

**Mission Illinois Offering & Week of Prayer 2018**  
**Students Mission Study**  
**Prayer Matters**

**Before the study:**

Check the church office for the Mission Illinois Offering & Week of Prayer promotion kit. Also, visit [missionillinois.org](http://missionillinois.org) for additional study materials and videos.

If leading this study for younger children, start with the interactive activity below. If leading this study for older kids or teens, feel free to skip the activity and begin with the opening discussion.

**Introductory activity**

**Supplies needed:**

-Permission to walk the church grounds or the local neighborhood from the children's parents

**Preparation:**

Tell the kids they are going to prayerwalk. Ask them if they know what prayerwalking is. After listening to their answers, explain that prayerwalking is simply talking to God while you walk. Normally, groups prayerwalk their town or neighborhood.

Read Ephesians 6:12 where Paul describes our enemy. Explain that our enemy is not another physical person, like the bully on the playground, but rather our enemy is Satan. We can't fight Satan in person, like we would (sometimes like to) with that bully, so we need the armor of God.

Read Ephesians 6:11-17 where Paul describes the armor of God. We can only stand up against Satan when we put on the full armor of God.

Read Ephesians 6:18-19 where Paul asks for prayer. Explain that prayer is powerful, and prayerwalking is a way to care for your town in the way Paul describes here.

**Execution:**

Take a walk around your church grounds or neighborhood with the kids. Stop every 50 steps or so and invite the children to look around for:

- Something to praise God for creating;
- Someone who has a need, and;
- Something that reminds them of a blessing God has given them.

Allow 30 seconds for the children to look around and 30 seconds to pray before resuming your walk. When you return to your meeting area, discuss the most surprising thing each child found to pray about as they walked.

### **Opening discussion (for older kids/teens)**

\*Note: You will need to download and/or print off the blue map of Illinois from the downloadable extras section on [missionillinois.org](http://missionillinois.org).

Read Ephesians 6:12-19, then talk about these questions:

- Paul describes our enemy as "...our struggle...against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens" (CSB). What does that mean for our daily lives? Who is our enemy?
- Reread verse 18. What does the word intercession mean?
- Consider ways we can intervene on behalf of our local community every day.
- In the MIO materials online, locate the blue map of Illinois. Find your county and see how many SBC churches are located there, or the percentage of people who identify as Southern Baptist.
- Have one person in the group who has a phone look up the population of your town or county. Explain to the students that out of those people, 2/3 of them don't know Jesus. (If you want, have the students split into two groups illustrating the 1/3 of people who are Christians, versus the 2/3 of people who aren't.)

Contemplate that for a minute: Approximately 65% of the people around you have yet to have someone reach out and tell them about how they can have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **Prayerwalking for church plants**

#### **Did you know...**

-Pingree Grove, a village in Kane County and suburb of Chicago, grew from a population of 124 to nearly 12,000 in about 15 years. Until recently, there were no Southern Baptist churches in this growing town.

**Watch:** "Prayerwalking for Church Plants," or read the summary below and then answer the following discussion questions.

The full print version of this article is available at [missionillinois.org](http://missionillinois.org). You may wish to have students read the article, and take turn telling portions of the story. Tell what Tim Bailey did, what the youth groups who visited Pingree Grove did, and what the church planting pastor did.

**Summary:** "Pingree Grove," said IBSA Church Planting Catalyst Tim Bailey, "is a small town in desperate need of a church." Situated in the far western suburbs of Chicago, Pingree Grove

was once a small farming community with less than 200 residents. Now, this rapidly developing city is expected to grow to more than 15,000 people by 2020.

But this burgeoning bedroom community had no church. Bailey was praying and walking the area last summer when he had an idea: Send a group of students into Pingree Grove to prayerwalk the community.

That summer, teens gathered for ChicaGO Week, which partners Chicagoland church planters with students groups from across the state. Bailey and his counterpart in southern Illinois, Ken Wilson, decided to send a ChicaGO Week team of 11 students to Pingree Grove, praying God would open doors to start a new church. The team included several teens from FBC Metropolis, led by associate pastor Cliff Easter, and students from Clarksville Baptist Church with their youth leader, Leslie Propst.

The group divided into groups of two and prayerwalked Pingree Grove, knocking on more than 650 doors in four days. They prayed for the people in the community, asking the Lord to save the lost, connect them with people looking for a church, and help them develop friendships in Jesus' name.

They also invited people to a Bible study on Thursday night. The superintendent of a local school gave them permission to have a meeting there. Four families attended—the start of a church in Pingree Grove.

Little did they know, God had begun his work in the community three years earlier. In 2014, R.T. Maldaner and his family of eight had moved to Illinois from Idaho. Maldaner was serving in a church staff position in Elgin, but he sensed the Lord leading him to plant a church. His desire for church planting was encouraged by a mentor who told him that he had the DNA of a church planter. "He told me of IBSA's need for solid, gospel-centered men to plant solid, gospel-centered churches," Maldaner said, "and he then connected me with a gentleman from IBSA by the name of Tim Bailey."

In January, six months after that summer outreach, the two met at Starbucks in South Elgin.

"Tim and I were sitting down drinking coffee," Maldaner said, "talking about my desire to church plant when he asks me his final question for the interview: 'Where do you live?'"

When Maldaner said, "Pingree Grove," Bailey pounded the table and yelled, "Praise the Lord!"

One month later, Maldaner started a gathering. Since that Sunday, 150 people have attended faithfully, Bailey said, "and we have yet to begin the major push in encouraging people to come."

Maldaner recognizes "the Lord has orchestrated a miraculous thing...Knowing that our church isn't a church plant in isolation, knowing that we have IBSA and a plethora of other brothers standing alongside us and helping us is a very liberating feeling."

The church, called City of Joy, is set to launch officially on September 9.

### **Discuss:**

- Before our discussion earlier, did you know what prayerwalking was? What do you think about it after watching this video?
- Read Matthew 28:19 aloud. How did people from our state follow what Jesus commanded in that verse?
- How can we follow Jesus's command to go? If your church partnered to help grow a new church plant, would you want to go help, like the two church groups from southern Illinois took a week to prayerwalk and help plant City of Joy?

- If time permits, lead your group of older kids/teenagers on a short prayerwalk around your church grounds. Allow the students to consider the needs of their community and pray for those who do not yet know the saving power of Jesus Christ.