Make an IMPACT DEVOTIONAL SAMPLES

1. The Power of Small Acts

Scripture

Matthew 25:31-40
"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (verse 40)

Supporting Scriptures

- Galatians 6:9-10
- Proverbs 19:17
- Luke 16:10
- Hebrews 6:10
- Mark 12:41-44
- Ephesians 2:10

Reflection

Sometimes we think ministry happens only through big moments, dramatic testimonies, or large projects. Jesus teaches us that even the smallest acts and interactions matter to Him.

A smile, a listening ear, a helping hand, a word of encouragement—these simple acts can have an eternal impact. We may never know how God uses us today, but He sees every act done in love.

Challenge

- Look for ways to encourage one person who seems overlooked.
- Be on the lookout for opportunities to help and support team members as you serve together today.
- Focus on the people around you more than the project.

Discussion Questions

- Why do we underestimate small acts of service?
- What small act has impacted your life significantly?
- How are we measuring impact today?
- Who might be easy to overlook today?

Prayer

Father, help us see people the way You see them. Use even our smallest actions to be Your light and love, as well as make a difference in someone's life today. Amen.

End-of-Day Reflection

- What small moment stood out most today?
- Did a simple interaction seem especially meaningful?

2. Serving with Humility

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-4
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." (verse 3)

Supporting Scriptures

- Philippians 2:5-8
- Mark 10:45
- John 13:3-15
- Micah 6:8
- James 4:10
- 1 Peter 5:5-6

Reflection

Mission work is not about us. It's not about recognition, accomplishments, or praise. In the Gospels, we see Jesus demonstrate humility by washing His disciples' feet and

ultimately giving His life for others. True service often means doing unseen tasks, adapting when plans change, and caring for others ahead of ourselves.

Challenge

- Choose the least desirable task without complaining.
- Listen more than you speak.
- Help someone without being asked.

Discussion Questions

- What makes humility difficult?
- How can pride affect ministry?
- What can we learn from the people we are serving?

Prayer

Jesus, give us humble hearts. Help us serve others the way You served in your many examples. Keep our focus on You and not on ourselves. Amen.

End-of-Day Reflection

- When did you set aside your own preferences today?
- What did God teach you about humility?

3. Dependence on God

Scripture

John 15:1-5
"Apart from me you can do nothing." (verse 5)

Supporting Scriptures

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Psalm 127:1
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- Zechariah 4:6
- Psalm 46:10

- Isaiah 40:29-31

Reflection

As we begin to work today, let's remember that success doesn't come from our plans, skills, or energy alone. Real ministry happens when God works through us, interrupts our plans and we allow God to direct us.

Only God can transform hearts, bring healing, and create lasting impact. Our responsibility is to remain connected to Him and trust Him with the results.

Challenge

- Pause throughout the day and ask God for guidance.
- Surrender one worry or expectation to Him.
- Spend a few moments intentionally listening for God's direction.

Discussion Questions

- What does dependence on God look like practically?
- Why do we often rely on our own abilities first?
- When have you seen God work beyond human effort?
- What concerns should we surrender to Him today?

Prayer

Lord, we depend on You today. Guide us, strengthen us, and work through us. May we bring glory to You. Amen.

End-of-Day Reflection

- Where did you need God's strength today?
- How did God answer prayer during our service?

4. Serve with Joy

Scripture

Colossians 3:23-24
"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." (Verse 23a)

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 100:2
- Romans 12:11
- Nehemiah 8:10
- Galatians 5:13
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6
- Hebrews 12:2

Reflection

Some tasks today may be exciting, while others may feel repetitive or tiring. Yet Scripture reminds us that our work is ultimately for the Lord.

When we remember who we're serving, even ordinary tasks become acts of worship. Our joy is not found in circumstances but in knowing that God is pleased with faithful service.

Challenge

- Thank God throughout the day for opportunities to serve.
- Find joy in a task you would normally avoid.
- Encourage a teammate who may be discouraged.

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between happiness and joy?
- How does gratitude influence our perspective?
- How can we help one another maintain joy?

Prayer

Lord, fill us with joy as we serve. Help us work wholeheartedly and remember that everything we do is ultimately for You. Amen.

End-of-Day Reflection

- What brought you joy today?
- How did you see God's joy strengthen someone on the team?

Bonus Questions for Any Day

These can be used during breakfast, travel time, team meetings, or evening debriefs:

- Where did you see God today?
- What challenged you most today?
- What surprised you today?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What did you learn about God's character?
- How did someone on the team encourage you?
- Who should we continue praying for?
- How can today's experience impact the way we live at home?
- What is one thing God is teaching you this week?
- What can we celebrate from today?

Mission Trip Progression

1. We Are Sent
2. Dependence on God
3. Serving with Humility
4. The Power of Small Acts
5. God Uses Ordinary People
6. Be the Light
7. Serve with Joy

This sequence helps a team move from understanding their calling, to relying on God, serving others well, recognizing impact, embracing God's purpose, reflecting Christ, and finishing with joyful perseverance.