

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE





As you begin your journey serving alongside Casas por Cristo, we want to provide you with something to both challenge you and call your attention to Christ as you serve. We have put together this Devotional Guide in order to help you draw close to God as you serve His children abroad. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

We are praying for you!

WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE

INTRODUCTION

Each day there are four parts to the devotional.

PART 1 - Daily Challenge - Read to your team before leaving for the site each morning to enhance your team's experience and connection to the family and where you're serving.

PART 2 - Morning Start-up - A quick thought to challenge your team and for them to think about during the day.
(You can use this along with the Daily Challenge)

PART 3 - Devotional - A different lesson each day with Scripture references and application for your time here.

PART 4 - Response Questions - easy questions to help promote reflection/discussion at the end of the day.

Daily Challenge:

Learn the names of the family, their ages, and what they do.

Morning Start-Up:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. - Romans 12:1

Before we begin, I want to remind you that you being here and the work you're about to do is holy before God. As you go about today, remember what Christ has done for you and let that be the motivator for why you're living as a living sacrifice - laying down your life for the sake of another, and more than anything else, this is your spiritual act of worship.

Devotional:

Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you. - Joshua 3:5

Joshua was Moses' successor. He has taken over the leadership role and has been commanded by God to take His people into the land that He has promised to them. Joshua has been charged with the task of making sure that the people get into the land and that they do so in the way that God desires them to. After Joshua deals with the spies and Rahab in chapter two, he begins to prepare the people for their journey into the Promised Land.

God had given Joshua a very specific way to cross into the land. There is an order and a method (Joshua 3) that God desires. Joshua tells the people "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5). The people are most likely already packing and getting ready for their journey, but Joshua tells them to consecrate themselves. He wants them to be prepared not only physically but also spiritually. This means making a conscious, willing decision to dedicate their whole heart, soul, and mind to God before they do whatever it is God has called them to do. God doesn't need them to take the Promised Land. He's preparing them for what He has already planned for them in advance.

God has also called you to go into a new land. He has something planned out to do in you and through you this week. He wants you to be so full of Him that His love simply overflows through your words and actions. The question to ask yourself is, "Have I prepared myself for this?" Have you taken time to ready yourself for this week, or have all the pressing things in life crowded out God?

Take time before you begin this work that God has given you and make sure that you are not only physically prepared, but that you are also spiritually prepared.

DAY ONE

1. In what ways have you prepared for this week?
2. In what ways do you feel like you're unprepared for this week?
3. What was your "takeaway"? What will you never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided

Daily Challenge:

Make sure the family knows your name. Tell them what brought you here.

Morning Start-Up:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matthew 6:33

We live in a “me first” kind of world where if you want something in life, you need to go out and get it for yourself. People will spend their entire lives chasing after the things they want for themselves. However, today we really get to lay all of that nonsense aside and focus on building up God’s kingdom over our own and to work within His righteousness. Let this be on your mind as you go throughout the day, and enjoy being part of the Kingdom of God.

Devotional:

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. - Matthew 6:34

In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus is teaching the crowds on the futility of worry. He is giving examples of typical things that people can worry over: what we will eat or drink or wear. Certainly, there is no shortage of things that we can find ourselves worrying about: jobs, money, the future, what people think, etc. The problem with worry is really deeper than we would think. It is not that worry is unnatural or that it isn’t understandable, it is that when we focus on worrying, we take our eyes off of Christ.

Reread the words that Jesus says in verse 34, “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.” Don’t just read that as a coined phrase or a simple principle to live by. Hear the tenderness and wisdom of God in those words. These words come from the one who cares for you more than you can understand or comprehend. These words come from the one who already knows what tomorrow holds, and He is telling you not to worry about it. These are the words of a caring father who is trying to point out the right path for his children.

It is impossible for us to fix our eyes on Christ and seek Him first if our minds and hearts are constantly pulled away towards the things we’re worried about. If our eyes are on us, rather than on God, and we’ll miss what He has to say to us this week. The challenge is to allow Christ to invade the space that you have allowed fear and worry to occupy.

1. Did you notice something today that was an example of putting God's kingdom first?
2. What worries have you brought with you this week?
3. What was your "takeaway"? What will you never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided

Daily Challenge:

Learn something about the community. What are the local jobs, churches, sports, etc.?

Morning Start-Up:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. - Acts 1:8

The same Holy Spirit that came upon the Apostles then is the same Spirit who has brought you here now, and He has also given you power to be a witness for Christ in this place. God gives us strength for each day, but He gives power to His people for more than swinging hammers, but so that people will come to know who He is and His love for them. Work hard today to be a witness for Christ for this family and community.

Devotional:

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. - Ephesians 3:17b-18

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul spends about half of the letter telling the church who they are in Christ. In the second half, Paul then focuses more on how they ought to live. Before he ever tells them what they should do, he tells them who they are. And they cannot know who they are in Christ unless they know how intensely they are loved by God. Before Paul makes the transition from who they are to how they should be living, he writes this great prayer that he has been praying for the church in Ephesus.

He says that he has been praying that they would have power. That appeals to all of us on some level. We would all want to receive power in some way. Much of the time, we run away with that thought and this it is for the purpose of something other than what Paul intended. We would want to have power to do miraculous things and powerful works, but that's not why Paul prays for power. We may think that we could receive power from the Spirit so that we can be wise and fathom all mysteries and know the will of God, but that isn't it either.

The reason Paul prays for power for these people is so that they could come to understand how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for them. The same prayer has been prayed for you. Don't let this be lost on you. The love that God has for you is so immense and so great that without the power of the Holy Spirit, you'll never be able to understand it. That is why Paul prays for power. We all need to be brought back to this from time to time and be reminded of just how much God loves us. Take some time to pray for this kind of power for yourself, your team, and for your family.

1. In what ways were you (the team) a witness for Christ today?
2. Has something happened this trip that reminded you of how great God's love is for us?
3. What was your "takeaway"? What will you never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided

Daily Challenge:

Pour yourself out completely. Pour yourself out completely.

Morning Start-Up:

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. - Colossians 1:24

What Paul is saying in this passage is not that there is something missing in Christ's sacrifice for your salvation, but that what is always lacking is for someone to suffer for the sake of others so that they can come to know the Gospel. This week, you have done that very thing so that this family might come to know what Christ has done for them.

Devotional:

Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. - Philippians 2:17-18

In this book, Paul is taking time to encourage the church at Philippi. This church holds a special place in his heart as it is the first church that he planted in Europe. Paul is encouraging the church to live their lives out as servants of the most high God. He desires for them to live a life totally committed to the cause of Christ

The imagery of a drink being poured out is so final. Once the drink is emptied out, there is nothing left and there is no going back. That is exactly how we should live our lives and how you should end this trip. Pour yourself out for the family. Pour yourself out for the team. Give all the love and emotion that you have and trust that God will fill you back up. The only way to guarantee that you will have no regrets is to pour everything you have into the family and the community. Be thinking about what you want to say to the family, especially during the dedication. You've come all this way and done all of this work, so pair the words with the actions. Don't find yourself on the way home regretting not having said the things God had prompted you to say. As you serve today, look for opportunities to pour yourself out for the sake of the Gospel.

1. How do you feel now that you're at the end of the build?
2. What did you pour yourself out the most with this week?
3. What was your "takeaway"? What will you never forget about this week?

Journal in the space provided

Thank
— YOU —