

What to Say

To those who ask what you are doing...

"We are praying for God's blessing in Jesus' name for people living/working near here. Is there any specific way that we might pray for you?"

To those who ask who you are ...

"We are concerned Christians from a variety of churches. Today we wanted to bring some of our prayers a little closer so that we might pray a little clearer."

To those who may be open to your offer to pray for them ...

"Perhaps you are facing situations which defy human solution. We would be happy to pray with you about any of your specific concerns. How can we pray particularly for you?"

You may have more to pray than you have to say (and we have plenty to say!). If you pray with people, pray briefly in the simplest, non-religious language possible. Pray for their specific need and pray a blessing of God's love on their life. Don't feel compelled to explain the gospel at this time. In fact, it may be more powerful in the long run for you to leave them with a blessing and give God opportunity to bring an answer to your prayer. Ask God to send someone who will introduce them to the joy of living as a follower of Christ.

What to Pray: Blessing and Truth for Every Person

1. For Every Person and Every Leader

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all people. For kings and all who are in authority...

Pray God's blessing upon every person. For some, express requests and thanks that they have yet to offer to God. For others, join them in crying out to God for things they desire and need. Pray blessing and stability upon the leaders of the community.

2. For God's People to Bless the Entire Community for God's Joy

...so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God...

Pray for Christians to display Christ's name and character openly. Ask God to mature His people to become His servants throughout the community in the power of the gospel. When God accomplishes His blessing, it is "good" in His sight. Ask God to transform the entire community so that it reflects His goodness and peace.

3. For Truth to Salvation

... our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Pray for God's desire to be satisfied, that every person would understand the truth of Christ as Savior. Pray for every person you see that they will be saved.

4. For the Testimony of Christ

... For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Give praise to the One God and the sole Mediator who even now stands between these people and the God who desires them. Ask God to hasten the time of citywide testimony about Christ.

How to Prayerwalk

1. Form a Team

You'll be most effective in groups of two or three. It often helps for a carload of five or six people to form two groups which work their way along particular streets.

2. Find a Territory

Aim to cover a small part of a specific neighborhood. As you approach this area with sensitivity and wisdom, you'll discover the best way to cover it with prayer.

3. Follow a Topic

Get your prayers rolling by praying along with scripture. Begin with the truths of 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and/or Psalm 23. Any biblical promise will help you pray with hope and blessing. Don't carry heavy Bibles. Carry this sheet or small portions of scripture.

4. Finish with a Talk

After you're finished, talk about it. What prayers should be prayed again? When and where will you prayerwalk next? How should you watch for God's answers and bring the good news? What acts of kindness or service is God giving you to do? How can you bring this kind of praying into your ongoing work in your home city?

**May your kingdom come...
in this POSTAL Code
...as it is in heaven.**

Prayerwalking by Steve Hawthorne

God is pressing us to bring our prayers beyond the walls of the church buildings, right into the neighborhoods, campuses and workplaces where He desires to bring the hope of His kingdom. In order to better pray with the shepherd heart of God, we're going to pray as we walk through the streets of the city.

Praying On-Site With Insight

We call this kind of on-site intercession "prayerwalking." It's simply praying in the very places where we expect God to bring forth His answers. Prayerwalking simply helps us to draw nearer in order to pray clearer.

Praying with a Low Profile

Prayerwalking is usually a low-profile affair. Once in a while, the prayers can be demonstrative, but usually prayerwalking is being on the scene without making one.

Praying with High Hopes

Pray with hope by dreaming of the good things that God desires to do for the people you see.

Try to express what's in God's heart with your words. That's what praying blessings is all about: God's great love, expressed in prayer by ordinary people like us.

What to Pray: For those without a Shepherd

Read Psalm 23 with particular people of this community in mind. Consider how Jesus Himself is at work in their lives, pursuing them and caring for them, like a shepherd would care for his own sheep. Pray for people that you see, or for those that you know are nearby the place you are praying.

Let these verses help you express God's heart in your own words.

1. Lead them to a time of renewal (vs. 1-2).

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters....

Pray for freedom from pressures which keep them on the run from God; that they would be weaned from the intoxication of being busy; that Jesus would break addictive habits that keep them filling themselves with hunger; for Christ to renew their appetite for things of God and fill their deepest thirst.

2. Lead them in the joy of right living (vs. 3).

...He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake....

Pray that Christ would overhaul the interior of their lives, that they would be restored to see what is true and to value what is right; that they would be guided to make choices in accordance with God's design, to taste the joy of living rightly. Pray that Christ leads people into doing His justice and righteousness in a way that His renown will be great.

3. Lead them through fear and grief (vs. 4).

...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me...

Pray that Christ would manifest his presence to them as they navigate difficult days of fear or grief; that Christ's rod would be experienced as a great protection against evil powers; that Christ's staff would gently nudge them as a guiding force in times of terror or confusion; that they will be both confronted and comforted by Christ. Pray for the peace of Christ to lift the shadow of fear throughout the community.

4. Lead them to know and worship God (vs. 6).

...Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever [literally "length of days"].

Pray that God's goodness will overshadow them, virtually herding them into renewed trust and intimacy with Him. Pray that Christ's love would be revealed, attracting them into a worshipping relationship with God. *[Note: The phrase "house of the Lord" probably refers to the temple, as in Psalm 27:4, and all that it signifies today: a committed, worshipping relationship with God.]* Pray that their lives would be long, and that God would draw them near to Himself in lasting relationship.