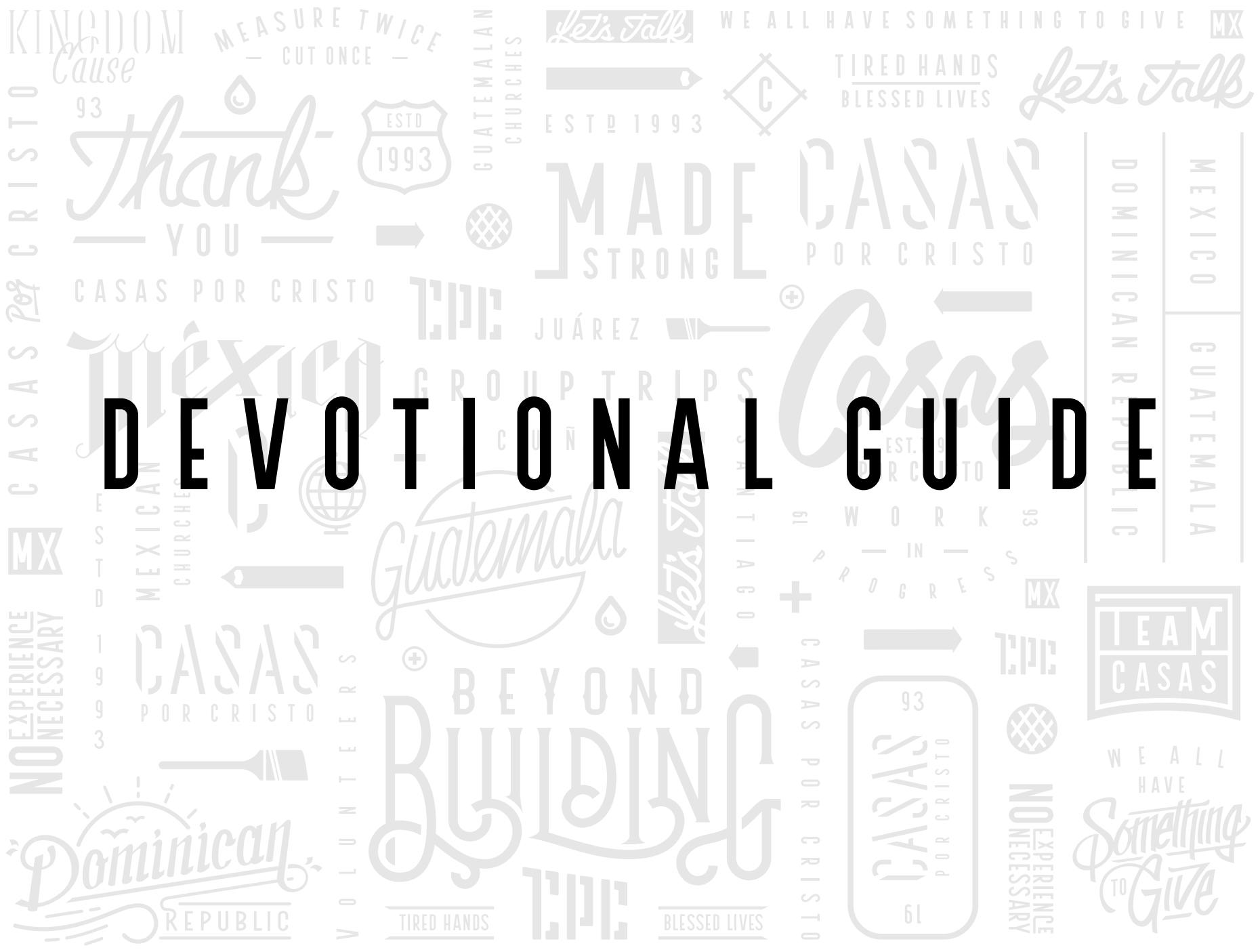


DEVOTIONAL GUIDE





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 three parts to the devotional.

PART 1 - Daily challenge - a specific challenge for you to accomplish during the day. Read this before you leave each day and see how accomplishing it might enhance your experience.

PART 2 - Devotional - a different devo each day that is centered around scripture with application for your time here.

PART 3 - Response Questions - three easy questions to help prompt reflection at the end of the day.

DAY ONE

Daily Challenge:

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

Joshua 3:5

“Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

Joshua is 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 land that God has given to them.

God has 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. To consecrate themselves the people are to be clean physically and spiritually. They must be right in the eyes of God.

God has called you to go into a new land. He wants you to show love to his children and to be fully enveloped in Him. He wants you to be so full of Him that His love simply overflows through your words and actions. But how can you be full of Him when there are other things occupying your heart and mind?

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.

Journal in the space provided

DAY ONE

1. What did God show you today?
2. How did you stretch yourself today?
3. What was your “takeaway”? What will you 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.

Matthew 6:34

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

In Matthew chapter 6 Jesus is teaching on the futility of worry. He is giving examples of typical things that people can worry over. 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.

“Therefore do not be anxious about about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.” Jesus wants us to let go and allow Him to take charge of our lives. When we let go of our anxieties and our worries we see an influx of Him. Let go of your concerns about the progress of the project or the difficulties that you face. Let go of your fear of the language barrier and the culture shock. Allow Christ to invade the space that you have allowed fear and worry to occupy.

Journal in the space provided

DAY TWO

1. What did God show you today?
2. How did you stretch yourself today?
3. What was your “takeaway”? What will you 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.?

Psalm 29:2

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.”

Give unto the Lord what is His, namely the glory that He deserves because He is God. The Psalmist writes this psalm to encourage his reader to look at all that the mighty God has done and to see his power in comparison to our weakness. Throughout the remainder of Psalm 29 the author continues to compare God’s power and majesty to a storm. God is all powerful, more than anything that we could ever imagine.

As we serve a family and provide a huge need for them it can be easy for us to forget who deserves the glory for what is being done. When we lose focus and begin to see ourselves as the primary provider we start down a slippery slope. The most powerful message that we can send to the families that we build for is that what we are doing is bigger than ourselves. If all of this is only as big as our collective selves then what we are doing isn’t really all that impressive. Look for ways to glorify God and to point those around you today towards Him.

Journal in the space provided

DAY THREE

1. What did God show you today?
2. How did you stretch yourself today?
3. What was your “takeaway”? What will you never forget about today?

Journal in the space provided

DAY FOUR

Daily Challenge:

Leave it all on the site. Pour yourself out completely.

Philippians 2:17-18

“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.”

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. Not only does Paul say to pour ourselves out completely but there was also that caveat in verse 14 to do so without complaining. Paul says we should be glad to have an opportunity to pour ourselves out for the sake of Christ. As you serve today look for opportunities to give your heart away for the sake of the Gospel.

Journal in the space provided

DAY FOUR

1. What did God show you today?
2. How did you stretch yourself today?
3. What was your “takeaway”? What will you never forget about today?
4. **How did you completely pour yourself out for Christ?**

Journal in the space provided

Thank
— YOU —