

THE ARK Christian Ministries Prayer Walk



Whether you are joining us in person or praying from a distance, thank you for partnering with us as we bathe THE ARK in prayer. This prayer guide will follow the yellow paths marked on the map, leading you to pray in different areas across the 50 acres. Scripture teaches us that we live, move, and have our being in God. We are also instructed to be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances because this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. As you commit this time to walk with God, you will be guided to pray for certain things at different intervals and locations, but the real goal during this time is to be sensitive and attentive to the Holy Spirit.

1 Take a few minutes to stand before the world map in the Conference Center lobby. Realize that God is at work in all these places as you stand here. Think about places you have been and places you would like to go. Pray for the missionaries pictured here. Ask God to help you, too, as you are His witness here, there, and everywhere.

Prayer: May God bless these missionaries and those we mention that are on our hearts like... May those who take the name of Jesus with them be shielded from the evil one, and be filled with the Spirit, and have the wherewithal to say no to sin and yes to following Jesus.

Please look at the games, the seating areas, the bookshelves, and the fireplace. Our staff has devotions by the fireplace each week. All kinds of groups and individuals rest, relax, and renew their minds in this area. Think of the influence that the authors on the shelves have had on the people who have read and donated these books. What books have influenced you?

Prayer: May these common areas be filled with joy and laughter, introspection and reflection, and confession and conversation that leads to repentance, encouragement, and continued life transformation.

Follow the south hall back to the area by the coffee machine. The kitchen staff, the summer staff, and many of our yearly staff meet in this area. Groups tend to find their way to this corner. Take a moment to thank God for everyone He has called to serve at THE ARK and those who come and visit here for one reason or another. Pray for the conversations that will happen around this table.

Prayer: May God continue to bless the gifts of food and drink and those who congregate in this area. May there be moments of connection, encouragement, hope, joy, and peace while people relax around these offerings of hospitality.

2 As you exit the doors, turn to the right and walk down by the Ark. Noah and his family were rescued from the flood in an ark. Take time to think and pray for people who must be rescued. Pray for people in need of divine intervention. Pray also for this space that has been transformed into a science/nature center that hosts school groups from the area.

Prayer: God, we have our struggles, but we have been blessed to live in this country, and we don't constantly fear for our lives or live under the threat of persecution. Many in this world have no home, have little hope for asylum, and wonder if peace will ever darken their door. We pray for those who struggle, for those in prison, and for those who are on the run. We are grateful for spaces that can be used to remind people of the beauty of what You have created. We thank You that the world is charged with Your grandeur.

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3 Continue walking out toward the road and around the swamp. Cross the bridge to the island and gazebo if you want to, and keep thanking God for the beauty of creation and the different landscapes that he has shaped and formed. Thank God for his attention to detail. Take a couple of moments to watch the clouds.

Prayer: May our grounds give people the space to escape their everyday routine and reconnect with the simple beauty of creation and its manifold witness to the glory of God's continuing creation. May there be places for people to unload their baggage and take up the easy yoke and light burden of a God that offers freedom, hope, joy, and peace—even in the middle of the chaos, the mess, and the trials.

4 As you walk along the road on the south side of the swamp, pray for the staff members who live in these houses, the summer staff that will live with them, and the log cabin where our missionaries for the summer will be housed. Take a few moments to pray for the community on this campus and for God to continually transform those who live and visit here. You will walk by the Thai Huts and then back to the Jungle Huts area. Pray for the students who utilize these smaller camp experiences. At the Jungle Huts area, you will notice the paintball field in the distance. Please pray for those who come here for recreational purposes. Ask that God will use their experiences to continue to draw them to Him. There are also areas south of the Jungle Huts where future plans call for an indoor horse riding arena, an Apache village, and an old west fort. (See the attached summer camp schedule to pray for Thai Hut and Jungle Hut leaders.)

Prayer: May people find a place to belong here: a space to work out their salvation in synergy, safety, and security. May families become stronger and friends become spiritual companions, while enemies are transformed into teammates. May all of our obstacles be removed, or easily bypassed, on the road to true fellowship and partnership.

5 Climb the steps and walk through the Jungle Huts area back north towards the large field. As you cross that field, notice the recreational opportunities offered in this central field. As you continue in the direction of the Third World village, thank God for all the blessings you have been given. Pray for those who are less fortunate than you, as well as for those who are simply raised in different cultures and experiences. Remember that God wishes that none would perish, and pray that the gospel will find its way to every person.

Prayer: May we recognize our blessings and count them daily. May our ability to know how good You have been to us inspire, motivate, and create in us a desire to love and bless the world around us. Make us ever mindful of Your call on our lives and of our responsibility to use what we have been given to make the world a better place.

6 As you leave the Third World village and head west on the property, you will travel along the road by the high ropes course, 2-person zipline, & 2-person giant swing. You will also notice the climbing wall in the distance. Many people are challenged to face their fears and move beyond barriers in their physical performance and their psychological situations through elements like these. Ask God to break down walls and barriers for everyone who uses these elements. May God remove every obstacle that keeps us from experiencing His superabundance of love, grace, mercy, and peace.

Prayer: May these grounds be a place where people confront their fears and are always encouraged to take the next step in their mental, physical, social, psychological, and spiritual well-being. May You open our eyes that we might see, open our ears that we may hear, and open our hearts that we can understand. May our souls have the courage to expand and to leave the old ways for the higher and better way.

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Turn right into the wooded area and head north past the picnic shelter. In the wooded area to your right, there are a number of low-ropes group initiatives that help groups learn to think and work together as a team. You will also notice the main campfire area where all kinds of stories are woven into God's beautiful tapestry. Before you leave the prayer garden, take a few moments to simply rest in solitude and silence with God. Let God guide you in that silence as you experience the embrace of His love and passion for you.

Prayer: May we always make and take the time to be still, wait patiently, and know that You are God. May we stop rushing ahead of You and always remember to trust in Your slow work that is reconciling all things unto Yourself.

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As you are ready, continue north along the road or through the grass past the Dome house, where our facilities manager and his family live. Climb to the top of the Cave and spend a couple of minutes looking around. Thank God for what you see. Pray for the groups that choose to use this small group area of THE ARK. Pray for those who use the vehicles and trailers. Thank God for the tools, the staff, and the volunteers who utilize those tools to maintain these spaces so that people can connect with God. Thank God for the place to store things in the warehouse. Notice the pool, waterslide, and new climbing wall; see if you can still hear the joy of children and students playing, the water splashing, and the refreshing gift that water activities bring on hot summer days. This water also provides the space for many to be baptized into Christ. Remember your baptism, the baptisms that have occurred there, and the baptisms that will take place there this summer.

Prayer: May we use the things that You give us, the gifts and talents You have blessed us with, and the spaces where we live, and move, and have our being to glorify You. May we also allow others the space and grace to experience You and to be transformed and transfigured into the likeness of Christ.

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As you walk toward the pond, please notice the old chapel in the distance and thank God for a shop that provides space for more tools, more creative outlets, and a place to keep our vehicles and maintenance items ready and available for services of all types. Thank God for the building to the north of that shop, which will expand shop maintenance needs and eventually serve as the home for our facilities manager. Continue walking around either side of the pond. Thank God for the students and adults who will fill these cabins throughout the year. Ask that lives will be changed and that God's kingdom will be furthered through the conversations and experiences there. Recognize the smaller cottages that can be used for personal retreats. Pray for those who will find their way here for solitude and silence while seeking spiritual and vocational direction.

Prayer: May all who enter these grounds and stay for any period of time rest well in the embrace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May their nightmares cease, and may their dreams be infused with the peace of God that transcends understanding that will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May they stop listening to the lies of the Devil, and forever hear the truth of The One who calls them beloved and longs to rescue them.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Matthew 6:9

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As you pass the south side of the pond by the volleyball court, please pray for our future bi-level year-round Lakeside Lodge that will be built in this location. It will allow us to host different kinds of groups as we continue to expand our year-round offerings and be better able to meet the needs of more groups. As you continue by the barn, take a moment to thank God for the variety of life that shares this earth with us. Thank him for pets that you have, or have had, and for the companionship that can be experienced through the gifts of the animal kingdom. Please pray for Riann and Gary Creech, and the volunteers who work with them in leading our horse camps.

Prayer: May we expand our opportunities to serve and love our neighbors by providing spaces that will help us become better hosts and stewards of that with which God has blessed us. May we also love life, as You love life, and do a better job sharing this earth with all living things. Help us be sensitive, caring, and attentive to all life.

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As you walk across the parking towards the Conference Center, please notice the areas for recreation, the shelters for gathering, and the canteen area. There is no shortage of life-change that happens in these spaces. As you enter the Conference Center, continue into the main session area. Thank God for the work that He is doing in your life. Pray for those who will organize main sessions and group activities. Pray for the speakers, musicians, and those who will enter this area. May God meet people here and change hearts and minds. Also, take a minute to thank God for the opportunity to gather around tables to taste and see that the Lord is good and for all of the meals that will be served here. (Please see the names of the leaders/deans of the other camp sessions on the schedule at the back of this packet.)

Pray together: We ask that You sanctify this space and all of our spaces. Consecrate us to be faithful and true followers of Jesus who will love You with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind, and with all of our strength. Help us love our neighbors as we love ourselves. May the food of our tables and the food of the Word of God always be set in this space and in all of the tables of our lives. May we always practice communion and community in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit as You complete the good work that You have begun in each of us. Amen.

**Thank you for joining in prayer for the
Holy Spirit to move in unhindered ways this summer. Thank
you for praying for this place to be Holy Ground.**