



Daily Devotional Booklet
Northeast Missouri Mission Trip
June 2023

Send Me!

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking:

Who will I send?

Who will go for us?

I said: Here I am. Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

We are praying for you! Our prayer is that this mission trip is more than a fun adventure. We pray God teaches you and changes you to want a deeper relationship with him. We pray that desire continues throughout your life and you strive to abide in Christ in the good times and the tough times. We pray that you are seeing this week as a time set aside to serve God and learn from God.

The Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Day 1-Leaving Elementary Behind

Read-Hebrews 5:11-Hebrews 6:3

Focus Verse-Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity...

Some of us finished up elementary school last month, and some of us finished elementary many years ago. Elementary can be a fun time of learning how to be friends and learning basic reading and math skills. It is a very important time in our lives and we need the skills we learned in kindergarten-5th grade even when we are adults.

But can you imagine staying in elementary forever? Wouldn't it be weird to see an old grandpa going down the slide at recess? It might be strange to have to work on a group science project with a 37-year-old woman if she was still in your 5th grade class. At some point we have to move on past elementary and onto bigger things.

The same is true for our lives as Christ followers. We need to understand the basics of how God created the earth, what sin is, and why we need Jesus to save us from those sins. We need to understand the sacrifice Jesus made for us and pray to receive Him as the Lord of our lives. But then what? Jesus wants to keep growing closer to you. He wants to be the most important part of your life. He wants a real relationship with you where you rely on Him, talk to Him, and continue to study His Word. He wants you to serve Him by sharing Him with others and making disciples. We could just stay in our little kid knowledge of the Bible and just keep hearing the same "little kid" stories like Adam and Eve and Noah's Ark our whole lives, but Jesus has so much more for us! He wants you to keep growing in Him.

Big Question: How are you growing deeper in your relationship with Jesus?

Action

Draw pictures or make a list of things you are doing or will start doing to help you grow into a more mature Christian. Spend some time praying and asking God to show you how He wants to you grow in your faith.

If you have never prayed to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and become your Savior, you can do that today! Please don't wait. Talk to one of your leaders today. Like, right now!

Worship

Worship is honoring God for who He is. It has nothing to do about me, but all about who God is. We will be practicing worship during our quiet times this week. We won't be saying "I" or "me" or specific things God has done for me. We will be telling God how great He is. For example: God you are holy.

Now try it on your own:

God you are _____.

Spend time in prayerful worship telling God how awesome He is.

Day 2-Putting Away Childish Things

Read-1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Focus Verse-1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things."

Picture a baby or toddler you know. They are probably cute and maybe have chubby cheeks and legs. They are fun to hold and to make laugh. Babies are also pretty selfish sometimes. Have you ever heard toddler say, "Mine!" or throw a fit because they don't want to share. Even though we don't like to admit it, we were all selfish little babies once. As we get older, we learn, and hopefully grow out of our fit-throwing, I only want my way, stage. We become more mature and learn that life isn't all about us and getting our way all the time.

Our passage today is talking about being mature in our faith. It lists things that love is and also things that love isn't. This passage is used a lot at weddings, but it can be helpful for our everyday life too. We should try to love our parents, friends, teachers, co-workers, children, neighbors...really everyone the way this passage explains it. Our world would be a lot nicer place if we did!

We can't do this all on our own. We need Jesus to help us learn to love others better in a more mature and less childish way. Let's look more closely at this passage by using the action step below to see if God points out anything childish in your life that He wants you to put away.

Big Question: Is there something childish you need to put away?

Action

Re-read the passage again. Look for things that the passage says "love is". Write these things in the Mature box. If you find something that says "love does not/is not" put that in the Childish box. You can add anything else you find from the passage that might fit in the boxes too.

Mature	Childish

Is there anything in the Childish box that you realize you have been doing a lot lately? Pray and tell God you are sorry for being childish. Ask him to help you learn to put away those childish things.

Worship

God you are _____.

God you are _____.

Day 3-Fleeing Youthful Passions

Read-2 Timothy 2:14-26

Focus Verse-2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

This passage talks about vessels. Vessels are containers. We have Tupperware, glass jars, metal canisters, and pretty vases at our house. All of these containers are important and have different uses. It wouldn't work very well to put leftover spaghetti into a pretty vase! Some of these containers are more valuable than others though. Some of them are saved for special occasions, and some are used a lot and then thrown away when they get worn out.

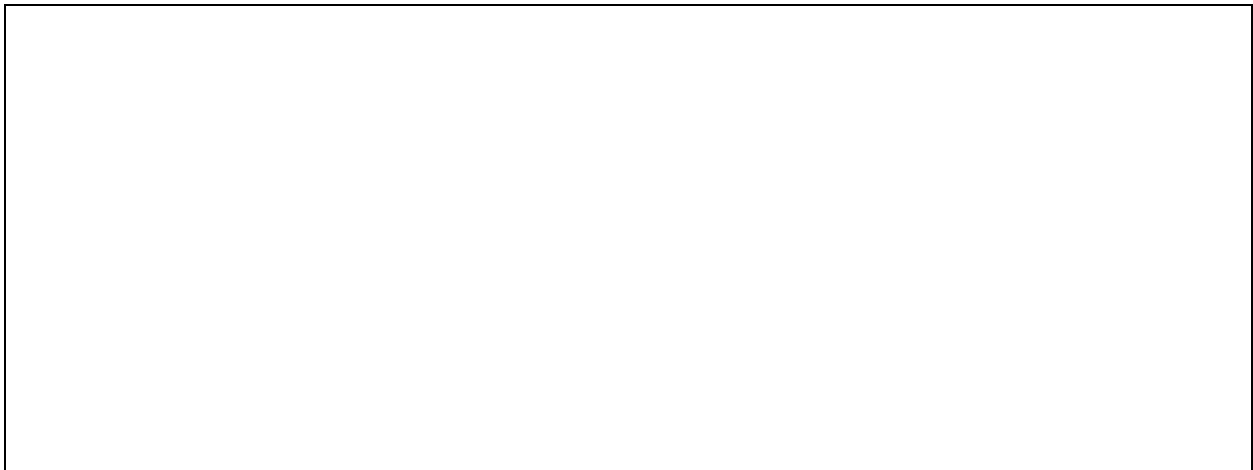
God wants our faith and our lives to be long-lasting and valuable, not something cheap that will only last about a year or so. Youthful passions are things that aren't meant to last either. Money, fame, fast cars, fancy clothes. Those are things young adults sometimes think are the most important things for them to chase after. In the big picture, none of those things really matter, and they usually don't last forever.

In this passage, Paul says fighting and arguing over foolish things is a youthful passion. Paul tells us to pursue, or chase after righteousness, faith, love, peace, and gentleness. I wonder if I'm chasing after the right things?

Big Question: Are you trying to flee or chase after youthful passions?

Action

Draw or write a list of your favorite things that you work hard for, spend a lot of time on, or chase after. Are these things important and made to last, or something that isn't that important?



Worship

When you are finish reading and have done your action step, please come sit on the altar. You can stay by yourself or join a small group of people. Spend time telling God how awesome He is. Think of the God you are _____ activities you have been doing. If you are with a small group you can take turns worshiping by telling God out loud how awesome He is. How many different things can you say about His awesomeness?

Day 4-Here I am!

Read-Isaiah 6:1-13

Focus Verse-Isaiah 6:8 “Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who will I send? Who will go for us?
I said: Here I am. Send me.”



We can only imagine all the things that Isaiah saw that are described in this passage. It seems both really awesome, but also kind of scary. God was looking for a helper to send His message to the people. Isaiah knew he wasn't cut out to do it on his own. He said he was ruined and unclean. God had a plan for that though, and the seraphim made Isaiah clean by touching his lips with the hot coal.

Isaiah was then ready to say, “Here I am. Send me.” He knew he wouldn't be doing it on his own. He knew he wasn't good enough or strong enough, but that he would need God's help for this mission.

What about you? Are you relying on your own strength and understanding, or are you relying on God to use you for His plans?

Big Question: Are you ready to say “Here I am. Send me.”?

Action-Later today we will be talking more about this passage. Spend time in prayer asking God to help you know if you are really ready to lay down things that might be in the way of saying, “send me”!

Worship

Think back on the things you have seen God do this week. Worship Him for as many of His awesome qualities you can think of.

God you are _____.

Day 5-What's Next?

Read-

Focus Verse-Hebrews 6:1

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Big Question

Action

Worship

Quiet Time Ideas