. Concerning truth: Declare openly the bedrock reality that there is one God. Celebrate the faithful revelation of His truth to all peoples through ordinary people (1 Timothy 2:8). Pray that the eyes of minds would cease to be blinded by Satan so that they could come to a knowledge of the truth.

7. Concerning the blessing of God: Thanksgivings are to be made on behalf of all people. Give God the explicit thanks He deserves for the goodness He constantly bestows on the homes you pass by. Ask to see the city with His eyes, that you might sense what is good and pleasing in His sight as well as what things grieve Him deeply. Ask God to bring forth an enduring spiritual awakening.

8. Concerning the church: Ask for healing in relationships, that there be no wrath or dissension among God's people. Ask that God would make His people, men and women alike, expressive in worship with the substance of radiant, relational holiness. Ask that our worship would be adorned with the confirming power of saints doing good in our communities.

Use your Eyes and Ears to Pray Creatively:

1. Standing on a high place and seeing power lines between Himself and the city below, you could pray that the Holy Spirit would empower those

who ministered in that city.

2. Waiting at a traffic light in a crowded city, you could pray with the changing of the lights that nonbelievers would exercise caution in their decisions, stop their sinful ways, and go toward Jesus.

3. Deafened by the noise of a city street, you could pray that those who live in that noisy city would be able to hear the still, small voice of God.

4. Seeing a welder at his work, you could begin to sing, “It only takes a spark to get a fire going...” then pray for that spark.

5. Hearing a siren, you could pray for safety until these people could hear and respond to the Gospel, and pray for those who offer physical and spiritual care in the city.

6. Be creative...open your eyes and ears, and allow God to prompt you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which ideas from “Prayerwalking” stood out to you and why?

2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?

3. What would stand in the way of you practicing the discipline of prayerwalking?



20-30
minutes

Learning Activity: Me and PrayerWalking

Facilitator Instructions: As the final activity for this session, ask people to put together a prayerwalking plan that they will actually do for homework. Reinforce that their plan is something that they are actually meant to do in the next 30 days or before you meet the next time for training. If you have time, ask people to share their plans with a partner or two, and then pray for each other. If it is appropriate, this can also be a group brainstorming time if a group is going to do this as an activity together.

Me and Prayerwalking (a few planning questions)

Question #1: How often will I prayerwalk?

Question #2: Who will I ask to join me in prayerwalking?

Question #3: Where will we prayerwalk?

Question #4: What are some specific issues and concerns I would like to pray for as I walk?

a.

b.

c.

d.

Question #5: What have I learned about prayerwalking that I want to remember or try out?

Question #6: How could I use the resource below to implement prayer walking in my congregation?



We are your neighbor and care for you. We believe in the power of prayer and the action of God. We sent a Prayer Walking Team in your neighborhood today (_____) to pray that God would meet your needs of body, soul and spirit.

If you have specific prayer requests that you would like us to pray for, please list below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Our Prayer Team will be back on _____ to pick up the requests. Just simply put it on the door, or we can pray with you when we come by.

God's Blessings!

Helpful Resources

Hawthorne, Steve. *PrayerWalk Organizer Guide*. PrayerWalk USA, 1996.
Hawthorne, Steve. *Prompts for Prayerwalkers*. Waymakers.
Hawthorne, Steve and Graham Kendrick. *Prayerwalking*. Creation House, 1993.

*All of the above resources are available at www.waymakers.org or
WayMakers: Box 203131, Austin, Texas, 78720*

Helpful websites

www.waymakers.org



**5
minutes**

Homework and Wrap-Up

Facilitator Instructions: Close out the session by highlighting the homework assignment.

Homework Assignment:

1. Go on one extended prayerwalk per week that focuses on the needs of the community around you and your church.

2. Share your plan from the Learning Activity, “Me and Prayer Walking,” with your staff and church leadership. Be prepared to share with the group their response and your long range goals and plans for prayer walking at your church.

3. Make it your goal to pray daily for a few people in your sphere of relationships who need Christ. Come prepared to discuss how you are personally engaging the community and how you are overcoming the on-going challenges you face in being outreach oriented. Fill out the “Me and the Harvest” worksheet prior to the next meeting.

4. Read the book entitled *Cultivating a Life for God* by Neil Cole and answer the Book Review Questions. To order this book, go to <http://www.cmresources.org/cultivating-a-life-for-god>.

Book Review Questions

***Cultivating a Life for God* by Neil Cole**

1. How did the author challenge you about the need for life transformation?

2. Which principles from Chapter 3 were you challenged by?

3. How do you respond to the author's claims in Chapter 6?

4. How have you seen the power of God's Word transform a life recently?

5. What obstacles might you encounter in trying to encourage accountability and confession of sin in your church?



6. What part of LTG's do you like? Dislike?

7. What would be some of the benefits of your church incorporating LTG's into the life of the congregation?

8. What are your three biggest take-away insights from this book?

9. What are two of your favorite quotes about cultivating a life for God from the book?

LC Evaluation:

Date:

Location:

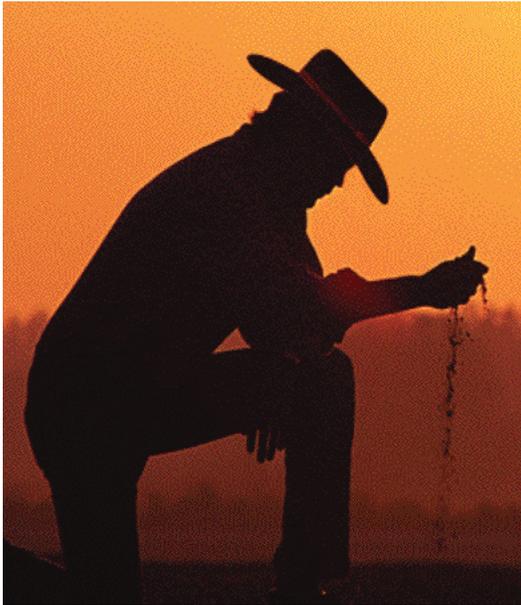
Questions:

1. What did you like most about the homework from the last Learning Community?

2. What did you like least about the homework from the last Learning Community?

3. How could we improve today's Learning Community experience?

4. How can we give you additional support for developing leadership skills in your own life and helping your church turn outward?



Me and the Harvest

1. How committed have I been to praying for people who need Jesus?
2. What have I done in the past month to help someone move closer to Christ?
3. What changes do I need to make in the next month to find time to be more outreach focused?
4. How did I keep the fire burning for outreach in our church this past month?
5. What have I learned about the community needs in this past month that our church could be poised to meet?
6. What's the most important outreach oriented action step I can take in this next month?