



*This is an invitation to audacity—to believe that the Gospel is transformative today and that God’s Spirit is at work in the uniqueness of our own individuality and that of our neighborhoods.*

### **The Value of a Prayer Walk**

By Kirk Lauckner

Being new to our city, one of the most formational practices that has become a part of my weekly rhythm is simply to walk and pray through my neighborhood. There is something deep and transformational that happens when we walk the streets of our community while conversing with God. I would like to invite you to make a 30-day “practice” by walking and praying through your own neighborhood.

## **Thirty Days of Praying Through the Neighborhood**

### **Day One: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, would You please deepen my love for my neighborhood, this “place” I call home. “The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1:14)*

### **Day Two: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Do I know the names of my neighbors?  
*Lord, help me to learn the names of those living by me.*

### **Day Three: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, thank You for the gift of a new day! May You surprise me as I walk these streets and enjoy this time with You. May a “divine appointment” happen today!*

### **Day Four: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

When was the last time I was invited into my neighbors’ home? When was the last time I had a neighbor over for dinner?  
*Lord, would You give me the time and capacity to practice hospitality? Is there someone we could invite for dinner within the next month?*

### **Day Five: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, help me to be faithfully present in my neighborhood. May I intentionally say “yes” and “no” to the right things so I have more time for my neighbors.*

**Day Six: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

What promises am I praying over for my neighborhood? While I am walking today bring to mind specific scripture that speaks to loving people, the neighborhood, and the expansion of the gospel.

**Day Seven: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Are there other Christ-followers in my neighborhood? Who else can join us?  
*Lord, would you please help me identify "people of peace" or people who care deeply about my neighborhood.*

**Day Eight: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, would You please deepen my love for my neighborhood, this "place" I call home.*  
"The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood." (John 1:14)

**Day Nine: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, help me to see my neighborhood with Your eyes. May my heart break for those things that break Your heart.*

**Day Ten: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today while walking I will bring along a bag and pick up trash along the way.  
*Lord, thank you for Your creation; help me to steward and care for the beauty of the earth You have made.*

**Day Eleven: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today I will give thanks! As I walk I will focus on the blessings that God has given me. Much like a river that is overflowing, I will allow "thanks" to well up inside my heart.

*Lord, thank You my neighborhood, my home, food, and the daily comforts that I so often take for granted. Thank You!*

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**" (Colossians 2:6-7)

**Day Twelve: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today as I walk I will pay attention to the buildings, the businesses, nonprofits, schools, and churches. What is already happening in my neighborhood and how may I join in and help these organizations?

*Lord, please lead me as I consider how involved I should become in my neighborhood.*

**Day Thirteen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today I will pray at a park or playground. When was the last time I intentionally visited our community center?

*Lord, I long to be a "known character," one that is recognized, loved, and respected. Use me in this "place."*

**Day Fourteen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today I will pray for laborers to flow out of the neighborhood.

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask The Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’ ” (Matthew 9:36-38)

**Day Fifteen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, would You please deepen my love for my neighborhood, this “place” I call home.*

“The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1:14)

**Day Sixteen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today I will meditate on these four words: **Soften, Center, Listen, and Respond.**

*Lord, may you keep my heart **Soft** and open, **Centered** in Christ, **Listening** to your Holy Spirit, and **Responding** in love.*

**Day Seventeen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today I will invite a friend to join me as I walk. (The relationship with this person will determine whether we pray together or simply walk while praying silently.)

“For where two or three come together in My name, there I am with them.”

(Matthew 18:20)

**Day Eighteen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

“The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” (Galatians 5:14)

**Day Nineteen: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Who are the neighbors that God is moving and drawing me towards, nudging me to take that next-step from “acquaintance” into “relationship”?

*Lord, will You help me move towards friendship with my neighbors, going beyond simply knowing their names.*

**Day Twenty: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

**Day Twenty-One: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

When was the last time we had a party at our house? Who could we invite? Who could help us?

“Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.” (Luke 5:29)

**Day Twenty-Three: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, would You please deepen my love for my neighborhood, this “place” I call home.  
“The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1:14)*

**Day Twenty-Four: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today as I walk I will ask God to give me a picture of what our neighborhood could become.

*Lord, please increase the vision for my neighborhood.*

**Day Twenty-Five: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

Today as I walk I will pray for insight on how I can “link” with other neighborhoods within my city.

**Day Twenty-Six: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

“The number-one obstacle to neighboring well is time. Do you currently live at a pace that allows you to be present in your neighborhood?” (*The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon)

**Day Twenty-Seven: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

“From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.” (Acts 17:26-27)

**Day Twenty-Eight: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

“Remember that God is and has been at work in your neighborhood. Part of leadership is attuning yourself to the breath of God as He brings new life to the dry bones of your place. Live in the freedom that comes from knowing that God loves your neighborhood far more than you ever will. You can actually trust God’s love for your place.” (*The New Parish* by Paul Sparks and Tim Soerens)

**Day Twenty-Nine: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

*Lord, would You please deepen my love for my neighborhood, this “place” I call home.  
“The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1:14)*

**Day Thirty: WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.**

“I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Thank you for taking the time to **WALK. PRAY. PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN.** Perhaps this will stimulate you to a lifetime practice of prayer for the “place” where you live. Whether you reside in the heart of a major city, in suburbia, or in the middle of the countryside, God has people who live “*Next Door to Everyone.*” I can’t wait to see what God will do in your neighborhood! Love deeply and give your life away for the sake of the Kingdom!