



Drive-through Prayer

A drive-through prayer event allows a church or other faith-based organization to **reach out to the community through prayer** in a unique way and allows the community to participate without leaving the comfort of their vehicle. Drive-through Prayer participants drive into the designated location. They stay in their cars while volunteers, positioned outside the car, ask about and pray for their needs. Participants are given a parting gift, usually consisting of at least a tract and information about the church or organization's services. A bottle of water decorated with a Bible verse is usually appreciated. We do not offer candy/food items because of the potential hazard of food allergies.

For a drive-through prayer event to be most effective, the flow of traffic should be smooth and there should be no unexpected hold-ups. If they come for prayer, they should not be surprised by a hard-sell evangelism effort. Instead, consider offering a **“Want to Know More?” station** for those interested in knowing more about faith in Christ and a **“Get Involved” station** for people interested in visiting a service or other activity.

Note: Amazon affiliate links are offered below for ease of ordering. We may make a few cents from your purchase (or may not) but it will not affect the price you pay, although it will help cover the cost of the website.

Things to consider:

1. **Location/Timing/Promotion:** An optimal site is located close to a well-traveled major road or thoroughfare and has a large parking lot with at least two entrances. A portico or other shelter from inclement weather is desirable though not essential. The best day of the week and time of day for the event both depend on **traffic flow**. Volunteers may be available in greater numbers on the weekend or after work but the amount of passing traffic is a more important consideration. A banner in front of your site a week ahead, signs in the lawn, and flyers in local businesses are helpful. TV and radio stations may be willing to give free publicity as a public service announcement. “Tickets” for church members to distribute may generate some interest as well.
2. **Set Up: Reusable signs** to direct the flow of traffic are helpful and can be ordered from your local sign company. **Volunteers in orange or brightly colored vests** to direct cars to the desired location are another option and allows more people to be involved in the outreach. You need at least one person at each entrance and another half-way between the entrance and the prayer site. **Traffic cones** can be used to indicate where to park. (You can buy 7 plastic traffic cones for \$30 here: [plastic traffic cones](#) and a 10-pack of yellow high-visibility reflective vests for less than \$25 here: [high vis vests](#))

3. **Volunteers:** A two-person prayer team prays with each vehicle's occupants. At least one of the team members should be an experienced intercessor. Encourage less-experienced believers to participate. Multiple teams are optimal. Depending on the duration of the prayer time, one-hour shifts can be scheduled. **You will need:** volunteers for directing traffic into the prayer station with the number of traffic-directors dependent upon the size of your parking lot, volunteers to pray. Volunteers to direct cars out of the parking lot. Volunteers for evangelism/want-to-know-more/get-involved stations if you decide to include them.
4. **Volunteer Support:** Even the most experienced intercessor can encounter a situation beyond their experience or expertise. A minister, elder, deacon or other well-experienced person should be **available to assist** if needed. The gifts of time and service given by a volunteer are precious and should be received with immense **gratitude**. Depending on the time of day, have **coffee/condiments and quick breakfast or light lunch** available. Always have **bottled water** available and, depending on the ambient temperature, you may want to have **electrolyte packets** to add to water bottles as desired. (These Propel packets are 100 packs for \$20 and are a favorite with our volunteers: [Propel electrolyte packets](#)) Be sure to have a sign-in sheet for volunteers. Best practices for volunteer retention include a **hand-written thank-you note** or postcard the week after the event. (Yes, this is a lot of work. It is 100% worth it.)
5. **Prayer:** Volunteers should stand back from the vehicle's open window to adhere to any social distancing guidelines. A **genuine smile and a warm greeting** set the tone for the prayer encounter. Volunteers should **introduce themselves by their first name** (last name optional) and greet the participants. Ask, "**How can we pray for you today?**" and, if necessary, ask for additional information. Allow the participant to share as much or as little as they desire. Both volunteers may pray. **Pray as the Holy Spirit directs and use Scripture as your guide. Pray big** with the expectation of Ephesians 3:20. He is able to do more than we can ask or think. You may want to take **prayer requests** for ongoing prayer but be sure you have a plan to protect the participant's privacy. Tell them up front who will see the requests and how you intend you use them. IF we accept prayer requests, we use first names only.
6. **Parting:** Be sure to thank the participant for coming by and offer them a parting "gift." A tract (available by donation from the [Gospel Tract and Bible Society](#)) and information about the church/organization's services, contact information, website, and any social media accounts. We use a small white bag to hold both pieces of information and decorate it with a colorful Scripture sticker. You can purchase these here: [White Bags](#)
7. **Additional Stations:** In addition to "**Want to Know More?**" and "**Get Involved**" stations, children might enjoy a **play station** with coloring or craft activities.. In cooler weather, a **coat give-away station** is an option. In late summer, a **school supplies station** could be a blessing. Be creative. Look for ways to bless and engage with your visitors.O