



## SHORT-TERM MISSIONS PRE-TRIP DEVOTIONS // 31 DAYS OF DEVOTIONS

By Dr. Devon Spencer

These devotions are designed for you to do on your own before you depart on your short term mission trip and to share your response with your team members. For some of you, your team members will be scattered across the country and you will get to share your comments via email (usually sent to the team leader first, but they will let you know what to do). For others, you may be traveling alone, which means you get to be accountable to do these devotions on your own. Or, you may be part of a team that is all in the same area, which will allow you to share these devotions face to face as you meet as a team. (Note that these can also be found as Appendix A in the Short-Term Manual.)

As you prepare for your missions trip, spending regular time in the Word and prayer is extremely important to not only your preparation, but to your life as a follower of Jesus Christ. As you look up these verses and walk through each exercise, we suggest that you also pray about the verses you are studying, asking God to strengthen you in your relationship with Him and living out your faith. We also recommend that you regularly pray for your teammates, team leader and host site. Pray that all the details will come together to make your trip glorifying to God and an encouragement to all involved both here and at your destination. Please know that the CVM staff are praying for you as well!

## **Day 1 - The Example of Jesus Christ**

*Philippians 2:3-11*

Jesus went to the extreme to save us. Part of the mission trip experience is getting out of our comfort zone. What is one thing on the mission trip that will push you out of your comfort zone?

## **Day 2 - Renewed for Service**

*Psalms 1:1-3*

Vs. 1 talks about change and learning. Has God been teaching you something specifically for this trip? Vs. 3 talks about bringing forth fruit. What fruit/outcome are you hoping will come out of this trip?

## **Day 3 - Time for Prayer**

*Mark 1:35-45*

Even Jesus prayed, the very Son of God himself. How much more important that we pray! What are some ways you like to pray? If you don't already, we strongly recommend that you set aside a daily time of prayer and reading your Bible. This is one of those habits you never want to lose!

## **Day 4 - The Word sets the Course**

*Psalms 119*

The longest chapter in the Bible talks about the impact God's word had on David. What impact does it have on you? What are some ways you like to study the Bible?

## **Day 5 - Empowered to serve**

*Acts 1:8*

Jesus' sacrifice and his sending the Holy Spirit is what empowers us to work in his name. What has the Holy Spirit been doing in your life recently?

## **Day 6 - Here I am, Send Me!**

*Isaiah 6:1-12*

In this passage, Isaiah has some imperfections that God purifies in him. Are there "imperfections/vices" in your life that God has been working on to prepare you for this trip? In vs. 8 Isaiah agrees to a task, no questions asked. Do you typically want details before agreeing to a task that God asks of you?

## **Day 7 - In Jesus I Serve**

*John 6:1-40*

Vs. 40 sums up the passage. It says that those who know Jesus know the Father. As believers, people expect to see Jesus in us. What does this say about how we portray ourselves to others?

## **Day 8 - Loving People**

*John 21:15-23*

We need to care about the people we are going to meet on the trip, including the people who live where we will serve, the host, our teammates, and the team leader. One way of showing love for others is by praying for them. Take time today and pray for everyone involved in this trip (it would be a good idea to do this every day, actually). Also, how are you going to remind yourself to pray for them after you return from the trip?

## **Day 9 - Fit For Service**

*Eph 5:1-17*

We all struggle with sin to some degree in one form or another throughout our lives. Fortunately, for those of us who know Jesus as Savior, He has paid the price for our sins. Verse 13 tells us to expose the bad stuff; vs 15 and 16 talk about having an illuminated walk so that we can make the most of our time. Take today (and every day) to confess any sin to the

Lord in prayer so you are prepared to make the most out of this trip.

### **Day 10 - The Commission**

*Matt. 28:19-20*

In what way do you think we will be involved in these tasks while on this trip?

### **Day 11 - Ministry Companion**

*John 14:16-31*

Last week we talked a little bit about the Holy Spirit. This passage talks about God's word and the Holy Spirit. Drawing from the passage, how are they interrelated?

### **Day 12 - The Surprise Witness**

*John 4:1-42*

The Scripture tells us that everyone/anyone can be a witness. Today, pray for each individual in the team to be a witness at home and abroad. Also, pray for divine appointments for your lives and the trip, that God will bring people into your path who are seeking to know more about God and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for boldness to share your faith.

### **Day 13 - The Extraordinary Ministry**

*Act 4:1-19*

People listened to the disciples and either believed or got angry. What was the major theme of what the disciples were saying in this passage?

### **Day 14 - Revival**

*Psalms 85:1-13*

What does "revival" mean to you?

### **Day 15 - Overcoming the Ruts**

*Numbers 13:25-33*

All 12 spies in this passage saw the same thing, but two saw the good and ten saw the bad. Caleb knows God promised them the land and will take care of the "bad" things. How do you help yourself focus on the promises of God when things look rough?

### **Day 16 - Removing the Obstacles**

*John 11:39-40*

There are a lot of obstacles that must be removed for this trip. What are some possible obstacles?

In these verses Jesus asks for the obstacle to be removed. By asking, he allows us to respond. How do you respond to removing obstacles?

### **Day 17 - Anxiety**

*Philippians 4:4-9*

*1 Peter 5:6-11*

Philippians tells us to not be anxious, but instead to pray. Post this scripture some place where you can see it every day, and instead of worrying over things, practice prayer until it becomes an automatic response to anxiety. Philippians also tells us to focus our thoughts on the good things and rejoice in the Lord. When anxiety sets in what will be your "happy thought?" Peter tells us to be humble. What do you think humbleness has to do with anxiety and prayer?

### **Day 18 - Greatness and leaders**

*Matthew 20:20-28*

How does your picture of a leader compare to Jesus in verse 28?

### **Day 19 – Forgiving One Another**

*Matthew 5:21-24*

*Matthew 6:14-15*

It is probable that at some point on this trip someone will rub you the wrong way or even offend you. In order to not get distracted and to maintain our witness as believers, it will be imperative that you are prepared to forgive others quickly. Looking at the scriptures listed above, “offering your sacrifices” in Matthew 5 is the equivalent of asking forgiveness for your sins in prayer. What does this verse say to do before you can seek forgiveness from God? Also in Matt. 6:14-15, what do these verses say about the importance of forgiving others?

### **Day 20 – Loving God, Loving our Neighbor**

*Luke 10:25-35*

It’s interesting, isn’t it, that loving God is so very tied to loving people. On this missions trip, it is very probable that we will see great needs everywhere, but realistically, our ministry will only touch a limited number of lives. Pray for wisdom and clear direction for “loving our neighbor” as we minister at our mission site. How will you deal with leaving behind such great needs?

### **Day 21 - Being Who You Are**

*Galatians 5:18-25*

Which fruit of the Spirit is an area of strength for you? Which may be areas of weakness?

### **Day 22 - Victory over Prejudice**

*Jonah 1:1- 3:10*

Which of these verses point to the idea that God wants to reach everyone? Why did you pick the verse you did? Are there other verses outside of this passage that give the same message?

### **Day 23 - Serving in Joy**

*Psalms 100:1-5*

What joy do you hope to get out of this trip? How will you share this joy with God and others?

### **Day 24 - Serving in Thankfulness**

*Psalms 103:1-22*

In this Psalm David lists lots of things to be thankful for. What are some of the promises of God listed in this Psalm that you can thank God for on this trip?

### **Day 25 - Serving with Compassion**

*Jonah 4:1-11*

Jonah’s and God’s view of who deserved compassion differs quite a bit. What is your definition of compassion and who do you think deserves compassion? What does God say about who deserves compassion?

### **Day 26 - Serving with Urgency**

*John 9:1-7*

Jesus knew that he was only going to be on earth for a short time. We know that we are only going to be in our mission location for a short while. How does this affect your mindset for how you might deal with the possibly busy/long days that we may have there?

### **Day 27 - Reliance on God**

*John 15:1-16*

One of the benefits of going on a mission trip is moving out of your comfort zone. When we are out of our comfort zone, we soon come to the end of ourselves. Who are you going to rely on then? Do you have to wait till you come to the end of yourself or should you start from the beginning, knowing that God is the One who will supply all your needs?

### **Day 28 - Team Building Spirit**

*Romans 12:1-21*

What gifts has God given you that will add to this group? (ex: prayer, communication, music, humor, compassion, etc.)

### **Day 29 – Mission: The Common Purpose**

*1 Corinthians 1:23-31*

When you boil it all down what is our purpose, according to these verses, of going on this mission trip?

### **Day 30 - Proclaiming Freedom to the Poor**

*Isaiah 61:1-6*

Isaiah is given a message to free the poor. What is the message?

### **Day 31 - Putting on God's Armor**

*Ephesians 6:10-20*

List the pieces of the armor of God listed in the verses above. Which piece is your “strongest piece of armor?” Which is your “weakest piece?” Why are each of them important?