TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

#JESUSFIRSTLIFE

A guide as you start prayer walking through your community
COMMUNITY OBSERVATION

- What positive qualities, opportunities, and benefits does the community have to offer? What are signs that God is already at work in the neighborhood? Identify potential partners (people, churches, organizations) that the church could come alongside in serving the community.

- What needs and concerns are in evidence? What do you see that might detract from people’s quality of life or hinder people from developing their potential? What challenges are people likely to face as they go about their daily life?

- How might community residents view our church? Would we be perceived as allies, foreigners, friends, helpers, annoyances, or simply irrelevant?

- Take note of your own response to what you see. What kinds of “vibes” do you get from your encounters in the community? What feels familiar or strange? Safe or dangerous? Friendly or hostile? Happy or sad? Pleasant or uncomfortable?

- Do you sense any barriers to “fitting in” with the community—language, culture, class, ethnicity, age? What stereotypes about people and places might you have to address to build healthy relationships with people here?

- How is the Good News of salvation through Christ relevant here? What might it look like if God’s kingdom were realized “on Earth as it is in Heaven” here in this community? Imagine how your congregation, working alongside members of the community, might participate in helping the neighborhood experience God’s design for a good life.

- Did your prayerful observations spark any ideas for an outreach project or ongoing ministry in this community? Identify how we could follow up with organizations or individuals in the community.

YOU CAN PRAY:

For God to draw them to Himself
“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” (John 6:44, ESV).

That they would seek to know God
“But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deuteronomy 4:29, NIV).

For them to believe the Scriptures
“. . . faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17, NIV).

That Satan would be prevented from blinding them to the truth
“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4, NIV).

For the Holy Spirit to work in them
“When he [the Holy Spirit] comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness . . . But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth . . .” (John 16:8,13, BSB).

That they would believe in Christ as Savior
“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life . . .” (John 5:24, ESV).

That they would confess Christ as Lord
“. . . if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” (Romans 10:9,10, ESV).

That they would take root and grow in Christ
“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, NIV).