

High School Pre-Mission Trip Devotionals

Everyone who is going on the mission trip is being required to write a short devotional. We will pray for the person who wrote the devotional that day and then text them that we prayed for them.

What you must include in your devotional:

- 1) **Scripture** (can be one verse, can be a whole chapter or something in between that length)
(The passage needs to be typed out)
- 2) **Prayer** (you could write a prayer - like, "God help me to understand your deep deep love for me and for all the people I come in contact with on the mission trip. Teach me to love others the way you love me", or give things to pray for - like, "Pray that God would give you the heart of a servant, etc.")
- 3) **TWO or more of the following elements:**
 - a) A personal story
 - b) Challenging Thoughts
 - c) Questions with space to write a response
 - d) Unpacking what your Bible passage means
 - e) A song
 - f) any other creative option you can think of.

This devotional does not have to be long. I would say keep it between a half page and a page.

At the top of the devotional please include:

- 1) a title (ex. "Loving Others," "For God's Glory," "God's Kingdom")
- 2) Your name
- 3) **Your cell phone number (or some other way to contact you)**

Ideas for devotionals:

Why are we going?/Service - how Jesus served, or what the Bible says about service

Caring for/loving one another - how we can prepare to get along with each other

Gift/abilities - discovering what God has gifted you to do as we serve, we are one body with many parts...romans 12

Prayer - ideas of how they can pray to prepare for the trip

Sacrifice - doing things for others rather than self

Having an Attitude of Gratitude on the trip

Who are we working for? (Doing things for God, not ourselves or for our glory)

If you have your own idea for a pre-trip devotional that is not listed, please feel free to do that.

Please email in **Microsoft Word, Mac Pages, Google Docs or the body of an email**. I usually have to do some editing, so a **PDF is not helpful**. PDF is helpful if also sending a Word file though.

Please email your devotional to Jeremy by April 14: jzoet@zionreformed.org

June 21 Philadelphia PreTrip Devotional

- I finished doing this devotional.
- I prayed for and sent this person a message

Jake Corfixsen

616-644-6489

Jesus's Love

Listen to the song Walking On Water by Needtobreathe.

This song has been one of my favorites for a while. There are many lines in it that stand out to me. The one that stands out the most is "Though I falter, you got me walking on water." This stands out to me because it really shows just how caring Jesus is. Although we falter/sin, he is still there for us when we need him.

Matthew 28:20 "...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This Bible verse relates to the song because Jesus is saying he is going to be with us forever and he will help us when we need him. His love is so perfect because even when we mess up and falter he will always be there to help us get back on the right track.

When is a time you have faltered and Jesus has still been there for you?

Prayer- Pray that to Jesus and thank him for always being there for us. Thank him for being there when we sin and falter. Also pray for our mission trip that we all have strength to get through the week and that we all grow in our relationships with Christ.

June 29 Philadelphia PreTrip Devotional

I finished doing this devotional.

I prayed for and sent this person a message

Spiritual Gifts

Benjamin Hewitt
(616-345-0551)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NLT): ¹ Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. ² You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. ³ So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

(I recommend checking out Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Peter 4:10-11, & Ephesians 4:1 if you want to learn more about spiritual gifts.)

We have talked a little about this in youth group, but I have decided to dig into it a bit more. Before we go off looking for our spiritual gifts, I believe it would be beneficial to see what they are and what they should and should not be used for. First off, this is not meant to bend mind and soul to put yourself into a box, saying one gift is mine and I cannot do anything else. The Holy Spirit gives each Christian special abilities to use for growing the kingdom, growing our faith, uniting believers, and helping each other. Some people may only have one gift, while others might have more. Yet no gift is better than the other. Having one particular gift or having a strong gifting does not make us spiritually better than anyone else. For example, the reason Paul wrote this piece of scripture was because the Church of Corinth was suffering division over people using their gifts inappropriately as symbols of spiritual power. That caused rivalry and strife within the church, providing a good showcase of how spiritual gifts should not be used.

I highly recommend taking this test and reflecting on your answers. Knowing what our gifts are enables us to better serve the kingdom & discover God's will for our lives. As we prepare for this mission trip, try thinking of ways you can work with others who have different gifts to build faith, encourage, and strengthen each other. https://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcf_mycs_030526_spiritual_gifts_survey.pdf

(There are tons of debates and differences of opinion throughout Christianity on what a lot of the gifts mean. That is not what this devotional is about, but I would love to discuss this further with anyone who's interested.)

Lord, show us how we can use our gifts to glorify you and to lift each other up in faith. Show us how we can use our gifts to help those we come across on the mission trip. We pray for guidance, protection, and wisdom as we travel in Your name. Have everything we do not be in vain, but be centered with You in the middle. Let us love You, love others and spread the good news in any way you have us. We pray this in Your name and Your name alone, Amen.

June 24 Philadelphia PreTrip Devotional

- I finished doing this devotional.
- I prayed for and sent this person a message

Keeping God in Mind
By: Emma DeVries
Phone number: (616)633-4986

Psalms 19:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”

John 3:30

“He must increase, but I must decrease”

Reflection:

This verse is what I really truly want to live by this summer. Because with working and spending time with friends and traveling I know I'll struggle to just listen to what God wants me to do. Personally, I'll be on a school trip for a decent chunk on devotions. And I know that I'll probably struggle with choosing to spend time with friends or sit alone and do my devotions. But God should always be first. And I'll just keep reminding myself that. That's the way you get in the right mindset for mission trip getting in the habit of putting God first before mission trip starts so you'll be able to easily continue afterwards.

Song:

Listen to First by Lauren Daigle

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help everyone going on mission trip to always think of you and put you first in their decisions. Help us to set aside time for you everyday, especially now that we have devotions made for us. Get as mentally and spiritually prepared for mission trip and to have an amazing time while we're there. In your name we pray amen.