

Sharing God's Heart for Greater Houston
Participating in a City-wide Prayer Emphasis Called *Awaken Houston*

Thesis: We are a people who want to grow in our capacity to ***Share the Story*** of what God is doing. And, we are a people who use different tools that help us do our part to ***Share the Story***. Today, we want to consider a prayer tool that helps us to embrace a posture of prayer and availability for God's purposes in our local spheres of influence in Greater Houston.

Text: 1 John 1:1-4; Jeremiah 29:7

As we begin our message today, let's review our word for the year, ***Share the Story***.

We live in 3 interconnected stories, and we get to share what we have **seen, heard, and experienced** in regards to all 3 stories: *THE Story*, *Our Story*, and *My Story* (1 John 1:1-4).

1. **Share THE Story:** of the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:18).
 - a. We want to share what God has done, is doing, and will do as God unites heaven and earth, as God unites his heavenly family and earthly families, and as God sums up everything in Jesus.
 - b. Jesus came proclaiming THE Story, the good news, of the kingdom of God.
 - i. *Mark 1:14–15 (NIV84) 14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”*
 - c. Jesus came demonstrating the impact, works, and reality of the kingdom of God.
 - i. *Luke 4:18–19 (NIV84) 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*
2. **Share Our Story:** of what God is doing in and through this community locally and globally.
 - a. *1 John 1:3-4 (NIV84) We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.*

- b. *1 John 1:5–7 (NIV84) 5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*
 - c. Part of the impact of our sharing THE Story is so that people can participate in Our Story: what God is doing in our community, what God is doing in and through us. **God has called into fellowship with the Father, Son, and Spirit; and, we are compelled to tell others so that they can experience our fellowship with one another and with God.**
3. **Share My Story:** of what I have heard, seen, gazed upon, and experienced of the Lord individually (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; John 20:30-31; 1 John 1:1-4).
- a. *John 20:30–31 (NIV84) 30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
 - b. *1 John 5:11–15 (NIV84) 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*
 - c. *John 15:5 (NASB95) “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*
 - i. My story is about my life in Christ. In his book, *Incarnational Christianity*, Pastor Steve Meeks talks about the process of **our journey with Christ: personal, intimate, organic.** God is looking for a place **to abide.** We start out with a personal knowledge of God. But God draws us into intimacy, deeply sharing our lives. Still, God is after something much deeper: our lives intertwined with his. **We are called into an abiding, mutually indwelling relationship with God.**

We live in 3 interconnected stories, and we get to share what we have **seen, heard, and experienced** in regards to all 3 stories: THE Story, Our Story, and My Story.

We are a people who want to grow in our capacity to **Share the Story** of what God is doing. And, we are a people who use different tools that help us do our part to **Share the Story**.

Today, we want to consider one prayer tool that helps us to embrace a posture of prayer and availability for God's purposes in our local spheres of influence in Greater Houston.

Point 1: Let's share God's heart for Greater Houston.

1. What is God's heart for Greater Houston?

- a. *Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV84) "Also, seek the peace (shalom) and prosperity (flourishing) of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."*
- b. Shalom: wholeness.
- c. Prosperity: blessing, flourishing.

2. The Lord wants shalom (wholeness) for Greater Houston. (See [Faithwalking Foundations Module 6.](#))

- a. We believe that God's intended design is for there to be wholeness (shalom) in individuals, communities, and the world.
- b. We believe that God's hope is for shalom to be present, which includes peace, unity, completeness, wholeness, and well-being for everyone and in everyone.
- c. For wholeness to be possible we must learn to love God, love self, love our neighbor, love the stranger, and love the world.
- d. Shalom is a word that captures God's dream of a preferred future for humanity. God's design and God's intent is for this world to include wholeness and flourishing for everyone.
- e. God is concerned with all of humanity and all of creation. Nothing gets left out. God has a dream for the way things are supposed to be. **God's dream is that everyone gets included, everyone has enough, and everyone gets treated rightly and fairly.** God's dream is good news for everyone and good news for creation. "Shalom means more than the English word 'peace' often conveys. It is more than an inner feeling of serenity and calm. It is more than the absence of conflict. It refers to that much-desired state where things are finally made right between us all. **Shalom suggests a restoration of relationship between peoples, as well as reconciliation between humanity and God. It also suggests the restoration of the earth and our relationship to the land"** (Michael Frost, *The Road to Missional*, p. 104).
- f. We are called to partner with God in restoring wholeness to the broken places in our own lives, in our communities, and in our world. We

partner with God to establish shalom, to restore integrity, and to make wholeness possible. Think about the places where you live, work, and play. **Where is there brokenness in those places?**

- g. Our vision in [Faithwalking](#) is for every participant to become an agent of wholeness in her or his own context. What does it mean to be an agent of wholeness? An agent is a person who takes an active role or produces a specified effect. **An agent of wholeness takes an active role to restore brokenness back to wholeness. "Shalom comes only through the costly way of caring"** (Brueggemann, p. 22).
3. **What does shalom / wholeness look like?** (See [Faithwalking](#) Foundations Module 6.)
- a. **The Lord wants to bring multi-dimensional wholeness to our lives, our city, and our world.**
 - b. For Luke, salvation means acceptance, fellowship, and new life. "Whatever salvation is, then, in every specific context, it includes the total transformation of human life, forgiveness of sin, healing from infirmities, and release from any kind of bondage." (David Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*, p. 107). **Bosch indicates that salvation is restoring wholeness in every dimension of life. "For Luke, salvation actually had six dimensions: economic, social, political, physical, psychological, and spiritual"** (Bosch, p. 117).
 - c. **Evidence of spiritual wholeness:** Experiencing forgiveness, inclusion rather than exclusion, unconditional love, liberation from bondage, abundant life, and a life of purpose on mission with God. When there is spiritual wholeness, we experience love, joy, and peace, and we walk humbly with God—we love mercy and we act justly (Micah 6:8).
 - d. **Evidence of physical wholeness:** Everyone will have affordable and accessible healthcare. Everyone will have proper nutrition, clean water, proper exercise, whole and healthy living conditions, rest and relaxation. There will be no disease.
 - e. **Evidence of economic wholeness:** Where there is economic wholeness, everyone will have jobs that pay a livable wage. Everyone will manage his/her money wisely. Every person will be a good steward who is generous. No one will be enslaved to debt. There will be housing that is affordable for everyone. Everyone will have the opportunity to get a quality education. No one will be poor. There will be no stealing, cheating, or embezzling. There will be no consumerism or materialism. There will be enough for everyone God is doing more than just getting people save and into heaven.
 - f. **Evidence of social wholeness:** There will be reconciliation, forgiveness, graciousness, hospitality, peacemaking, equality, empowerment, emotional maturity, and the differentiation of self.

- g. **Evidence of emotional and mental wholeness:** There will be no feelings of inferiority or shame. No one will feel like they are “less than” or not enough. No one will have a god complex or a sense of superiority. All will be mentally whole and healthy. There will be no worry, anxiety, or depression. There will be no stress overload. Everyone will be at peace, and everyone will be full of joy. No one will be afraid.
 - h. **Evidence of wholeness:** We declare that Jesus is Lord. We give up needing power and control. We believe that there is no political party or government that fully represents the Jesus agenda. We speak out against governments that oppress, abuse, kill, or act unjustly. We work to repair systems that perpetuate injustice. In the Jesus kingdom the last will be first and service is more important than power. There will be unity in spite of our diversity. Everyone will have a voice, and everyone will be heard. There will truly be liberty and justice for all.
4. **The Lord wants prosperity (flourishing, abundant blessing) for Greater Houston, so that we can be blessed to be a blessing** (Genesis 12:2-3).
- a. *Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV84) “Also, seek the peace (shalom) and prosperity (flourishing) of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”*

Point 2: Let’s learn to use prayer walking as a tool that helps us to embrace a posture of prayer and availability for God’s purposes in our local spheres of influence in Greater Houston. We want to seek the Lord, to pay attention to what the Lord is saying and doing, and to partner with the Lord as we live into our word for the year, **Share the Story.**

1. **What does it look like to pray for Greater Houston** (Jeremiah 29:7)?
 - a. **To pray for Greater Houston is to stand in the gap and build up the wall for shalom and flourishing.** (See also Ezekiel 22:30.)
 - b. **Prayer walking is one way that helps us to pray for Greater Houston.**
 - c. I want to introduce us to [Awaken Houston](#) as a way to participate in a unified prayer effort for Greater Houston during the Lenten season, from February 18 – April 5, 2026.
 - d. [Awaken Houston](#) is a city-wide movement of prayer, fasting, and gospel proclamation and demonstration, uniting the Church across Greater Houston to seek 1) personal renewal, 2) revival within our churches, and 3) a spiritual awakening in our city.
 - e. Here is a link to the vision casting [video](#).
2. **Let’s walk with Jesus in a posture of prayer and light up the city.**
 - a. This year’s theme, ***Walking with Jesus: Light Up the City***, calls us to a simple yet powerful posture of daily faithfulness. This season isn’t about doing something impressive for God, but about walking closely with Him

— step by step, street by street — trusting Him to transform lives, renew His Church, and bring spiritual awakening across Greater Houston.

- b. As part of our unified prayer effort, we've set a bold, faith-filled goal: to collectively prayer walk 100,000 miles across Houston, saturating our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities in prayer.
- c. For those of you who are physically challenged, I invite you to join in prayer from your home and/ or your vehicles.
 - i. Here is a pastoral word: **Whether you walk or drive, be sure to pray with your eyes open.** :)
 - ii. I also recommend the [Bless App](#) as a way to pray for your neighbors by name, whether you pray from home, prayer walk, or drive and pray.
 - iii. Or, you can use a map program to pray for your neighbors.

3. **What is prayer walking?**

- a. Prayer walking is intercessory prayer that happens while walking in or near a specific place—your neighborhood, school, workplace, or city streets. As you prayer walk, your focus shifts beyond personal concerns to the needs of others, allowing God to shape your heart for your community.
- b. **Prayer walking invites us to:**
 - i. See people and places through God's eyes.
 - ii. Listen to the Holy Spirit as we observe our surroundings.
 - iii. Actively seek the peace and well-being of our city.
- c. Click here to learn about [HOW TO PRAYER WALK](#).
- d. Our goal is to saturate Greater Houston with prayer.

Point 3: Let's catch a vision that part of our story is to recognize that we are part of the Lord's Church in Greater Houston.

1. To share our story encompasses living into community.
2. Expressing true Christian community embraces what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
3. And, Calvary Community Church is a part of larger community or constellation of churches in NW Houston and Greater Houston.
4. Participating in [Awaken Houston](#) is one way for us to recognize that **Our Story** as a congregation fits into what God is doing throughout Greater Houston.

Point 4: Prayer walking is one prayer tool that helps us to embrace a posture of prayer and availability for God's purposes in our local spheres of influence in Greater Houston.

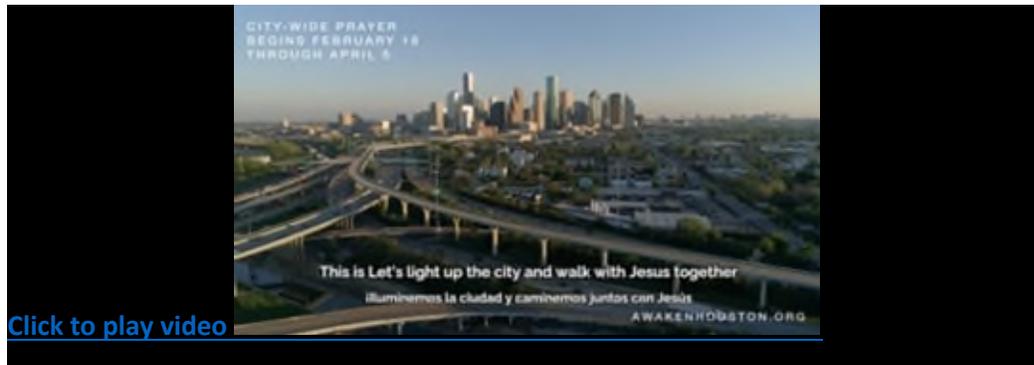
1. I invite you to download the [Prayer Guide for Awaken Houston](#).
2. We have a made physical copies of the download available this morning.

Invitation:

1. **Let's share God's heart for Greater Houston.**
2. **Let's learn to use prayer walking as a tool.**
 - a. This tool of prayer walking helps us to embrace a posture of prayer and availability for God's purposes in our local spheres of influence in Greater Houston.
 - b. We want to seek the Lord, to pay attention to what the Lord is saying and doing, and to partner with the Lord as we live into our word for the year, *Share the Story*.
3. **Let's catch a vision that part of our story is to recognize that we are part of the Lord's Church in Greater Houston.**
4. **Let's embrace prayer walking as a way to embrace a posture of prayer and availability for God's purposes in our local spheres of influence in Greater Houston.**

Ministry Time:

From [Awaken Houston](#) email.



We are just one week away from [Awaken Houston!](#)

For nearly a decade, we've seen God do incredible things across our city through this movement of united prayer and seeking Him together. As we step into our 10th year, we are filled with expectation for what He will do once again.

We believe God is inviting His Church in Houston to step into this moment together — seeking Him, listening for His voice, and trusting Him to move beyond what we could ask or imagine. In just one week, believers across the Greater Houston area will begin prayer walking throughout the Lenten season (February 18 – April 5, 2026).

This year's theme, ***Walking with Jesus: Light Up the City***, calls us to a simple yet powerful posture. This season isn't about doing something impressive for God, but about taking faithful steps with Him. As we walk with Jesus — day by day, street by street — we believe He will transform lives, renew His Church, and bring awakening to our city.



➔ Get Involved

1. Sign Up at awakenhouston.org

Stay connected, access prayer walking and fasting resources, discover opportunities to join prayer gatherings, prayer rooms, and prayer walks, and track our shared progress.

2. Download the [Holy Here App](https://www.holyhere.com)

After downloading the app at www.holyhere.com, create your account and you're ready to begin prayer walking.

3. Track Your Prayer Walks

Prayer walks will be tracked via the [Holy Here App](https://www.holyhere.com) from Sunday, February 15 through Easter Sunday, April 5. Each published walk will count toward our collective total.

While Lent officially begins on February 18, we will launch the daily prayer guide on Monday, February 16, and begin tracking prayer walks on Sunday, February 15 for those who would like to start early and prepare their hearts for the season.

Not using the app? Log your walks manually via [this form](#) (one per person).

📖 *Don't forget to use the [Daily Prayer Guide](#) as you walk!*

[AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG SIGN UP TODAY DAILY PRAYER GUIDE](https://awakenhouston.org)

