

A PRAYER WALK FOR

House Churches

This prayer walk is one lap around the quarter-mile prayer path. You will have many opportunities to talk with each other and talk with God. Share honestly with each other and pray for one another. Move at a pace that works for your group. This Prayer Walk will likely take around an hour.

Prayer

CHECK-IN

Start your walk by gathering under the pergola at the beginning of the path.

You are all at different places in your prayer journey. Some have been praying for years, some are newer to prayer, some may have a deep prayer life, and some may want to grow in prayer.

Go around and have everyone **share** how they would describe their current prayer life in one word.

Praying

FOR OTHERS

Continue on the trail to the patio with the eight blue chairs. Sit next to each other and look at the globe. It's a big world. Full of people.

Our world is full of people, too—family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

Go around and have everyone **share** one person they would like prayers for. As people share, have someone write down all the names.

After everyone has shared, have someone **pray** out loud for everyone on your list. The prayer can be short and simple. God knows their story.

Playing

TOGETHER

Head uphill. Along this section of the path, you will have a great view of the volleyball courts, playground, and cornhole pits to your left. This area is a place for people to play, laugh, and make friends.

Playing is an important part of community. Talk briefly about how play has helped you grow in your relationships with others.

Take a few moments to **plan** a fun event you want to do together. Then, commit to playing together in the future.

Continue to the far west end of the trail. You'll turn back and walk through a winding path lined with big rocks.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.
-Matthew 7:24-25

We need a firm foundation to weather the storms of life.

Share how someone in this group has been a rock for you or how this group has been a rock for you during hard times.

Pause near one of the big boulders and have someone **pray** a prayer of gratitude for the ways this group has been a firm foundation.

BEING

Known

Walk up to the two tree stumps. Spend some time looking at each stump and counting the rings. Each ring tells a story of the tree's life. The color and size of each ring tell us about dry winters and hot summers. We can see healthy years and hard years. A tree stump exposes the tree's life story.

Our life stories look similar.
Good times and tough times. Healthy years and challenging years.

The beauty of being in a House Church is being in a community where we can be truly known and accepted. We allow others to see all the rings of our life—good and bad.

After everyone has shared, have someone **pray** out loud for everyone on your list. The prayer can be short and simple. God knows their story.

Timothy Keller once wrote, *"To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is a lot like being loved by God."*

Share about a tree ring from your life that stands out to you. A good year or a tough year. A year from your distant past or a recent year. Listen to each other as you all share about one of your tree rings.

Encourage

ONE ANOTHER

Make your way to the picnic table and sit together. Jesus loved to share meals with people. It was where His most meaningful conversations happened. Whenever someone sat to have a meal with Jesus, they didn't just leave physically full, but spiritually and emotionally full as well.

Spend some time at the table encouraging one another.

For each person in the group, spend time sharing what gifts you see in them, how they've inspired you, and why you're grateful for them.

Praying

FOR ONE ANOTHER

Continue through the tunnel of tall trees and walk towards the cross. This part of the prayer path is always shaded and darker than the rest.

Sometimes, life can feel like walking in a dark tunnel, too. We don't have to walk through the dark alone.

Stop at the bench in the middle of this tunnel. One at a time, sit on the bench and **share** a prayer request you have for yourself.

Lay hands on the person sitting and **pray** for them. Rotate through the whole group.

Jesus

AND THE CROSS

Make your way to the cross. There is a bench in front of the cross where you can sit and reflect on Jesus. The cross is a reminder of forgiveness, grace, and Jesus' love for us.

Share one way Jesus has changed you or impacted you.

Hopes

AND

Dreams

After leaving the cross, you will walk down the hill back towards the patio. Pause at the next benches that face the church. You will see two bright orange chairs that stand out among the greenery. Orange is a symbol of hope.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans. -Proverbs 16:3

Share one hope or dream you have for your life. Listen to others as they share. During this next season of life, encourage others to pursue their hopes and dreams.

Serving

THE WORLD

Make your way to the patio and sit in the blue chairs around the globe. If you filled this globe with firewood, a tiny spark could turn into a large fire. The world would be filled with light and warmth.

Jesus tells us to be a light in a dark world. The world is full of lonely, struggling, and hurting people. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

This group is not just a blessing to its members, but to the world. You can do more together than you could do on your own. This group brings together various skills, experiences, and resources that can be used to serve the world.

Dream and plan about how your group can serve the world this year.

Next

STEPS

Walk on the concrete trail to complete the prayer path. As you walk out, talk about your experience on the prayer path.

Reflect on what you experienced during the prayer walk.

Share about the meaningful part of the walk for you.

Discuss how you want to continue praying together and for one another.



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