



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.

DAY ONE

Daily Challenge:

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

Morning Start-Up:

As you start this week's build, take a minute to think about what brought you here. What were the reasons you signed up? What circumstances made it possible? What motivated you to take this trip? What do you hope this time here will accomplish?

Devotional:

Read 1 Kings 19:7-13 - Elijah on Mount Horeb.

At this point in Elijah's story, we find him running to a holy place. Circumstances in his life have led him to go to the mountain of God and seek Him for help. He traveled for forty days and nights in order to reach this sacred place and yet the first thing God asks him when he arrives is, "What are you doing here?"

No doubt Elijah was hoping for God to show up in a big way and to change the circumstances that drove him to this place. So, God commands that he go and stand on the mountain for He was about to pass by. Elijah witnesses some tremendous displays of God's power here. God first sends a great wind that tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks, but God was not in the great wind. After the wind, God shook the earth, but He was not in the earthquake. The Lord then sent a fire upon the mountain, but He was not in the fire.

After God had shown Elijah His power and the things He could do, God gives Elijah what he really needed - a word from Him. Elijah needed God's direction and encouragement. He needed to know God was still able to work wonders in and around him. God reminds Elijah that He isn't done with his life and that he is still the means by which God is using to bring the hearts of many back to God.

Just like Elijah, we too have reasons and circumstances that have brought us to this place. The motivation for why you chose to come to this location may be different than why Elijah went to Mount Horeb, but nevertheless, God wants to speak a word to you. God wants to show you that He is using your life as a means to change the lives and hearts of others.

Take some time this week and answer the question that God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?" What do you need to hear from the Lord this week?

DAY ONE

1. What did you see God do today?
2. What interaction did you have with the family?
3. What was one thing you will never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided.

DAY TWO

Daily Challenge:

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

Morning Start-Up:

Psalm 143: 8 "Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul." I want you to think about this question today - how deep is my trust in the Lord?

Devotional:

Read Ezekiel 47:1-6 - The River from the Temple

In this chapter, Ezekiel is describing a vision that he has been given of the temple of God during the time of exile (the real temple had been destroyed so this is a new/heavenly temple). He sees water flowing out of the temple. It starts out as a small trickle and over time grows into a powerful river. Remember that what Ezekiel is seeing is symbolic of a reality within the Kingdom of God.

As Ezekiel goes along this small trickle of water, it soon becomes a stream that is ankle deep. He goes a little further along, and it rises to about knee deep. He goes even further, and the water level rises to waist deep. He continues to go far enough down the course of this stream to where it turns into a raging river that no one can wade across. If you've ever tried to cross a river, you know that it doesn't take much to cross when it's ankle deep. It takes some real courage to get into something that you know is over your head.

For some, the farthest they want to go in their faith and trust in God is ankle-deep. They simply want to put their feet in and nothing more - just enough faith and trust to get their feet wet. A few more may dare to wade down the river a little further but stop when the water rises too high for their comfort. In doing so, they miss out on the reward and blessing the living water of God can bring into their lives. The farther you wade into the waters of God, the less control you have over what happens in your life; but the more you will see God's power and the deeper your trust in Him will be.

How deep does your trust in the Lord go? Are you trusting in Him to lead you into deeper waters of faith?

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." -Corrie Ten Boom

DAY TWO

1. What are some examples of ankle-deep faith?
2. How has this trip led you to trusting God in a deeper way?
3. What holds you back from wading into deeper waters with God?
4. What was one thing you will never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided.

DAY THREE

Daily Challenge:

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

Morning Start-Up:

Romans 5:3-5 “we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

It is usually at this point in the build that physical and emotional fatigue starts to set in. The emotions and adrenaline we had at first with this trip has worn off and is no longer driving you. The challenge now is to finish strong and to give it all you’ve got in order to complete the house. It’s in these times that adrenaline no longer drives you, but character does! Let today’s challenges reveal your Godly character.

Devotional:

Read Matthew 25:31-46 - The Sheep and the Goats

In this chapter, Jesus is describing when He will return in His glory and judge the nations. He describes himself as a shepherd who will separate the sheep from goats. The sheep are placed on his right and the goats on his left. The sheep are those that get in and the goats do not. What you probably noticed was that Jesus says almost the same things to both groups, “When I was hungry...when I was thirsty...when I was sick...” The only difference between what makes someone a sheep and what makes them a goat is how they responded to someone in need.

There is a great deal of difference between character and intention. Nearly everyone possesses the intention to be someone who feeds the hungry, helps the poor, heals the broken, etc. However, Jesus does not mention the intentions of the goats (those on the King’s left) and give them credit for what they intended or how they may have felt about such things. Rather, Jesus turns to those who had more than just the intent to do good, those who had the character to live out those intentions.

This week, you are blessing a family with a new home. You are living out the kinds of things Jesus is describing in this judgment scene. What you have done this week for this family, you’ve actually done unto Jesus. By now, you know that it takes more than intentions to make a blessing like this possible. It requires things like planning, hard work, sacrifice, time, resources, and a great deal of character.

God works powerfully through those who have the character to bless others. Are you the kind of person who will let character drive you when emotions and adrenaline do not?

DAY THREE

1. Whose character did you notice today?
2. How do we go home with more than just good intentions? What can be do to put intentions into actions to bless others?
3. What was one thing you will never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided.

DAY FOUR

Daily Challenge:

Pour yourself out completely. Prepare yourself to share something with the family at the dedication.

Morning Start-Up:

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

As you start today, take a few minutes to think about the faithfulness of God. He has brought all things together so that you could have this day. Make sure you thank him for all the things He has done to make it possible for you to be here in order to be a blessing to this family.

Devotional:

Read 1 Samuel 7:10-12 - What is your Ebenezer?

Israel had seen God bring about a victory for them in a powerful way. It's not every day you get to see God thunder from heaven. Afterward, Samuel took a stone and set it up as a reminder so that the people of Israel wouldn't forget what God had done for them. Samuel names the stone Ebenezer, which means stone of help and he said, "God has helped us thus far."

We all need a reminder from time to time to help us remember the faithfulness of God. Think back to all the times that He has answered your prayers, helped you along, and provided what you needed. We tend to leak what God has poured in, and we also forget what He has done for us. Our tendency then is to only consider the most recently acquired information and experiences. Therefore, make for yourself an Ebenezer, a reminder, to see to it that you don't forget what God has done here this week.

God proves himself faithful today so that you will trust Him more tomorrow. He has helped you this far. Will you trust him as he leads you to new things? Consider Philippians 1:6 - "He who has started a good work in you is faithful to see it to completion." He is more excited about that work than you are, and if He's brought you this far, His plan is to take you even farther.

The trip is nearly over, but this is not the finish line. God is sending you back to the area where you have the greatest influence amongst those around you. This week was to prepare you for what you will do once you get back. Returning home is actually the starting line. What is he calling you to when you get home, and do you trust that he will be faithful to help you?

DAY FOUR

1. How has God helped you this week? In the past?
2. What is God moving you to when you return home? Can anyone help you with it?
3. What has been the biggest highlight of the trip?
4. How did you completely pour yourself out for Christ?

Journal in the space provided.

Thank
— YOU —