

UNITED IN PRAYER
PRAYER WALK GUIDE: WEEK 1

“Satan does not care how many people read about prayer
if only he can keep them from praying.”
(Paul Bilheimer)

Thank you so much for uniting in prayer with people from your church! This is going to be an exciting four weeks as we join together in crying out to God for His miraculous hand to be at work in our church and in our lives.

This prayer guide you hold is **a tool** to help you. Just remember, however, it is simply a guide. Use it as you need it. The important thing is not that you follow this guide step by step, but that you pray. If at any time you feel lead to veer from the guide, please follow the leading of the Holy Spirit! Again, it’s only meant as a guide to help you. There are no right or wrong ways to do this prayer walk! Perhaps some weeks you won’t get through the entire guide; that’s ok! The purpose is not to finish the guide, but to draw near to God and find that He is drawing near to you. (James 4:8)

This guide walks you through three phases of praying:

- 1) Worship/adoration/praise
- 2) Repentance/confession
- 3) Intercession

We are encouraging everyone to **walk around the building** sometime during your prayer time.

If weather permits, walk outside, around the perimeter of the building. If weather issues prevent this, then either sit in your car and pray, or walk the length of the lobby, from front door to atrium (if the church is unlocked.) If the worship center is available and the lights are on, feel free to do your prayer walk in there (understanding that you may have to leave the sanctuary if it is needed.) You may walk around one time or several times.

As you prayer-walk, be encouraged to know that there will be many others who will be walking around this building sometime during the week, also crying out to God for His mighty hand to be active in our lives and in our church. You are combining your prayers with the prayers of other. That’s powerful!

Expect God to work powerfully this month as we join together in prayer!

Expect great things from God.
Attempt great things for God.
(William Carey, Father of Modern Missions)

PRAYER WALK

Worship/Adoration/Praise:

As you begin your prayer walk, start with a time of worship, adoration and praise of your Savior. This will help prepare your heart and mind. You can do this in various ways:

- You can express your praise **in your own words**, praising Him for all He is and all He has done. Thank Him for His care, His faithfulness, His love, His Word, His love, etc. I encourage you to do this out loud; it will help you stay focused. (If you feel weird doing this, whisper your prayers.)
- You can express your praise **by singing to Him**. Perhaps you will chose one of your favorite songs and sing it softly to Him.
- You can express your praise **by praying His Word** back to Him. Use these verses or your own favorites.

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.” (Psalm 63:3-4)

“Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!” (Psalm 66:1)

“You are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.” (Psalm 71:7-8)

“But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long.” (Psalm 71:14-15)

Don't move quickly through this time of worship, adoration and praise. Spend enough time here that you begin to get focused and ready to move on to repentance and confession.

Repentance and Confession:

So often when Christians pray, they neglect this vitally important part of prayer: confessing their sins to the One who forgives and repenting over that sin. So, as you walk, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you are not currently living Christlike... any areas where you are cherishing (coddling) sin. Don't just think about obvious sins, but also areas of bad attitudes, complacent lifestyle, stagnant faith, etc. When He reveals something to you, be sure to confess it and tell Him how sorry you are. (If you don't feel very sorrowful over your sin, spend time asking the Lord to break your heart over your pride and ego.)

If you find yourself struggling with this part of prayer, read out loud the following verses:

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened... Psalm 66:18

If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Psalm 32:5

Intercession:

Once you get your heart right before the Lord, then you are ready to go on to intercession. Intercession is simply crying out to the Lord for others. It is a powerful thing to do and a great privilege given to us by our Savior. One author says it this way:

“By means of intercessory prayer God extends to each of us a personalized, hand-engraved invitation to become intimately involved in laboring for the well-being of others.” (Richard Foster)

This month the people of First Wes will labor in prayer for others. This week let's intercede for these needs:

➤ **People who need to find Christ as Savior:**

Read out loud Paul's agony over his people who were lost:

I speak the truth in Christ...I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Romans 9:1-4

Ask God for a broken heart over people who are lost without His saving grace.

Pray by name for anyone you know who is not yet a follower of Christ.

Pray for those who come through our doors this month who don't know Christ.

➤ **Revival:**

At various times in history, God has poured out His Spirit in very obvious, powerful ways. These times result in a great number of people coming to Christ, in people being freed from addictions and chains that have long held them and in relationships being restored – and all of this occurring in unusual numbers. These times of revival have almost always followed a concentrated time of prayer by people crying out to the Lord for this kind of movement of God. Let's bond together to pray for this kind of revival at First Wes!

“Revivals are born in prayer.” (Dr J Wilbur Chapman)

Take some time to pray for this mighty moving of God upon our church

➤ **Volunteers**

At First Wes we need more volunteers in every ministry. Spend some time asking the Lord to place His call upon lives and invite them to join Him in making a difference for His kingdom here at First Wes.

Closing: End your time of prayer with some praise!