

If God called you to this team, He has paved the way for you. You trust Him, right? "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

PART UNO

Prayer

What can you learn from the story about the short-term team and meal time customs?

Are you comfortable with praying for others?

Is prayer a "last ditch effort" or a "first line of defense" in your daily life?

PART DOS

Worship and Devotional Time

Fill in the blanks below from the Session 5 section Worship & Devotional Time:

Although you have done much _____ and _____ to get ready to come on this trip, it doesn't stop when you board that plane! We will be having _____ time set aside for _____, _____, and _____.

It is important that we stay _____ and _____ to our _____ and to each other during our time of service.

PART TRES

Working with translators

Carefully read the following passage and circle or underline the words or phrases that you SHOULD NOT use because they would be very difficult for your translator to understand and translate.

Hello. My name is Tom Smith and I'm super excited to be here in Peru. Y'all are awesome for inviting us to come here and work with your kids. We just couldn't be happier about the opportunity to save all of these kids and bring them to Jesus. When I was knee-high to a grasshopper, I was saved and gave my heart to Jesus at VBS – right there in the sanctuary of FUMC in front of God and the world. And my mama just about had a heart attack right there in the front row of the church. It was an amazing day and I'm pretty sure that the earth shook and the angels probably couldn't believe their eyes to see me, a heathen sinner, yanked from the jaws of hell and given over to the love of Jesus. So I'm really excited to be here this week and to share my story with all the kids of Peru so they can know God and so they, too, can be scooped up and cradled in the arms of Jesus. It's going to be an amazing week. I just hope we don't sweat to death or burn up in that infernal Andean sun, know what I mean?! So, thanks for inviting us to your little village and we hope we can do some good here and save a lot of souls.

PART CUATRO

Serving versus Being Served

True story... after a group of missionaries had finished their work in an area overseas, the local people had a few words to say. "You gave us everything – you gave us schools and hospitals and libraries and food. You brought medical care and education. But you didn't give us the one thing that we wanted most... we wanted to be friends. You didn't give us friendship."

How does this statement affect you and the way you will work in Peru?

Fill in the blanks below from the Session 5 section Serving vs. Being Served:

It is important for you to treat your Peruvian _____ as exactly that - _____. They want to be your _____. They want to _____ you and they want to serve _____ you. And, although they are technically _____, they are servants of _____. Please do not treat them as your own personal _____, but instead work in _____ with them. They eagerly await your arrival and they are eager to meet their _____ _____ _____ _____ _____.

Please take some time and begin to make a list below of ways that you can honor your Peruvian brothers and sisters and build relationship with them while you are in Peru. What can you do for them? How can you serve them? What would be a meaningful way to show them your friendship and love?



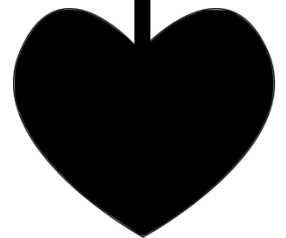
week Five

Looking back to look forward

This is our final week of devotions before you head down here to Perú. As you make your final preparations, take this final week to look back at the journey so far so see where God will lead you.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. What have I learned over the past few weeks about myself and my faith?
2. What have I learned about my teammates (remember, that is both in North America as well as in South America)?
3. What is it really that God wants me to do and learn in Perú?





DÍA UNO:

SANKOFA

Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

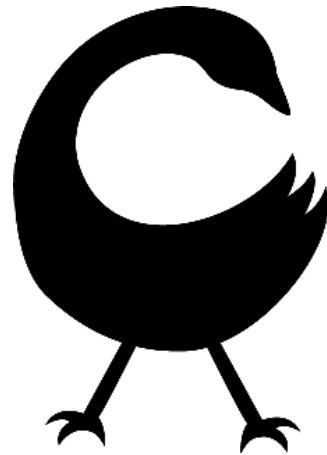
Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

I love this passage from Exodus about Moses and God. There are other parts of the story where Moses actually looks God in the face and lives, but then there's this story. For me this version of the story of an encounter between one man and the divine is much closer to my own experience with God. God is bigger and greater and grander than I can even imagine, and as such, I cannot look God face to face and live. I need to see God the way Moses did here. I need to see God's back as God's passes by.

I don't know about you, but there have been a lot of times in my life when I wondered where God was when all the time God was right there with me. I was just too blind to see. I was just too preoccupied in my own life here and now to see what God was up to. It was only after God had passed by and the situation I was in was over that I was able to open my eyes, smack my forehead with my hand and say, "Ah, so God *was* there!"

Knowing that God was there in that situation helps me to know that God will be with me again in the next situation that comes around the corner. I might be blind again to the divine presence, but that doesn't mean I am walking all alone. God is indeed there.

There is an African phrase (I am still looking for something similar from Latin America) called Sankofa. The symbol for Sankofa is a bird looking back over its shoulder. It comes from the Akan language of Ghana and means literally "go back and take" but symbolically means "We can't move forward until we've looked back and seen where we've been." As a follower of Christ, this symbol has come to mean for me the very idea of seeing the back of God. God has been there in the past for me, and so I can be confident that God will be there in the future as well.



This week will be very short on devotions, but, we hope, long on prayer. We want to you stop listening to us so that you can listen to God directly. All that we will be doing is offering a theme that we ask you to explore with God. Read the theme and the verses. Think about it. Pray about it. Ask God to guide

you in it. Then close your mouth and listen. We've left some space so that you can record any thoughts or feelings you have.



FOR TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON WHERE YOU HAVE SEEN GOD
AROUND YOU THIS PAST FEW WEEKS. WHAT HAS GOD BEEN TELLING YOU?
HOW HAS GOD TOUCHED AND AFFECTED YOUR HEART?



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DÍA DOS:

ANXIETY



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

-- Matthew 6.25-34 (NIV)

Okay, we've looked back now at where God has been showing us the glory of his presence over the past few weeks. Now let's look forward.

This passage of scripture comes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, he lays out pretty clearly how we as followers of him need to act

and think and prepare ourselves to meet the world. You are preparing to meet a different world in just a few days. You might be a bit worried.



TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON THE THEME OF ANXIETY. WHAT ARE YOU ANXIOUS ABOUT? WHAT WORRIES DO YOU HAVE ABOUT COMING TO



PERU? WHAT WORRIES TO YOU HAVE ABOUT LEAVING? WHAT IS HEAVY ON YOUR HEART AND WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

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DÍA TRES:

AM I UP FOR THIS?

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God^[a]; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe in the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

-- John 14.1-14 (NIV)

As you prayed yesterday, one of your anxieties may have been, “Am I really up to this? Do I have what it takes?” If that was you, don’t worry. You’re not alone. In this passage from John, Jesus’ closest friends had some of the same fears.



TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON YOUR OWN FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES. ASK GOD SPECIFICALLY IF YOU ARE “UP TO IT.” DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO TAKE THIS TRIP TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU?



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DÍA CUATRO:

THE TEAM



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6.1-8 (NIV)

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but

not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

-- Mark 6.7-13 (NIV)



YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED BY GOD AND ARE BEING SENT OUT BY JESUS. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS GONE BEFORE YOU AND WILL BE WITH YOU. TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON THE TEAM THAT GOD HAS PUT TOGETHER



(AND OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART). WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE TEAM? HOW WILL YOU FULFILL THAT ROLE? WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT? WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?

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DÍA CINCO:

SAYING GOOD-BYE



After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

-- Acts 1.3-10 (NIV)

It won't be long now and you will be saying good-bye to your family and friends to get on the plane to fly to Perú. The disciples were sad to see Jesus go away from them. In the same way, your family will miss you. It is, after all harder to stay than to go.



TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON SAYING GOOD-BYE. IT IS NOT EASY, SOMETIMES. ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOU AS YOU GET YOURSELF READY TO BE APART FOR A TIME.



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A very brief suggested reading list

You don't have to read any of these books to be a missionary, but if you are the type of person who loves information and really want to know more, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster. This is an excellent spiritual guide book to help a person go deeper in their faith and love of Jesus Christ.

The Faith that Compels Us by H. T. Maclin. The story of the first years of The Mission Society. A great source for the history and founding theology of our agency.

Medical Missions... Get Ready, Get Set, Go! by Bruce Steffes. This is a great book for those considering coming to Peru on a medical mission so that they may be more prepared psychologically, spiritually and emotionally to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Peace and hope in the Corner of the Dead by John Maust. This is a tough book to read, but if you want to understand some of the history of the Shining Path Terrorist movement that held control of much of Peru during the 1980s and 1990s, it is a good place to start.

Secret of the Andes by Ann Nolan Clark. This Newberry Award winner is the story of an Incan boy who lives in a hidden valley high in the mountains of Peru with old Chuto the llama herder. Unknown to Cusi, he is of royal blood and is the 'chosen one.'

Where do we go from here? by Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. One of the foci of ministry here in Peru is the development of Cell Groups. This book is a good introduction (and guidebook) to what we believe God is calling us to be and do.