



Send Relief



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

***Meeting
needs,
changing
lives***

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO SERVE WITH SEND RELIEF!

We are honored you chose to work alongside our missionaries and ministry partners to meet needs and change lives with the hope of the gospel.

Our primary hope and goal throughout this meaningful work are threefold:

1. Through your time with Send Relief, we hope you see a marked impact in how you serve and in the relationships you build through sacrificial living.
2. We pray the new ministry principles you learn on this trip will encourage and challenge, compelling your pursuit of living on mission for Christ even after you return home.
3. We hope you see how your presence encourages our missionaries as they live out the challenging mandate of full-time ministry.

Use this devotional to help you dig into God's Word and reflect upon the days ahead. We pray you will use this time to grow in devotion to Him and to one another as His people.

DAY ONE: COMPASSION MINISTRY

Focus of Devotion: Representing God

Scripture: Micah 6:8

Today marks the first day of your trip. You are now on the ground and ready to serve. We are excited you are with us on this journey of serving in our local context. As you settle in, remember that God expects all of us to represent Him wherever we find ourselves in this world.

Micah 6:8 clearly outlines God's call to us as His people. Read the passage if you haven't already.

God expects that we commit to "do justice" wherever we are. This means that we ought to treat people fairly, speak up for the voiceless, and generously share our resources with the less fortunate. To do justice is a vow to see things set right in a community.

God expects that we commit to "love kindness" wherever we are. This means that we ought to enthusiastically embrace a heart position of sacrificial love and mercy that reflects what we have received from God. To love kindness is to compassionately seek to care for those who could never pay you back.

God expects that we commit to "walk humbly" wherever we are. This means that we ought to live lives that recognize both our desperate need for God and how we have received His grace. When we understand our own dependence on the gospel, we better understand our call to serve. To walk humbly with God is to rely on His power flowing through us as we minister to others.

As we serve together, the goal is that you experience a lot, and as you do that, you will reflect the character of God to those around you.

How have you seen someone “do justice” well in your community or another context?

What stands in the way of us embracing a heart position that is committed to “love kindness”?

What person first comes to mind who displays how to “walk humbly with our God”? How would you describe their actions?

Prayer: Lord, help me to reflect Your character on this trip and when I return home.

DAY TWO: LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

Focus of Devotion: Showing Preference

Scripture: James 2:1-9

Whenever we read “neighbor” in the Old Testament, it typically refers to others within the Jewish community. When Jesus used it in the New Testament, He expanded it to include outsiders to the Jewish community, the poor and vulnerable, and even enemies. When Jesus called people to love their neighbors, He challenged them to move beyond loving people who were like them and who were easier to love.

After Jesus’ ascension into heaven, the first Christians were persecuted and scattered throughout the world. As they were displaced, they shared the gospel, and communities of faith were born. These new churches attracted everyone regardless of their social status or financial income.

In a letter to these faith communities, James, one of Jesus’ earthly brothers, provided practical application for how to love your neighbors. Read today’s passage in James 2:1-9 and answer the questions below. Then, discuss as a group.

What does James mean about those who “show partiality”?

In what ways do we most often treat the rich and the poor differently in our own communities?

What comes to mind as you imagine how you might love the neighbors you meet on this trip and those you will meet when you get back home? In what ways can you love your neighbors to display the kingdom of God?

Prayer: Lord, help me to love my neighbor in a way that displays Your kingdom today and every day.

DAY THREE: BEING A LEARNER AND ENCOURAGER

Focus of Devotion: Make Me Teachable

Scripture: Proverbs 9:9

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, King Solomon gathered sayings that declared the wisdom of God. One of those sayings gets right to the heart of what it means to be a learner.

Proverbs 9:9 says, “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.”

This verse teaches us that wise people always seek to grow and develop. Our hope is that, as you serve, you might be disciplined in compassion ministry. Growth is not always easy and often stretches you beyond where you are comfortable.

Proverbs 9:9 also shows us that the key to developing is not just a desire for it but embracing a teachable and humble heart. Having this type of posture means that you must be willing to admit that you don’t know everything. It also requires that you give people permission to guide you.

In a few sentences, describe one of your best learning experiences. What made it so memorable?

What emotions do you experience when you are corrected or instructed in a way that you were not expecting?

Consider your team. Who could you talk to about what you are learning? How could a friend help you process your experience?

Prayer: Lord, please give me a humble heart as I learn from others and from You on this mission trip.

DAY FOUR: BUILDING BRIDGES

Focus of Devotion: Restore Relationships

Scripture: Matthew 5:9

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Sometimes, our communities can feel chaotic and filled with conflict, anxiety, and injustice. It becomes very easy to look at people who contribute to this type of disorder as a problem that just needs to go away. However, this is not what Jesus calls us to. Bringing about peace isn’t accomplished by dismissing or challenging those who are creating difficulty. Instead, the biblical call to peacemaking is an invitation to seek and restore relationships, not to eliminate them.

When Christians embrace this work of restoration, we display God’s heart and represent the gospel.

Experts suggest that Christians promote peace among people in our communities when we restore a person’s relationship to God, to self, to others, and to creation. As you serve this week and in your own context, we encourage you to think about how you are building bridges toward people in your circles so that you might be able to see them made new.

When have you seen a chaotic situation filled with broken relationships restored? What turned the chaos into beauty?

Where do you see brokenness in the community you are serving now or in your local context?

In what ways could you help people restore their relationship to God, self, others, and creation in your own community?

Prayer: Lord, give me Your eyes for the broken people and the brokenness around me. Help me to be part of Your restorative plan.

DAY FIVE: COMPASSION IN ACTION

Focus of Devotion: Compassion Can Be Demanding

Scripture: Mark 1:29-45

Sometimes, ministry can be exhausting. You will experience this reality at some point while serving.

In today's passage, we read about two healing miracles that Jesus performed, which are pictures of compassion in action. They occur one right after the other and each of them happens after a full day of teaching at the synagogue. Both miracles have the same result—massive crowds pursue Jesus. The entire scene feels overwhelming, even as you read it.

What's fascinating is that we see Jesus continue to minister to people. He didn't give up. He continued to help those who needed healing and those who were trapped in darkness. However, Jesus didn't just model working hard in ministry without any opportunity for rest and refreshment.

In fact, if you look at the middle of the passage, you will find a pivotal moment we must not miss. Mark 1:35 reads, "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."

Friends, as you are on this trip and when you go back home, your days may feel exhausting. But by prioritizing time with God the Father, you will have all that you need to press on and even flourish when serving and loving others becomes difficult. As you rise each morning, don't forget to spend time with God.

When have you felt worn out serving others? What do you desire most in those moments?

Describe your most fruitful time alone with God. What did you experience?

How can you build a habit of prioritizing time with God? What changes may be necessary?

Prayer: Lord, please help me to make time with You a priority, because You deserve it and I know that You will satisfy every need that I have.

DAY SIX: TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Focus of Devotion: God Can Use You

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-9

Have you ever felt like your age, lack of experience, or training disqualified you from pursuing what you sensed God might be calling you to do? Jeremiah felt that way, and he told God as much.

Jeremiah 1:6 says, “I don’t know how to speak for I am only a youth.” God’s response was simple: He would tell Jeremiah what to say, guide Jeremiah where to go, and be with Jeremiah. The same is true for you. It doesn’t matter if you are 17 or 77. It doesn’t matter if you have a degree from a seminary or Bible college, if God has called you to something, He will provide the words, the direction, and His presence.

As you return home from this trip, we trust that God has been revealing things to you through your experience. Perhaps you will want to multiply exactly what you’ve seen on this trip. Or maybe God has inspired a new idea for how you might engage your community. As you discern what God might be asking of you, do not be afraid to run into it. If God has called you to do something, He will give you all that you need. He will never leave you or forsake you.

We are all called to “live on mission.” How are you going to serve and share Jesus with those around you?

What fears have you had in the past when it comes to following God’s calling on your life?

What is something that you sense out of this trip that God might be highlighting about your own community and how you can serve in your local context?

What do you believe God might be calling you to do when you return home?

Prayer: Lord, help me to hear You when You call and to have the courage and the trust in You to obey.

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