

GO MINISTRIES



PRE-TRIP

Devotions

Welcome to GO

We are so excited for you to join us for a short-term mission trip! To help you prepare, we have put together this three-part devotional. Each "unit" has three days of devotions. Try to go through each day when you have at least 10 minutes to slow down and hear what God is doing in your heart and mind.

At GO Ministries, we deeply value the power of prayer and community. As you prepare for this trip, having a strong support system is vital! While it's wonderful if your friends and family come together to support you financially, there is something even more important: having a team of people committed to praying for you as you prepare.

Take a moment to think of 10 people you can ask to pray for you during both the preparation for your mission trip and the journey itself, and list them in the space provided.

We can't do anything without God's help, and the more people asking God to help you, the better!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Unit 1

Day 1 "THE CALL"

Matthew 28:19
"Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations..."

Why do we GO? And how do we even know if we've "been called" to go? This is a question that countless Christians have asked. All Christians experience unique callings in unique ways, in unique situations, and with unique circumstances.

One common thread across the Bible's many instances of calling is that God gives the initial call with little further instruction.

Take a look at Moses. Moses was minding his own business, attending to his father-in-law's flock in the desert, when he saw a strange, burning bush and approached it. God spoke to him and told him that He was ready to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians and that He had chosen Moses to go to Pharaoh and bring them out.

Moses is sure that this was a mistake. He doesn't see himself as a leader or a good public speaker (Exodus 4:10). Finally, he asks God to choose someone else (Exodus 4:13).

When you think about it, would you be any different than Moses? He has shockingly little to go on, but God tells him that He will be with him every step of the way. There is no manual, no guidebook, and no Google Maps link. It's simply, "Go."

Are you struggling with why you are even going on this mission trip? Are there other things in your life you feel like God has called you to, and it just doesn't make sense?

But several things remain true for everyone ever called by God. Let's focus on these two:

- We are all created to serve God. [Ephesians 2:10]
- God doesn't call us to do something He won't give the strength to do. [Philippians 1:6]

When we doubt God's call, we can come to Him. Write a short prayer to God giving over all of your doubts and worries about your upcoming mission trip.

WHY?

Day 2

EXPECTATIONS

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever.

It is nearly impossible to go into a situation without preconceived expectations.

If you have been on a mission trip before, that experience has shaped your expectations. If you haven't, your expectations are based on other people's experiences or things that you have read or heard.

Sometimes, an experience exceeds our expectations. But the danger of expectations is that you can be left feeling disappointed if reality is different from what you anticipated.

So, where does that lead you? What should you do with any ideas that you have about how your time on the mission trip will be?

1- Examine your expectations.

Are you already thinking about the photos you'll post on social media? Are you worried about logistics or safety concerns? Do you feel like you're unqualified to go on this trip? Or do you see yourself as the rescuer of the people you'll serve?

2- Give God your expectations for your trip and realize that God's good plan may differ from your ideal.

Have an honest conversation with God about your expectations. He can handle it (and already knew them to begin with!). Ask the Lord to focus your heart and mind on what He wants you to think about.

3- Know that we will not be disappointed when we place our expectations on God's plan for us.

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails,"
Proverbs 19:21.

Just like you cannot know what tomorrow will bring, you cannot predict what the Lord has for you and the others around you during your mission trip. When you feel an expectation rise in you, talk to God about it. Remember that He knows what the future holds for you.

Spend a few minutes examining your expectations and giving them over to God. Pray that God will do more than you can ask or imagine!

Day 3

MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION

So much of the New Testament is a guidebook on how Christians are supposed to live with one another. Before Jesus came, Jews had little to nothing to do with people outside their community, and it was not an easy thing to learn!

Why is there so much emphasis on working together and loving each other well? We desperately need each other. We were created to live in community.

Mutual Transformation is the product of loving each other well as the global Church. We believe that while you are leaving your home to serve others, you are not the only one who will be serving. In God's goodness, both you and the people you serve will see God's grace and love and will be transformed.

Look up the following verses. How do each of these emphasize mutual transformation?

Hebrews 10:24

Galatians 6:2

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Proverbs 27:17

James 5:16

I Peter 4:8-11

Do you think you need to be transformed?

Unit 2

STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Day 1

THE GOD OF ALL NATIONS

Colossians 1:6

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

Travel can be a great reminder of how big God is. It is an opportunity to leave what's familiar to us and see the beauty of God's creation in other people and places. We can also see God's bigness in how He takes people from around the world and weaves His global Church together.

The gospel shows us that everyone desperately needs a Savior. Our location, culture, race, and ethnicity do not change that. God knew that everyone, everywhere needed to be rescued. His redemption plan has always included people from around the world. In Genesis 12:3, He said that **all people** on earth would be blessed.

Since the beginning, God has been at work bringing people from every corner of the world into His Kingdom through His Son, Jesus. This plan is too vast for us to comprehend fully. However, we have been invited to participate in this beautiful mystery.

Look up the following passages. **What does it mean to you that God wants to save people from every tribe, tongue, and nation? How does that impact you personally?**

Psalm 67

Revelation 7:9-17

Day 2

STEPPING INTO A NEW CULTURE

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those that listen.

When you arrive in a new country, you line up and go through a screening process.

This is designed to verify that you are who you say you are and that you are not a danger to the people or the country you are entering. While these long lines can be a headache, they can also be a good reminder that we are guests in the country we are entering.

It is natural to think that the food, traditions, habits, and culture we are used to is "the right" way. However, there are over 8 billion people in this world, which means that there are over 8 billion opinions on what the "normal" way is to live.

Recognizing our own biases can be helpful in all of our interactions. Knowing that you are a guest in a country with different money, weather, time importance, and food will help you embrace change instead of resisting it.

One wonderful thing about meeting people outside of your usual bubble is learning that they actually do some things better than you! You may find a community far more friendly and welcoming to outsiders than you are used to.

Everyone approaches situations through their own lenses. Now, this is not a negative thing. Different viewpoints bring different gifts! However, we must realize that we will be tempted to think of things as "right" or "wrong" when they are simply different. It's more important for us to approach situations through the lens of God's Kingdom rather than our own lenses.

Being respectful of other cultures doesn't mean we have to agree with everything, but it does mean we listen, learn, and appreciate the beauty in our differences. By doing this, we reflect the love of Christ, who embraced people from all walks of life.

What's one cultural difference that might be difficult for you to deal with? How can you approach that change from a Kingdom perspective?

Day 3

RICH & POOR

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Followers of Christ are called to love and respect all people, regardless of their background or culture. God made humanity diverse, and each culture reflects His creativity and character. When we encounter people from different cultures, we should approach them with humility, recognizing that they, too, bear the image of God.

On your trip, you may encounter situations or people that surprise you. The needs you see can be disheartening.

Remember that our job is not to "fix" anyone or any situation. Our job is to meet people where they are and love them. Here are some things to keep in mind when you see challenging situations and want to do more:

Our job is not to rescue but to empower the local leader to make disciples. A local leader lives among the people, walks beside them, and actively points others to Jesus. Local leaders can do more than one group can in a week, but your trip plays an important role in their mission to make disciples. Your time serving the community empowers the local leader to develop relationships with the people in that neighborhood. These relationships lead people to Christ, who redeems, renews, and restores.

When we show respect and understanding, we open doors for meaningful relationships and demonstrate that unity is possible in Christ.

Look up the following verses. **What value does God put in human wisdom, knowledge, and wealth?**

James 1:9-10

Ephesians 2:8-9

Unit 3

ATTITUDE

Day 1

NEVER ALONE

Joshua 1:9

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Life can feel lonely, especially during times of hardship or uncertainty. As you prepare for this trip, it's expected to have some anxieties. You may be traveling away from loved ones or leaving the country for the first time.

But believers are never truly alone. God is always with them, walking alongside them through every trial, joy, and season of life. His presence is constant, and His love never runs out.

Even when we can't feel Him near, His Word assures us that He will never forsake those who trust in Him. Jesus, who experienced loneliness on the cross, fully understands our pain and promises to be our refuge and strength. He is with us not only in our best moments but also in our darkest valleys.

When loneliness tries to creep in, remember that God is with you. You are held by His hand and surrounded by His love. You are never truly alone.

Read Philippians 4:6-7. **Do you believe this? Write a prayer to God asking Him to show you how he can give you peace.**

Jesus came to earth as a man and understands our weaknesses, including our worries.

Read Matthew 6:25-34. **Use Jesus's words as a guide for your own prayer regarding any worries or anxieties you might have.**

Day 2

WORK IN PROGRESS

Philippians 1:6

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Sometimes, we believe we need to be perfect or have everything figured out before we can serve God. But the truth is, Jesus works on us as we go. He doesn't wait for us to be flawless before He uses us for His purposes. Just like He did with the disciples—calling them while they were still rough around the edges—He is transforming us, step by step, as we follow Him. Our journey with Christ is a process. He shapes our hearts, molds our character, and teaches us lessons along the way. When we stumble or feel incomplete, we can trust that He is still at work in us.

We don't need to be discouraged by our imperfections; instead, we can lean on His grace, knowing He is faithful to complete the good work He started. As we walk with Jesus, He changes us from the inside out, day by day, making us more like Him.

Do you believe God can use you now, even with your imperfections?

Other times, we overlook our own imperfections and focus on things that the people around us need to work on.

Read Luke 6:37-42. **Do you need to extend more grace to the people around you?**

Read Lamentations 3:22-23. **How can this encourage you to trust God where you are today?**

Day 3

UNITY

Ephesians 4:2-3

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

How does Jesus see the Church? Does he categorize the Church by denomination, by age, by race, by location?

In a world of division, the Church is called to be a beacon of unity. We are Christ's body, united by His Spirit, regardless of our background, opinions, or status. However, unity doesn't mean uniformity. We all have different gifts, perspectives, and personalities, but we are all called to work together for the sake of the gospel. Our unity is a testimony to the world that Jesus is Lord, and when we love one another deeply, our unity is on full display.

Your time on the mission trip will allow you to work alongside the global Church. However, when the global Church comes together, so do our differences. **How can you seek unity around you, even when you don't agree with or understand them?**

Take a few minutes and slowly read through Ephesians 3:16-21. This is a prayer that Paul is writing to the church in Ephesus. Paul knows that humans are limited in patience, persistence, and power. Rewrite this scripture to make a personal prayer to God for you, your team, and your upcoming mission trip.

GO Ministries is praying with you that God will do "exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ask or imagine."



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Fun Facts

- Area: Slightly larger than double the size of New Jersey (48,670 square km)
- Population: 10,815,587 (2024 estimate)
- Official Language: Spanish
- Time Zone: Atlantic Standard Time (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
- Currency: Dominican peso (\$1 USD is about 55 pesos, but the exact exchange rate fluctuates.)
- Climate: Tropical maritime; little seasonal temperature variation
- Christopher Columbus explored and claimed the island on his first voyage in 1492.
- National Sport: Baseball
- The Dominican Republic consists of the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Haiti.
- The Dominican Republic has had 38 Constitutions since its Independence in 1844.
- There are more than 1,000 miles of beaches around the Dominican Republic.
- The DR has had more baseball players in the MLB than any other nation (other than the US) every year since 1995.
- The Dominican Republic is known for its merengue and bachata music.

Sources:

<https://www.mlb.com/news/international-players-on-mlb-2024-opening-day-rosters>

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/dominican-republic/>

<https://www.fodors.com/world/caribbean/dominican-republic>

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8



SCAN TO ACCESS THE TEAM MEMBER GUIDE

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