

# Middle 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 email address** (not everyone has a cell phone). If you have a **cell phone number**, please include that too or one of the following: instagram, kik, or iMessage, as a way to reach 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](mailto:jzoet@zionreformed.org)**

## May 31 Holland PreTrip Devotional

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

# Messing Up

By: Reagan Davis

Email: [2023rdavis@jpsstudents.org](mailto:2023rdavis@jpsstudents.org)

Phone number: (616)856-951

Romans 5:21 New Living Translation (NLT)

**21** So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As middle schoolers this is probably a daily thing as we are dealing with so many different things pulling for our attention and it's easy to fall into the trap of sin and temptation in so many things in our daily lives.

God's love is full of grace. He understands immaturity and knows that there is no real life without him. He knows that if he is patient that people will eventually be faced with the fact that their big dreams are empty if they do not include him. He loves it when people come back to him when they have messed up. He is where we find the love and acceptance we long for when we are at the other side of hopelessness.

Song: Tenth Avenue North - [Worn](#) (with lyrics)

Dear God, thank you that we can come back to you when we've sinned. Thank you for forgiving us. Help us to extend the same forgiveness to each other on this trip.

## **June 18 Holland PreTrip Devotional**

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

### **God on the Ropes** **By Calum Leistra** 2024cleistra@jpsstudents.org

This Friday I just back from Grace Adventures. I was there for four days for sixth grade camp. That is where all the kids in sixth grade from each Jenison elementary school go to camp, try new things, learn teamwork skills, and have fun. I was very excited to go, but I was nervous about one thing - the high ropes course. I am afraid of heights and this course was going to be challenging.

Wednesday morning started out rainy, so they sent us to the indoor ropes course right away. Feeling a bit sick in my gut, I stared up at the ropes and thought, "Man. This is going to be a challenge." I had friends there cheering me on, but I was still nervous. Climbing the ladder, I whispered a quick, "God, help me" and started climbing.

God didn't take away my fear, but He watched over me and I made it through. God won't always make you invincible, but He always helps you. Life is an uphill climb and I'm only at the start, but I know I'm never alone.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Joshua 1:9. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

God was with me on that ropes course and He will be with me wherever I go in life. I'm not alone. That gives me a new confidence and the courage to keep climbing.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You that You are always with me. Thank You that you are always with us wherever we are and wherever we go. Amen.

## June 15 Holland PreTrip Devotional

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

### **Attitude of Gratitude**

By: **Sydney Mott**

Email: [2024smott@jpsstudents.org](mailto:2024smott@jpsstudents.org) Phone Number: (616) 498-4832

1. In Psalm 9:1 it says “I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” This means you should praise the Lord and be thankful for the big thing just as much as the little things. On this trip you should express kindness to as many people you meet and share the love of God with them. Sometimes we take things for granted when we shouldn’t. God provides everything for us and loves us and we should love others and show gratitude just like him.
2. Dear God, I pray that everyone shows thankfulness and love to people we meet. I pray that we grow closer to you through worship and by serving you. I hope that we can grow closer together as a group and become a stronger family. Amen.
3. Listen to Desert Song -Hillsong Worship  
<https://youtu.be/HUISd7LSxAQ>

## June 14 Holland PreTrip Devotional

I finished doing this devotional.

I prayed for and sent this person a message

### Fluggle Frubble Filosiful

by Tom MacGraw

Cell: 616-375-0017

Snap: tmac0319

Insta: tommacgraw\_

Email: tommgpc@gmail.com

“God Turned Their Language into ‘Babble’”

Genesis 11 1-2 At one time, the whole Earth spoke the same language. It so happened that as they moved out of the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled down.

3 They said to one another, “Come, let’s make bricks and fire them well.” They used brick for stone and tar for mortar.

4 Then they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower that reaches Heaven. Let’s make ourselves famous so we won’t be scattered here and there across the Earth.”

5 God came down to look over the city and the tower those people had built.

6-9 God took one look and said, “One people, one language; why, this is only a first step. No telling what they’ll come up with next—they’ll stop at nothing! Come, we’ll go down and garble their speech so they won’t understand each other.” Then God scattered them from there all over the world. And they had to quit building the city. That’s how it came to be called Babel, because there God turned their language into “babble.”

I recently got a new coworker who is reporting directly to me, and I am in the process of training her how to do what I do. Her name is Sridevi, and she is originally from India but has been in the United States for at least 3 years. Since she has been here for that long, her english is really good, along with her understanding of it, but there are still times where American slang is lost on her. There are also times when I will be talking and slur something or trail off in the middle of a sentence or my accent is hard to understand (yes, we have accents too!). But that goes both ways...there are times that she will ask me a question and I will have to have her ask it again and really focus to understand what she is asking.

While we are in Holland, we will be working with kids who may not talk much at all, or what they say won’t make sense. We may also encounter people who speak Spanish or another language as their first language and it may be difficult to communicate with them at times. I challenge you to not get frustrated and find ways to communicate. Maybe make motions, or draw, or find someone who can help bridge the gap between you and the person you are trying to connect with. Just don’t give up, because you never know what God is trying to tell you through that person.

Pray:

Lord, help me to understand and be understood while in Holland. I pray for the people that I will encounter, and that they will be able to see You through me. Amen.

## June 1 Holland PreTrip Devotional

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

**Kim Verbrugge**

**(616) 238-2525**

**2020verbrugg@jpsstudents.org**

## All in

Before our trip to Alaska last year we all had to choose a job that we had to perform during or before our trip. Out of the jobs provided I chose to write bible verses for everyone in our youth group. The purpose of my job was to give our group something to reflect upon and carry around with them during the week. I found my task very challenging because I wasn't finding a verse that had the right theme. Nothing was jumping out at me and telling me "SHARE THIS WITH YOUTH GROUP!" That is until I found 1 Peter 4:10-11. It really spoke truth and was an inspiration to me and hopefully others on that trip. So I would like to share that verse with you guys again this year.

### SCRIPTURE:

#### **1 Peter 4:10-11:**

Each one of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in all its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

The whole point of our mission trips is to serve God. Sometimes I feel as though this mission gets lost behind all the stresses, anxieties, and thrills of participating in our trips. We all go because we want to have fun and serve God but our heads aren't always "all in." There are things that will always distract us from staying focused on mission trips. It may be things at home or at work or even things happening on the trip that prevent us from being "all in" for serving God. We all have our own talents and strengths so let's use them to serve our amazing God continuously and wholeheartedly on this trip:))

### CHALLENGE:

As our time is getting closer to our trip together I challenge you to really engage yourself into these devotions. Don't do them because we HAVE to, but do them because you want to serve God with your whole mind and heart. Put aside distractions before our trip and really dive into the devos so when it comes to our trip, you will be better able to put aside the distractions and be "all in."

### PRAY:

God, help us to use our gifts to the best of our abilities. Prepare our hearts to be ready for this trip. Help us to set aside all distraction and be "all in."