



There is no greater joy in life than being on mission with Christ and our prayer is this experience will be significant in helping you clarify your gifting, love with no limitations, and understand how you fit together in the body of Christ.

*Romans 12:4-5 (ESV): 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

Even though the experience of serving together will create unity and promote spiritual growth, our biggest desire is that you would allow this experience to be transformative in your life. That's what this short devotional guide is designed to do. We'll allow the word of God to move us in such a way that we're challenged in this moment to do big things, while also dreaming of how those big things can be reality in our everyday lives.

Before you begin, take a moment and consider what you hope will happen as you prepare for the trip. Why are you part of this team? Use the prompts below to help you in thinking through what you expect God to do this week.

- I'm part of this team because...
  
- I'm a little nervous/unsure about...
  
- I expect God to...

- It would blow my mind if God...

## Pre-Trip Devotional

How are you preparing for this missions experience? (Use the space below to list all the ways you're preparing.)

*"Do I have enough money to buy snacks at the airport?"*

*"I need to go shopping for clothes to wear"*

*"Will all my responsibilities at home be taken care of?"*

A cross-cultural experience like this requires massive amounts of preparation but in the midst of all the details we can lose focus on how we should be preparing our hearts for this mission. How can you prepare your heart spiritually for this experience? Let's focus on the example of Nehemiah to see how he prepared to answer God's calling.

Read Nehemiah 1-2

What was Nehemiah's initial response when he heard about the destruction in Jerusalem? (1:4)

Nehemiah sat down, wept, fasted, and prayed. This response was clearly the result of a pattern he established in his life of being in God's presence. All the things Nehemiah accomplished could not have been completed without the sovereign hand of God guiding him. We can say the same thing of the mission we're getting ready to participate in. The work we are seeking to accomplish is spiritual so we can't see any lasting fruit apart from the

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