

TAKING A GUIDED WALK

SEE YOUR COMMUNITY WITH FRESH EYES



In her book, [On Looking: A Walker's Guide to the Art of Observation](#), Alexandra Horowitz offers a fantastic idea: ask people with various specialties, interests, and perspectives to walk with you through your neighborhood to show you what they see. Horowitz walks her neighborhood in New York City with a geologist, a typographer, an illustrator, a naturalist, an urban sociologist, a woman who is blind, and a sound designer among others. Each walk opens her up to new discoveries that she would have never found without her guides. Who can help you discover something new in your neighborhood?

GETTING STARTED

Brainstorm a list of potential guides: As a listening team think about people in your community who might offer you a new perspective of your community.

A few ideas: A small business owner, an older person who has lived in the neighborhood for a long time, a local politician, an Uber driver, a professor with an interesting specialty, an artist, a social worker, a pizza delivery person, a city planner, a historian, a first-responder, a UPS driver, etc.

Reach out to your guide: Call, text, or ask them in person. Tell them what your church is up to and what you are hoping to learn. Ask them if they would be willing to walk the community with you and a friend some time and act as a guide (picture a guide for tourists, but for a couple locals).

Jot down what you learn: I like to take notes after a conversation, but if you are worried you won't remember, take a few notes as you walk. Put as much down on paper afterwards so you can share with the rest of the listening team later.

Show your appreciation: Be sure to thank your guide and consider offering them a small token of appreciation (lunch afterwards, a small gift card, etc).

*Purchase a copy of the book [On Looking: A Walker's Guide to Observation](#) **here**.*