

# iServe

mark 10:45

**ATLANTA**

**NCCS MISSION TRIP**

**COSTA RICA**

**march 2008**

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**NAME**

Dear Teammates

Our theme for this trip is “iServe” and we are praying that God would give us the attitude of Christ found in Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Please partner with us in praying that this trip would be a chance for us to look beyond ourselves into the eyes of those who need Christ. Pray that our hands and feet would be used to spread His message of good news for everyone. This devotional guide is a way for us to make sure that we start each day in God’s word ready to hear from Him in a new and exciting way.

As a leadership team, it is an honor to work with each of you. We are looking forward to this opportunity to build relationships with you as we all grow in our faith while serving others in the name of Christ.

Running hard after Him,

**COSTA RICA 2008 Leadership Team**

Megan Strange

Cassie Carr

Lee Campbell

Matthew Hendrix

Laura Pater

# MONDAY MORNING

Written by: Rachel Adams (senior)

**Mark 10:45**

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”*

Life seems more stressful now than ever. College is at our doorsteps, weighing on our every moment. Some of us are worried about how we're going to pay for school, while others are scrambling to figure out where we are going to go. It seems like every time anybody brings up the subject, there is only a matter of time before my mind implodes.

I have been seeking God's will for my life consistently since I discovered that He wants me to be a music teacher. I began Teacher Cadet with the elementary music teacher, Mrs. Brink, and have been playing the piano like crazy. Both of the music schools that I applied to accepted me for auditions, and I was completely thrilled. I kept practicing until the day came for my first audition. I spent the day mentally preparing myself for the challenge I was about to face. The time came for my audition, and I prayed for peace relentlessly. Needless to say, my audition didn't go as I had hoped and I was very upset. This was the biggest day of my life so far, and I felt as if I had let God down.

On my way to lunch, God put the verse John 3:30 in my path. Once I read the verse, the whole entire day made sense. My nervousness was the result of my trying to

take control of my future. I had to humble myself before God so that He would be able to radiate through me. No matter what I do, He can take it and multiply it for His glory.

**John 3:30**

*“He must become greater; I must become less.”*

Now we're on this mission trip expected to serve like Jesus did every moment of his life, while we have so much on our mind. How do we give more than we have inside us?!

It isn't about us! Our lives are **only** meant for God's glory. Regardless of the pain that we feel at home, the turmoil we feel in our souls because of the unseen, because we have no idea where we're going or what we're doing. We are here for the wonder of God's Kingdom. We are here so that God can use us in ways that are beyond our greatest dreams, so big that our minds are incapable of wrapping around them. If we can chose to put the distractions behind us, God can use us in so many ways!

Challenge:

Our humility comes from our trials and failures. God uses us when we humble ourselves before Him. When we allow Him to shine through us is when lives are changed. This week, I pray we can put the people we are serving ahead of ourselves and let God work through us.

# TUESDAY MORNING

Written by: Emily Tutterow (senior)

## Mark 10:13–16

*<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

We should be happy have the opportunity to serve the kids because they need our love and they need to know that somebody cares for them.

How can you show them that you care for them?

We need to share our love for God with them and help them understand what it means to be a Christian.

What does it mean to you to be a Christian?

We should be a good example and try to be more like Jesus.

How will you try to be like Jesus today?

In **Mark 10:45** it says

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**Pray and ask God to help you be patient and loving with the kids today.**

# WEDNESDAY MORNING

Written by: Mr. Campbell (leader)

*As we consider Christ's service take a few minutes to think about your heart attitude. Just read each statement, and or the Bible story that it references, as time allows. You may not get to all of them. Reflect on the question, pray, journal or mediate and pray again. Ask God to change your heart as needed.*

## Who do you really serve?

Why are you here? Who do you serve? Is it a teacher for a grade, boy or girl for affection, parent for favor or reward, a coach for praise, or an audience for applause? Paul instructs us in Colossian 3:23 & 24: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Examine your motives, sure we all have mixed motives, but take a few minutes to see if your primary motive is honoring Christ? If not, get it right with God today!

## Who are you willing to serve?

There might be a certain pride that comes with serving someone you hate, but what about someone that hates you? Jesus tells us of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. He served the wounded Jewish man who hated him! Again, the Samaritan did not necessarily hate the Jewish man but the Jewish man would have hated him. Are you willing to serve someone who hates you? Have you ever done this?

## Are you willing to humbly be served?

Often people who love to serve to others will have trouble being served. Many times our pride can be revealed not in our unwillingness to serve but our unwillingness to simply receive the gifts and service of others and validate their love, their value to us, and their gifts. Due to his pride Naaman, the Syrian General, resisted Elisha's suggestion that he wash in the Jordan River to be cleansed of Leprosy (2 Kings 5:9-11). Peter initially refused to let Christ wash his feet out of some sort of "humility" (John 13:8-9) Most of us have decided to let Christ serve us by washing away our sins but do we really value others by letting them serve us without resistance in daily life.

## Are you willing to get it right when you blow it?

God sees all true service and the motives behind it. In Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus tells us about a man that had two sons, one initially rebelled but eventually did what was right, the other seemed to be on the right track but really let his dad down. How do you handle yourself when you mess up? Are you willing to quickly change even if it hurts your pride?

## Do you resent others that receive God's grace in the midst of their failure?

In Luke 15:11-32 Jesus tells of the prodigal, or lavish, son who wasted his share of his father's estate. In the end we see that it is really the father who is lavish, offering the offending son undeserved restoration and favor; yet, the older brother, who was always faithful becomes deeply resentful. Which child of God are you? Are you wallowing with the pigs? Are you done wallowing and ready to come home? Does your pride, or sense of "justice" cause you to resent others who mess up and then seem to get Dad's love heaped upon them?

# THURSDAY MORNING

Written by: Daniel Pacheco (senior)

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*

Have you ever been in a restaurant and you are just waiting for what seems like hours just for them to get your drinks? Then when they come to bring them out to you the waitress spills them all over the floor and you are just so upset you just watch her and don't even help. Well you are in a restaurant and service is essential for both the customer and the employee, naturally that is their fault and their problem. But then again W.W.J.D.!! (what would Jesus do)? As our elementary Sunday school teacher would say. Although we came to the restaurant to be served how much of a better witness for Christ are we when we get down and help them clean up the mess! Now look at our verse Mark 10:45... Jesus would have helped them too!!

As seniors we are getting the opportunity of a lifetime, in that we are going to Costa Rica to serve and show God's love through our service. But before we set out to do God's work we need to make sure to keep this in mind. God is using us as vessels (like carriers of his message)! We know this

because in **Matthew 10:19-20** "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...*" he is commanding us to go out and basically change the world.

It sounds like a great task, well that's because it is! But it's definitely not impossible to carry out. The reason this task is not impossible is because Jesus wants us to live by his example and he as afore mentioned came to serve and not to be served. That said our actions speak louder than our words (we all know that expression)! There might be a language barrier between us and those we are reaching out to, but with our hearts prepared to serve, God's love is going to be shown to them through our service and what a great blessing that is going to be. IF THAT DOESN'T GET YOU EXCITED THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL!!

So as we prepare ourselves for God's mission, and prepare our hearts to serve... lets pray and keep in mind why we are here let God allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts preparing us to serve. That way we can do our best for him, and see how much of an impact we can make in people's lives just through our actions and a smile.

# FRIDAY MORNING

Written by: Mrs. Carr (leader)

Welcome to this glorious morning!!!

God provided it – bask in His gift!!!

Close your eyes and ask God to reveal Himself to you in a mighty way today.

Now you are ready to start your day.

**Read Philippians 2:5 – 8.**

What qualities characterize Christ in this passage?

**Read Romans 5:19.**

What characteristic of Christ do you find repeated from the Philippians passage?

**Read Luke 22:42.**

So what does it mean to serve/be a servant . . .

Pray for opportunities to serve *your* Father today!!!

# **SATURDAY MORNING**

**Written by: Megan Strange (leader)**

## **“What Does Love Look Like?”**

When I coach basketball, I always tell my players to hustle. How do you define hustle? Many people yell it or compliment you when you do it, but who can clearly define what hustle looks like?

As Christians, we know that we are commanded to love and we should love because Christ first loved us. What does love look like?

### **Read I John 3:1–3**

What does it mean when the passage says that God lavished His love on us?

### **Read John 13:1–17**

Jesus humbled himself and took on the appearance of a servant when he washed the disciples feet. What was he trying to show them?

How can you figuratively “wash someone’s feet” today?

### **Read John 13:34–35**

Why are we commanded to love? If we don’t love, what does that mean?

How are you going to show love today?

Have you ever stopped to consider the possibility that the way we love paints a picture of God for others? What does that mean for you?

Spend some time praying that God would give you a very specific opportunity to show love to someone today.



# **SUNDAY MORNING**

**Written by: Mr. Hendrix (leader)**

“Because I deserve it.”

The worker did not doubt it for a moment, however hollow the man’s answer seemed to ring.

The man had called the worker to dig this hole and dig it he had. The hole now was wider, deeper, and more vacuous than the worker ever thought was possible.

The worker had help, to be certain. Many different people along the way had moved earth at his side. The man had made sure that the worker had help, for he knew that one worker could never dig the hole he wanted.

As the worker takes a break, he puts the spade at home in the earth and rests his calloused hands on the now smooth wood, not missing for a moment that the wooden handle is only now smooth because of the now rough texture of his hands. He grows weary, the worker...and no amount of cheer does he take from his co-workers. He wonders, in his most secret of hearts, why the man doesn’t just come down here and dig this damnable hole himself.

The man watches the worker as he rests. It is indeed a long way down to the bottom of that hole. The man is proud of the worker. He has dug much of the hole in a manner befitting his nature. He has worked tirelessly. The worker deserves a break. The man wishes the worker’s attitude was better at times, but he does understand. From the locked banquet room, the man watches, as he sets the table for the after work dinner party...thinking of the keys he has placed at the bottom of the hole.

**Luke 12:37**

# MONDAY MORNING

Written by: YOU

What now? For one week you have been on the mission field experiencing Christ in a new and exciting way. How will your life be different when you return home? Will people love Jesus more because you are in their life?

Write down some thoughts and phrases that communicate what this week has meant for you.

**Mark 10:45**

*“For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to give His life as a ransom for many.”*