Thank you to Pastor Steve Shaffer and the Pine Hills Church Team from Fort Wayne, Indiana for sharing this devotional.

Print out these pages double-sided and then fold in half to create the booklet.
You are about to embark on a life-changing adventure!

As you travel, sightsee, work, and experience different situations and people on this trip, do it with open minds and hearts. You will be among people and a country that are culturally different than North America.

Remember that doing things differently than how you would do them is NOT WRONG – it’s just different! Rather than being critical of differences try to think through why things are different. Don’t be afraid to awaken your senses…to taste, to hear, to see, to smell, and to touch the things around you. Experience all you can in as many ways as you can so you can gain a clearer understanding of what the Dominican Republic and its people are like.

Soon you’ll step onto a plane that will take you to a place unlike what you are used to. You will see another part of God’s wonderful creation and more importantly see and meet more of His children.

Loving God and loving people is what we are called to do. As you travel, reflect on this passage:

Love must be sincere.
Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
Be devoted to one another of brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves.
Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.
Share with God’s people who are in need.
Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13)

May these verses be our heart’s desire during this trip. Remember, Christ will work through us…through our giving, our loving, and our going the extra mile as a witness of the body of Christ.

### NEXT STEPS

Would you like to stay actively involved in the lives of people in the Dominican Republic even after returning home? There are several ways you can stay involved in God's work in the Dominican Republic through Solid Rock International:

1. **Student Sponsorship:** Many students at the SRI-sponsored Christian schools would not be able to attend without the financial support of a sponsor. And, next time you go back to San Juan, you can have a chance to meet your student! To sign up for a sponsor student, visit: [http://www.solidrockinternational.org/programs/student-sponsorship/](http://www.solidrockinternational.org/programs/student-sponsorship/)

2. **Child Nutrition Program Pledge:** The Child Nutrition Program is a valuable program that provides milk, vitamins, and medical care for malnourished infants and children. To make the program self-sustaining, we need more people to join by pledging $45/month. To show our appreciation, we will send a small gift as well as quarterly newsletters on the Child Nutrition Program. To start your pledge, visit: [http://www.solidrockinternational.org/fund/cnp_reoccurring_pledge/](http://www.solidrockinternational.org/fund/cnp_reoccurring_pledge/)

3. **REVOLUTION Campaign:** Solid Rock is currently in the midst of the REVOLUTION Campaign, raising money to build a new clinic to continue serving the people in the San Juan area. To support this important and urgent need, visit: [http://www.solidrockinternational.org/fund/revolution-2/](http://www.solidrockinternational.org/fund/revolution-2/)

4. **Missionary support:** The missionaries that you were able to spend time with this week are in need of financial support to continue what they are doing. To support a missionary, visit: [http://www.solidrockinternational.org/missionary/](http://www.solidrockinternational.org/missionary/)

5. **Dominican staff support:** Many of our Dominican staff members are under-supported. Would you consider supporting one of these dynamic Dominican leaders? Visit: [http://www.solidrockinternational.org/staff-support/](http://www.solidrockinternational.org/staff-support/)
**SPANISH PHRASES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hi</td>
<td>Dios te bendiga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hola</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Good morning.</td>
<td>Where is...?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buenos días.</td>
<td>¿Dónde está...?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes/no</td>
<td>How old are you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Si/no</td>
<td>¿Cuántos años tienes (INF.)/tiene (FORMAL)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please/thank you</td>
<td>Could you write it down. please?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Por favor/ gracias</td>
<td>¿Lo podría escribir, por favor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucho gusto</td>
<td>At what time...</td>
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<tr>
<td>My name is...</td>
<td>¿A qué hora...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Me llamo...</td>
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<tr>
<td>What's your name?</td>
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<td>¿Cómo te llamas? (INFORMAL)</td>
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<td>/ ¿Cómo se llama Usted? (FORMAL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>We're from... Canada/the USA</td>
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<td>Somos de... Canadá/los Estados Unidos</td>
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<td>I'm from...</td>
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<td>Soy de...</td>
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<td>I don't understand</td>
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<td>No entiendo</td>
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<tr>
<td>I don't speak Spanish</td>
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<td>No hablo español</td>
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**PERSONAL TIME**

*These passages can be used during your quiet time for the days leading up to the trip and during your time in the Dominican Republic.*

**God's VISION in My Life**

- **Wednesday** Psalm 25
- **Thursday** Luke 10:30-37
- **Friday** Luke 12:13-21

**God's WILL for My Life**

- **Saturday** Mark 1:16-20
- **Sunday** Jeremiah 29:11-14
- **Monday** Romans 12:1-2

**God's CALL on My Life**

- **Tuesday** Jeremiah 1:1-10
- **Wednesday** Jonah 1
- **Thursday** John 4:31-38

**God's POTENTIAL with My Life**

- **Friday** Joshua 1:1-9
- **Saturday** John 6:1-14

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**SAMPLE ITINERARY**

**Saturday**

- Arrive at Santo Domingo Airport
- Travel to hotel in downtown Santo Domingo

**Sunday**

- Breakfast at hotel
- Travel by bus three hours to San Juan
- Dinner & orientation at Guesthouse

**Monday – Thursday**

- Various work projects

**Friday**

- Early departure to Santo Domingo
- Stop in historical Zona Colonial (The Colonial Zone)
- Afternoon/evening at Capella resort in Juan Dolio

**Saturday**

- Depart Santo Domingo Airport
- Arrive in the United States
Friday (the day before you leave)

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:13-21

Thought for the Day: God wants your world vision to include a proper view of what you have.

Many people today hold material possessions as the number one priority in life. This is especially true of Americans! If they could just get this or that, they feel their life would be more fulfilling. New clothing, a new car, more money, and security are just a few of the myriad of things which are often gods in their lives.

Today, let's look at what Jesus teaches about the real value of possessions. We'll meet a man who had everything going his way, yet his priorities were all wrong. Jesus wanted him to have a proper vision of material possessions, but the man wasn't willing to pay the price.

A. In one sentence, give Jesus’ view of the importance of material possessions (v.15).

B. Did the rich man hold this view? How do you know?

C. What do you feel was the rich man's basic problem?

D. Are there any ways in which your life may be like that of the rich man’s? If so, how?

E. Draw two practical applications which relate to the view of material possessions which God wants you to have.

1.

2.

What did you learn about God this week?

If someone asked you to summarize your experiences in three sentences or less, what would you write?
At the end of your trip, take some time to reflect on these questions.

You have just been on a life-changing trip. Inevitably, people will be asking you all about it when your return home. It is helpful to reflect on your experiences and have some key stories to share with people. You have been the eyes and ears for those who did not go on the trip and you have the immense responsibility to share what you learned with others!

Jot down some memorable stories from the week:

Write about some new things that you saw and experienced.
God’s WILL for My Life

Saturday (Traveling Day!)

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20

Thought for the Day: God has a “general” will for your life – to follow Jesus Christ.

You are the most important possession God has! Not only did He create you, but He planned every day of your life event before you were born! “…your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16).

Because He loves you and wants the very best for your life, God has designed a “general” and “specific” will for your life. His will for you is something only YOU can fulfill.

A. What was Jesus’ call and promise to His disciples?
   1. 
   2. 

B. What do you think “following Jesus” means?

C. How are fishing for fish and fishing for men alike?

D. What were the responses of all the disciples to Jesus’ “general” will for their lives?

E. Draw two personal applications that relate to God’s “general” will for YOUR life.
   1. 
   2.
Sunday (the day after arriving home)

Today, read through this passage from Isaiah 58 and underline parts that stick out to you. Read through it a few different times or very slowly and meditate on what God is saying to you through this passage.

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ ”

Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58: 1-11
Sunday (First day in San Juan)

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-14, Acts 17:24-27

Thought for the Day: God has a “specific” will for your life, which only YOU can fulfill and live out!

Not only does God have a “general” will for all followers of Christ, BUT as was mentioned yesterday, He also has a “specific” will for your life.

Who knows what that may include? God has uniquely gifted you and put you in this specific place and time so that he can be most glorified! It could mean following Him into a certain job at home in the United States or overseas. But it could also mean following Him into missions, church work, or some other type of ministry. Whatever it is and wherever it leads, there are some basic principles God wants you to know. Let’s take a look at some of them today.

A. What PLANS does God have in store for you as a Christian seeking His will?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 

B. What PROVISIONS are given here for discovering these plans?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 

C. What PROMISES are given here for discovering these plans?
   1. 
   2. 
Saturday (Heading home)

Scripture Reading: John 6:1-14

Thought for the Day: God promises to turn your “little” into “much” when surrendered to His call.

One of the marvelous things about our Lord is that He can make something great out of very little. For example, He created Adam out of the dust and Eve from a rib. God is in the business of seeing the potential in small things and developing it for great purposes.

Our study today centers around one of the miracles of Jesus – the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus’ disciples were faced with an impossible looking situation. Their faith was being tested. Jesus was about to use a miracle to teach them a significant fact about His potential with their lives. Their “little” became “much” when they placed it in the Master’s hand.

A. What was the impossible looking situation which Jesus presented to His disciples?

B. How did these disciples answer Jesus?
   1. Phillip
   2. Andrew

C. Who expressed more faith? Why?

D. Describe what was given to Jesus and evaluate its significance.

E. What did Jesus do with it?

F. Draw a few applications from this passage which relate to God’s potential with your life.
Monday (First day of work projects)

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Thought for the Day:  God has not left you helpless in finding and doing His will.

God is your constant companion every moment of everyday. He is there to help you in making both big and small decisions. One of the many times in which He desires to be of help is in discovering the perfect will He has for your life.

Let’s take a look today at a few of the special promises of help He gives and also a few very practical suggestions given in God’s Word.

A. Paraphrase the following verses about God’s will:

    Proverbs 3:5-6

    Psalm 32:8

    Psalm 73:23-24

B. What are three prerequisites in finding and doing God’s will? (Romans 12:1-2)

    1.
    2.
    3.

C. What are some tools which God may use in helping you know His will?

    Psalm 119:105
    Romans 8:14-16
    Acts 16:7
    I Thessalonians 5:17
    Psalm 37:34

D. Draw two personal applications today about God’s will for your life.

    1.
    2.
God’s POTENTIAL with My Life

Friday (Debriefing day)

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Thought for the Day: God’s promise of blessing goes with those following His call.

Joshua was a young man who had been trained under the leadership of Moses. He had served faithfully and learned his lessons well.

As we pick up the story, Moses had just died and now Joshua was appointed to pick up the reins of leadership where Moses had left off. His assignment was to lead the children of Israel through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, wiping out every enemy of God who stood in the way. Authority, power, and prestige were in his hands, yet he had never attempted anything of this magnitude for God before.

Joshua faced an unknown future and an unknown territory but at his right side was the Lord.

A. How do you think Joshua felt as he faced God’s call? Why?

B. What promises did God give him?

C. What commands did God give him?

D. How do you think Joshua felt following his conversation with the Lord?

E. Draw two applications from this passage which relate to God’s potential with your life.

1.

2.
God’s CALL on My Life

Tuesday

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1:1-10

Thought for the Day: Jeremiah was obedient to God's call.

Jeremiah was a man who became great in the eyes of God. He faithfully spoke God's Word to the people year after year with very few positive results. He was a man of God known for his commitment to God's will. However, earlier in his life, Jeremiah struggled with God's call.

Let's take a look at this struggle and see how the Lord dealt with him about investing his life for the work of the kingdom.

A. What was Jeremiah's specific call?

B. Why was his call important?

C. What were Jeremiah's excuses?

D. Why do you think that he responded as he did?

E. What assurance did God give Jeremiah?

F. How was this appropriate to his need?

G. How does Jeremiah's experience relate to your response to God's call?
Thursday

Scripture Reading: John 4:31-38

Thought for the Day: God is looking for people obedient to His call.

There are many other Biblical examples of people who were obedient and disobedient to the call of God. Over the last two days we’ve seen one of each. But what about you? Will you be like a Jonah or like a Jeremiah?

God needs people today who are willing to obey His call. He needs people who are willing to say, “Lord, not MY will, but THINE be done.” He needs people who are willing to go wherever He says to go, and to say whatever He says to say.

A. What was Jesus’ number one goal in life?

B. What were some things this included? (Philippians 2:5-11)

C. Was Jesus basically telling His disciples that their number one goal should be the same as His? If so, how?

D. What different types of harvest fields may Jesus be talking about here?

E. What are some comparisons between a farmer’s field ready for harvest and God’s field?

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37b-38).

F. Could you be God’s answer to someone’s prayer?
Wednesday

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1

Thought for the Day: Jonah was disobedient to God's will.

Every day our lives are filled with decisions. God has given each of us the freedom to make many choices for ourselves. Some decisions are minor (what to wear, what to eat, where to go, etc.), BUT we are also given freedom to make decisions of major significance that will affect the rest of our lives (our schooling, our spouse, our vocation, etc.).

God has also given us the freedom to accept or reject His will for our lives. Jonah was a man who chose to reject God's will. Even though he knew what God wanted, he ran in the opposite direction. Jonah essentially said to God, "Not Thy will but mine be done!"

Today let's look at this familiar story of God's disobedient servant and the lessons we can learn from it.

A. What was Jonah's specific call from the Lord?

B. What may have been some of the reasons causing Jonah to run from God's call?
   1. 
   2. 

C. Describe Jonah as he was running.

D. What variety of things did God use to get Jonah's attention?

E. What are some reasons Jonah finally submitted to God's will?

F. How does Jonah's experience relate to your response to God's will?