



# Pre-Trip Preparation

Begin the Adventure...

Here is your 8-day devotional preparation for your trip.

This will cover:

- ☑☑ Prayer
- ☑☑ Being a servant
- ☑☑ Flexibility
- ☑☑ Understanding the Culture
- ☑☑ Relationships / Getting Along with Team Members
- ☑☑ Loving others
- ☑☑ Transformation
- ☑☑ Evangelism

## Day 1-Prayer

Read Philippians 4:6-7

*6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Prayer is the most important part of your trip. You need more prayer support than financial support. You are going to be in places where you will be challenged and facing many adversaries. You need prayer support!

What are you most anxious about?

Spend some time in your devotions asking God for peace in these areas.

Prayer needs:

- 1) the host missionaries
- 2) the nationals
- 3) your team members
- 4) your trip leader
- 5) you
- 6) the people you contact
- 7) finances

There are more and more, but what is the most important is the fact that you must be praying so that you are ready for what is going to happen.

**Today: Pray for the host missionaries...**

- their family**
- their finances**
- their safety**



## Day 2 - Being a Servant

Read John 13:1-17

*1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

What is the lesson that Jesus is showing us?

How does this affect your outlook/your plans of the trip?



**Pray that this verse will show you how to be a servant**

## Day 3 – Flexibility

Read Philippians 2:12-18

*12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.*

Beginning right now, as you commit and prepare for this short-term mission trip, you will need to be flexible. Remember you are there to be a blessing to the missionaries and to the nationals. There are going to be many times that you will need to remember...“what is the reason I am here?”

Examples of times to be flexible:

1. When your plane is delayed
2. When meal times fluctuate
3. When weather changes
4. When living conditions change
5. When the food served to you is nothing like you have ever seen before



“Do all things without complaining and disputing.”

You will have to expect things to change and you also have to prepare yourself so that you don't give the wrong reaction when things happen.  
Be flexible!!

List areas where you feel you can be flexible and areas you need to work on before the trip:

**Pray that you will be flexible on the mission trip**

# RESPECTING OTHERS

## Day 4 - Understanding the culture

The country or location you are going to is going to be different than the country you live in, whether it is Mexico, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Africa, Haiti or a Native American Reservation here in the United States. The culture is going to be DIFFERENT. That does not mean that their culture or traditions are better or worse than your own. Different isn't wrong, it is just different.

Read the book of *Jonah*. Reflect on Jonah's attitude towards the Ninevites.

What are your thoughts on Jonah's attitude?

Do you find this attitude in you towards other people? If so, reflect on this...

### **Ethno...what???**

Ethnocentrism is defined as:

"The belief in the inherent superiority of one's own ethnic group or culture; a tendency to view alien groups or cultures from the perspective of one's own."

Ethnocentrism often entails the belief that one's own race or ethnic group is the most important and/or that some or all aspects of its culture are superior to those of other groups.

MANY things in the culture you visit are going to be different. You are going to be challenged. Life will be different there.

What things do you think will be hard to leave behind?

**Pray that you are able to leave those things behind**

## Day 5 – Relationships / Getting along with your team



Like any small group, you may experience conflict within your team. You are going to be with these wonderful people for 24 hours a day for 7-14 days. The fact that there may be conflict is not important. What is important is what you are going to do when conflict happens.

How do you (personally) best handle conflict?

Read Philippians 4:8.

*8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

*How can this verse help you change your relationships with other team members?*

Can you think of other verses that are similar to this one?

Read 1 John 4:7

*7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

This time will be challenging. You have to be motivated by love. Love should be the reason you are going.

What are some ways that you can show love to others on this trip?

**Today: Pray for your team leader(s) and your team relationships**

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## Day 6 – Loving Others

Read 1 John 3:16-23

*16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he know everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.*

According to these verses, what is the best way to show love to others?

How is this going to affect your time on your trip?

How will this affect you when conflict arises?

How will this affect your everyday life?

**Today: Pray that you will be able to show the amazing love of God to others.**



## Day 7 - Transformation

Memorize: Isaiah 64:8

*8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are like clay, and you are like the potter; we are the work of your hand.*



This trip is an opportunity to be shaped by God. God is able to use any and all difficult situations or experiences that we go through. There will be times when you will be taken out of your 'comfort zone'. Some situations are going to be challenging.

Are there any areas in your life that you know God has changed your attitude/behavior/thoughts?

Are there any areas in you life that you think you need to change?

This trip will affect you. Be ready to be challenged and ready to see what God will do in your life.

**Today: Pray for non-believers.**

## Day 8 – Evangelism

Read Acts 1:8.

*8 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.*

This is important on your trip and when you return home. You are a witness of Christ. When you go about you represent Him. You represent Him when you are driving, shopping, playing sports and when you are “witnessing”.

St. Francis said, “Spread the gospel always...if necessary use words.” Now, this verse does not involve using our voice to share the gospel, but the best way to show the good news is through our life and how we treat others.

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16

*15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

What are some ways you can share the gospel with someone nonverbally?

What are some ways you can share the gospel with your mouth?



**Today: Pray for guidance on how to live lives where we show the gospel of Christ.**