

ROAD TO SECOND CHANCES



Plan Your Own Prayer Walk

What's the Purpose of a Road to Second Chances Prayer Walk?

Approximately 70 million Americans have a criminal record, which hinders them from obtaining employment, education, housing, and other things necessary to live a full and productive life. No person is beyond God's reach. Just as God forgives our sins and offers us a second chance, the Bible shows us that we can offer a second chance to those who have paid their debt to society.

Since 2017, Prison Fellowship® has been leading the national effort to celebrate April as Second Chance® Month, the movement to open up brighter futures for people with a criminal record. As part of our Second Chance Month initiative, Prison Fellowship is encouraging the faith community to host a virtual or socially distanced prayer walk to lift up people affected by crime and incarceration. We want to show support for those who are facing challenges because of their criminal record and help unlock second chances to enable returning citizens to reach their God-given potential.



What Does Planning a Road to Second Chances Prayer Walk Look Like?



PRAY:

Before

Pray for God's blessing and direction as you begin to prepare for your virtual or socially distanced prayer walk.

During Planning

Thank God for His grace in giving us a second chance. Pray for the Lord's favor as you scout locations, identify volunteers, and gather materials.

The Day of the Prayer Walk

Pray for the prayer walk to run smoothly. Ask God to give Storytellers boldness as they share and for participants' eyes to be opened to the injustices that returning citizens face.

After

Thank Him for the prayer walk and ask Him to use this event to spur action, especially by the faith community. Ask God to unlock second chances for the Storytellers and the approximately 70 million Americans with a criminal record.

PLAN:

Learn

Watch the footage of our 2018 and 2019 prayer walks in Washington, D.C., at youtu.be/3Ocb8hEqt00 and youtube.com/watch?v=OtpYPalgVq0. Watch the footage of our 2021 virtual prayer meeting at youtube.com/watch?v=npkoakTGINQ&feature=youtu.be

Build Your Core Team

Call on local churches and ministries (including formerly incarcerated individuals and faith leaders from those churches and organizations) to make up the core planning team for the prayer walk.

Reserve Date and Time

Be sure to designate a meeting time for participants to show up before the prayer walk begins. We recommend 30 minutes in advance for in-person prayer walks, and 15 minutes in advance for a virtual event.

Plan a Route

Decide if it will be remote or in person. For an in-person walk, choose a beginning and endpoint. Recommended distance is at least one mile (a circular route may be preferable to allow participants to return to vehicles). Apply for appropriate city permits, if needed.

Designate prayer station locations, seeking out locations that may have symbolic meaning, such as a church, police station, or school, that can be mentioned by the Prayer Leader. We recommend having four stations with an assigned Storyteller and Prayer Leader for each station.

Select Your Second Chance Storytellers and Prayer Leaders

Host: You or someone from the hosting organization(s) or church(es) may consider providing the opening and closing remarks and a brief introduction for each Storyteller/ Prayer Leader.

Storytellers: Invite local people who were formerly incarcerated to tell their second chance story (two to five minutes). Encourage Storytellers to share about their past, if they are comfortable doing so, and explain the obstacles they have faced due to their criminal record. Storytellers can also share how their faith, mentors, programs, or other factors have been instrumental in navigating their journey. Designate someone on your planning team to help prepare Storytellers in advance, including timing their story.

Prayer Leaders: Prayer Leaders can be local pastors, lawenforcement officials, policymakers, or other people of influence in your community. Designate a Prayer Leader to



pray over each Storyteller for a few minutes, celebrating their victories and lifting up their struggles. Prayer Leaders can also pray for broader issues about the need for justice, second chances, healing, and peace in your community.

Prior to the prayer walk, you may want to invite your Storytellers and Prayer Leaders to do a walk-through to familiarize themselves with the platform/route and speaking order. If you are going to provide a bullhorn, this is a good time to have Storytellers and Prayer Leaders practice using it.

Create and Assemble Materials

- Map out a route with prayer stations marked.
- Purchase water bottles to hand out to participants, if desired.
- Gather or create resources to distribute to participants, such as invitations to a church service or handouts from reentry service providers in your community.
- Make a bullhorn available with handheld walkie-talkie for use by Storytellers and Prayer Leaders.
- Create T-shirts for participants using the Road to Second Chances graphic provided by Prison Fellowship.
- Create or have posters and signs made for attendees to hold during walk.
- Create your own prayer walk station signs with key statistics, which you can find at prisonfellowship.org/second-chance-month-toolkit.

Assign roles for the day of the prayer walk

Host: Leads the prayer walk and may provide opening and closing remarks and introduce speakers.

Run of Show Tracker: Assists Host. Makes sure designated Storyteller/Prayer Leader is “on deck” for each station and tracks time to ensure everything moves smoothly on the walk.

Press Contact: Serves as press liaison, if needed.

Storyteller and Faith Leader Point of Contact: Collects cell phone numbers for all Storytellers and Faith Leaders for prayer station, before the prayer walk begins.

Volunteers: Manage participant check-in and registration, passing out T-shirts, maps, and other participant materials.

Social Media volunteer: Posts live updates on social media throughout the prayer walk.

Create a Prayer Walk Schedule (Example)

- 1:15 p.m.** Start registration and check-in. Distribute T-shirts, materials, maps, and signs.
- 1:30 p.m.** Faith Leaders and Storytellers meet with Point of Contact (test bullhorn, if needed).
- 2 p.m.** Opening remarks and prayer, proceed to first prayer station. Spend 10 minutes at each station from this point.
- 3 p.m.** Arrive at last prayer station.
- 3:10 p.m.** Closing remarks.

PROMOTE:

Create your registration page and invite the community.

- 01** Invite your church and local community to come together to pray for second chances using Eventbrite or another registration platform.
- 02** Register your Road to Second Chances Prayer Walk with Prison Fellowship at prisonfellowship.org/SCM/EventRegister.
- 03** Reach out to local news outlets and radio/TV stations for promotion. Please notify Jim Forbes, Prison Fellowship’s director of communications, of any placements at Jim_Forbes@pfm.org.
- 04** Pass out and email flyers to local churches, reentry organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders.
- 05** Promote your prayer walk using the social media toolkit provided by Prison Fellowship. Use the hashtags **#SECONDCHANCEMONTH** **#ROADTOSECONDCHANCES**.

