



Team Devotional



◆ Name/Date ◆

Day 1

Listening For God's Whisper

Read: 1 Kings 19:11-14, Matthew 3:13-4:11, Mark 1:35-39, Luke 5:12-15

This week, you will have the opportunity to spend 20 to 30 minutes each day in solitude, reflecting on God's Word, journaling, and praying. God is calling to you. Take advantage of this time to listen for God's whisper.

Reflection questions:

- Why do you think that God came to Elijah in the gentle whisper instead of in the wind, fire, or earthquake?
- Why do you think Jesus was led to the desert after his baptism, before he began his ministry?
- Why do you think Jesus found it necessary to retreat to a quiet place to pray so frequently?
- Are there a lot of distractions in your life?
- What are they distracting you from?
- Do you feel hurried? Why?

"For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them."

Dr. John Ortberg

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Day 2

Go Together

Read: Ephesians 4:1-16, James 3, Hebrews 10:19-25

Go Together means that we need to live in community. When we're in community we need to pay attention not only to ourselves but also to others—how they are doing and what they are feeling. This week, look out for others who are struggling and take time to encourage, build up, and pray for them.

Reflection questions:

- How can the community we find ourselves in build us up? How can it tear us down?
- How do you think James 3 fits into the idea of community? How does this affect the way we act on this trip?
- Is there someone on this trip that feels like a burden to you (someone that bothers you)? What does it look like to treat this person with respect and love?
- Whom do you need to encourage this week?

Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together.
- Corrie Ten Boom

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Day 3

Sacrificing For The Kingdom

Read: Mark 10:17-31, 1 Peter 3:8-22

Mark 10 is one of those passages many of us would rather ignore. Like the rich man, we would have a hard time giving up all of our possessions for God. But sometimes God does ask us to serve in ways that feel extreme to us, ways that require sacrifice. Putting God above everything else in your life is no small commitment. Are you ready to make it?

Reflection questions:

- Can you relate to the rich man?
- Would you give up everything you own to follow Jesus?
- Why would Jesus ask the man to do that?
- Could God be asking you to sacrifice something in your own life? What might it be?
- Can suffering actually be a good thing? In what ways?
- Are you willing to suffer for Christ? Have you already? How?
- What things in the Bible do you tend to ignore (accidentally or on purpose)? Why?

No sacrifice should be too great for Him who gave Himself for us.
— Harry Ironside

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Day 4

Excuses

Read: Luke 14: 15-24

An old saying is "Any Excuse Will Do". In Luke 14 Many people offered excuses about why they couldn't attend. Sometimes excuses are just a good cover story for why we don't want to do something. God allows for any excuse not to follow him and does not force us to do anything against our will.

Reflection questions:

- What are your best excuses you have used to not go to something you were invited to?
- What are the excuses listed in Luke 14?
- God gives us the same invitation. He esteemed you to be a friend. Sent invitation to you.
- Is Jesus inviting you to something right now? Do you feel like you are making an excuse or accepting God's invitation?
- Where did you see God at work today?

"Taste and see that the Lord is good"
— Psalm 34:3

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Day 5

Identification Please

Read: John 13:34-35

There have been many times during this trip that you've been asked to show identification. Producing identification is not isolated to just travel, it's part of everyday life. There is another form of identification found in John 13, that is observable, Love. Others will know that we are disciples of Jesus by our Love!

Reflection questions:

- John 14 says that the Love we have for others starts with the Love we have experienced from God? List the ways you have experienced the Love of God.
- John 14 says that "so you also must Love each other" This sounds like it is not easy and can be difficult to love sometimes.. and that we must.
- When were you most identified as a follower of Jesus by the way you loved?
- What acts of Love have you performed this week?
- Based on your experiences this week, how can you be better at showing God's love to a world in need?

People that love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we Love one another.

— Mother Teresa

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Day 6

Giving Thanks

Read: Philippians 1:3-6

This week has probably been filled with many conflicting feelings. Joy, sorrow, hope, defeat, beauty, ashes. As we have connected and served with Guatemalans, some who live in dire conditions, we can remain connected through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to leave the sad reality may be setting in that it may be some time until you can return to this mission and these people. Just like the Apostle Paul, he was comforted in the reality that he could remain connected through the Spirit and ultimately reunited with Believers in eternity.

Reflection questions:

- Can you relate to the rich man?
- How can I serve the poor where I live?
- How can I remember the people I have met through prayer?
- What is my lasting memory that I thank God for and will remember?

The opposite of an escape from the bitter realities of an oppressed people, prayer is the way to both the heart of God and the heart of the world - precisely because they have been joined through the suffering of Jesus Christ.
-- Henri Nouwen

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Day 7

Changed Hearts

Read: John 8:1-11, Galatians 5:16-26, Luke 9:28-36

Peter's response to the transfiguration is classic: "Hey, let's stay up here! I'll build some tents, and we can hang with Elijah and Moses and Jesus. That would be awesome." Many people feel the same way after trips and retreats. We encounter God in new ways and want to preserve this spiritual momentum. But the disciples don't stay on the mountain. In the next passage, they are back in town, and Jesus is healing once again. Like Peter, you will be returning to everyday life. But that doesn't mean that your experience "on the mountain" doesn't matter. Our mountaintop experiences bring us closer to God, and that changes our lives and our hearts. We learn how to better love our neighbors, and we deepen our commitment to loving and serving God.

Reflection questions:

- How have you encountered God this week?
- What is one area in which God is working on your heart right now?
- How might God's work in this area begin to change your perspective or behavior?
- How will I bring what I experienced this week home with me to share?

"The cost of discipleship is to live the life God has given us, serving in mundane ways the people he's put in our path."
— Mark Galli

DAILY REFLECTIONS

