**12 DAY DEVOTIONAL for Mission Trips**

**Day I: Imitating Christ’s Humility**

1. **Philippians 2: 1-4** Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

* How does this verse speak to you today?
* This trip is first and foremost about God and His kingdom, but also about serving the women of Sri Lanka. Do you ever find it difficult to focus solely on the needs of others when you have your own needs and desires?
* As we begin this long journey of travel, how might we commit together to imitate Christ’s humility in serving one another as a team? As we do this, how might we begin to think of placing the interests of the women of Sri Lanka above our own over the next 12 days?

**Day 2: Encourage One Another**

**2**. **Hebrews 10:24-25:** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good   deeds,not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

* As we each work hard all day long and are surrounded by extreme poverty and need, it is easy to become weary.
* How do we exchange weariness for a servant’s heart?
* Take time to encourage each person you encounter today, whether with a smile or an encouraging comment.

**Day 3: Missionary Feet**

**3. Romans 10:14-15:** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

* How privileged we are to be the beautiful feet of the Gospel!!
* How does it make   you feel to know you are growing God’s Kingdom?
* Get together with a team member and recount the story of how you were called to this trip. How did God work through people and circumstances to get you here, today, right now?

**Day 4: Thanksgiving for the Faith**

**4. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10:** We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

* What a glorious picture of Faith taking root and spreading throughout a community!
* What images does this verse inspire for you?
* Pray for the community we are visiting today, that they might receive the Gospel with power from the Holy Spirit and turn from the idols they serve to the One true God.
* Pray that our team may be a model of His love and mercy as we minister physically and spiritually to the community.

**Day 5: Put on your armor**

**5.  Ephesians 6:10-18** Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rules, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of this wickedness in high places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm.

Stand firm, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”

    Today as we begin another day of serving, may we be well aware that our strength comes from the Lord - and that we are partaking in a battle that goes beyond what we see with our eyes.

* Pray that God will open our eyes to stand firm against the schemes of the devil, seeing conflict and challenges with spiritual eyes.
* How might we put on the armor of God today? Which piece of armor seems most needed for you today?
* How might we be alert to pray for the needs of the saints today? Who might be ‘the one’ that God is calling you to serve; to pray for; to encourage?
* What about our team? How might we be vulnerable enough to share our struggles; pray and encourage one another particularly as we are outside of our comfort zones.

**Day 6: The Pick-Me-Up**

**6. Isaiah 40:28-31:** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

* As we reach the halfway point of our journey, are you finding yourself energized and enthusiastic, or tired and weary?
* How does this verse speak to you today? Do you believe the Lord is able to replace physical and emotional fatigue with His endless love, mercy, and grace as we serve others?
* Share some of your “obstacles” with a team member and pray for one another throughout this day.

**Day 7: Your Gift**

**7. 1 Timothy 4:9-14:**This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.Command and teach these things.Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

* Which of your gifts is God using most this week? When did you first recognize this gift?
* Get together with a team member and share what gift you have seen God using in them this week. Pray that we will set an example for the people in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

**Day 8: Running Your Race**

**8. Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:6-8:** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

* Do you feel like you are being poured out this week? Has it left you feeling empty or full?
* Do you ever lose sight of the one task at hand: testifying to the Good News of God’s grace?
* Get together with a team member and pray that God would remind them of the task at hand, and restore them as they continue to pour out His love and grace.

**Day 9: Turning Nothing into Something**

**John 6:8-13:** Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up,“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.”

So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

* Twelve days doesn’t seem like a lot of time, especially when you spend so much of it traveling.
* Do you feel our time here in this country has impacted the community and the team like you thought it would?
* Throughout history, God has used small things to make a big impact (think David and Goliath), so encourage one another that no matter how small the effort may seem, God will use it in a big way.

**Day 10: Thanksgiving and Prayer**

**10. Ephesians 1:15-23:** For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people,I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

* How does this verse speak to you, this last day of our journey?
* What have you learned about God this week? About others? About yourself?
* Take a few minutes to reflect on our service in the name of Jesus this week, the blessings that were given and received, and send up a prayer of Thanksgiving to our Great God.

**Day 11: The Journey Home**

**11. Jeremiah 17:5-8:** This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

* As we journey home today, we will be thrust back into a culture of wealth and excess. You may find it difficult to go back home, watch your flat screen TV, and eat all you desire. You may feel guilty, but recognize that these are normal feelings, and we are blessed to live in a country where freedom, life’s necessities, and healthcare are available just down the street. Recognizing these blessings produces a heart of thankfulness, which overflows to a life of obedience and service.
* If we lived in the same circumstances as the women of Sri Lanka, who would go and care for them?
* However, we do not want to forget all that we have seen and experienced during this journey, fall into worldly living, and neglect the relationship with Jesus that was fostered during the trip. With all the distractions of our culture and our lives, it is an easy thing to do. We need to be rooted firmly in the Lord, so that when distractions and temptations come, we will remain green.
* How can you take your experience back home with you to make a difference in your church, your life, and/or community?
* An accountability friend is key to keeping our promises to ourselves, with God, and to others.  Do you have someone in your life who will hold you accountable and who will encourage you in your walk with the Lord?  If not, please let someone you consider a positive role model in your life to know what you have need of.

**Day 12: To God be the Glory**

**12. Isaiah 26:12** “All that we have accomplished, You have done for us!”

* How we tell the story of our time together matters! Clearly, we have experienced God’s power, provision, protection and covering during this trip. Let’s commit now to sharing our stories in a way that honors God and reflects the humility of being His servant.
* What was the most impactful experience that you encourntered on this trip?
* What is the single most significant thing that God has taught you ?
* How might sharing this story bring praise to God?