

DEVOTIONAL SERIES

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND:

SEVEN DAYS OF WALKING WITH
GOD AND WITH OTHERS IN SERVICE

All Bible passages are taken from the New Living Translation (NLT).



DAY ONE



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: LUKE 10:36-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

TESTIMONY: REV. NEHEMIA, EDUDEO PARTNER LEADER, ZAMBIA

“[Co-Impact] teams offer a platform of creating new friendships. They open the eyes and horizons of our people who do not have the opportunity to travel to other countries and continents.”

REFLECT

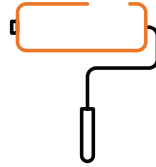
- Have you ever avoided serving someone else because they are different from you? Is forming new relationships outside of your comfort zone? Consider how Christ is calling you to form relationships through acts of service.
- What’s at the heart of your service? What is your natural instinct when it comes to service? Reflect on how your approach to service may need to change and be reframed.

RESPOND

- The next time you are walking through your town or city, look at the people you pass. Consider how God is calling you into relationship with and service to the people who are different from you in appearance, background, religion, or situation.



DAY TWO



WORSHIP AROUND THE WORLD

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: REVELATION 7:9-10

“After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, ‘Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!’”

TESTIMONY: RITA, PAST CO-IMPACT TEAM MEMBER, NICARAGUA

“There is nothing more exhilarating than worshipping with Christians of another culture – seeing their joy and gratitude as you work with them in achieving their goals of a Christ-centred education for their people.”

REFLECT

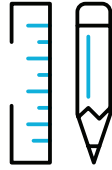
- Have you attended a worship service in another country? What was the experience like?
- What would it look like for North American churches and Christian communities to embrace and fully live into the vision set out in Revelation 7? How can our churches and communities get better at representing and including people from every nation, tribe, and language?

RESPOND

- Think about someone you know that speaks a language other than English. Consider taking time to connect with them so you can pray together in multiple languages.
- Does your church offer an opportunity for a multi-lingual or multi-cultural service? If not, consider connecting with your church leaders to encourage them to integrate the worship styles from Christians around the world.



DAY THREE



GROWING IMPACT

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: PHILIPPIANS 1:2-4

“May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy.”

TESTIMONY: LINDSEY, STUDENT, BELIZE

“Ever since I can recall there has been Americans and Canadians that come visit our school. Every year, they brighten my days. Their passion in helping through the projects they do in our school and what they bring for all of us – this has amazed me.”

REFLECT

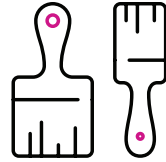
- Lindsey is a student who has seen, met, and interacted with many different volunteers at her school. She is also the direct recipient of construction projects done to improve her school. Who are some indirect recipients or beneficiaries of a school construction project? Discuss what kind of wider, long-term impact a school construction project has in EduDeo’s partner countries.
- When you participate in community service projects, have you considered those indirectly impacted by the project? Think back to some of your past projects – who are the individuals or groups that indirectly benefited?

RESPOND

- The next time you participate in a service project, give a donation, or volunteer your time, consider taking time to pray beforehand about the wider, long-term impact of your service. Offer a prayer that Christ would multiply your act for greater impact through His power.



DAY FOUR



ENRICH YOUR LIFE AND YOUR PERSPECTIVE

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: PHILIPPIANS 2: 12b-13

“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.”

TESTIMONY: DIANA, PAST CO-IMPACT TEAM MEMBER, ZAMBIA

“The trip was memorable, hot, long, adventurous, interesting, and I would do something like that again in a heartbeat! I’m so happy I was able to go along. It has enriched my life as nothing else could.”

REFLECT

- Think about the last time you served someone else, whether an individual or a group of people. Would you say the experience has enriched your life? If not, what do you think is standing in your way of having the ‘enrichment perspective’?
- Sometimes experiences of service can cause a lot of pain. When our eyes are opened to the depth of brokenness in this world, it’s hard to focus on enrichment. Reflect on a time when your heart was broken, and how Christ is calling you to reframe the experience in His strength and power.

RESPOND

- Consider keeping an ‘enrichment’ journal. Use it to reflect on your experiences of service and see all the ways serving others is making your life full, growing your perspective, and strengthening your walk with God.
- How can your enriching experiences be a blessing to others? Consider sharing your testimony of service with others to encourage them in their own acts of service.



DAY FIVE



WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP?

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: JOHN 15:12-14

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."

TESTIMONY: WALTER, PRINCIPAL, BELIZE

"This school year we have been enormously blessed to have been taken into consideration by EduDeo to help us build a new section of the roof and fence. They [the Co-Impact team members] have taken their valuable time and financial support to travel to this remote area, leaving family, friends, and life to bless us."

REFLECT

- 'Sacrificial' service looks different for everyone, according to how Christ has called us. What does true sacrifice look like in your life?
- Think about the way you serve those around you: your loved ones, those in your community, and those around the world. Based on your answer to the last question, is there anything holding you back from giving of yourself sacrificially in service?

RESPOND

- Consider the different ways Christ is calling you to sacrifice: socially, emotionally, physically, financially, materially. Write down concrete steps you can take, both locally and globally, to make these sacrifices in service to others.



DAY SIX



GOD IS MOVING

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: ROMANS 8:30

“And having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself. And having given them right standing, He gave them His glory.”

TESTIMONY: BILL, TEAM LEADER, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“God is always at work, with or without me. He does not ‘need’ me to accomplish His purpose, but invites me to participate in what He is already doing.”

REFLECT

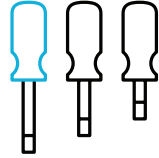
- What is your initial reaction to the statement ‘God doesn’t need me to accomplish His purpose’? Is there anything in your reaction that needs repentance or confession?
- Though God doesn’t ‘need’ us, He is ‘inviting’ us. In what areas of His kingdom is God inviting you into? If anything, what is holding you back from accepting and living into that invitation?

RESPOND

- Take time to make a plan with your family, group, spouse, or trusted friend about tangible steps you want to take to answer God’s invitation to participate in His kingdom and work. As you’re making the plan, think about ways to keep yourself and others accountable to the steps laid out.



DAY SEVEN



ANSWERED PRAYERS

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus, in this place. Open our eyes, quiet distractions, and give us receptive hearts. Reveal yourself and your purposes. Amen.

READ: JEREMIAH 29:11-14a

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord.”

TESTIMONY: YESENIA, TEACHER, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“In the morning, we have a staff meeting, and we gather together to pray. We asked God to send people and the means to fix our school’s play area. We saw what it was like every day, and we did not have a place for the students to gather and play. We prayed every day for two years. And God sent us you.”

REFLECT

- When you pray, whether as an individual or as a community, do you believe God will provide answers, or that He’s even listening? What is standing in the way of putting your full trust in God’s power to hear us and answer us?
- Think about a time when your prayers were answered in a very tangible way. What did the experience teach you about patience, perseverance, and God’s plan?

RESPOND

- Consider keeping a prayer journal, and write down your daily confessions, thanks, and requests. Then, after some time has passed, look back on past entries to reflect on how and when God answered your prayer – both in ways you expected or didn’t expect.