



Devotional Guide

This devotional guide is for group and individual use on your Solar Under the Sun mission trips. It is suitable for use during a survey, install, or follow-up trip. Depending on your team's mission, your in-country partners' schedules, or your own preferences, you may find a morning or an evening devotional time works better. Try to find a regular time and commit to meeting at that time each day of your journey, with all team members present. As appropriate, invite your in-country partners to join you for all or part of devotional time.

The guide contains 8 days of devotions.

Day 1

Genesis 1:1-19

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.

The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights-- the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night-- and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.



Ponder the constant newness of God's light...

At the beginning of the day—

- How do you usually greet the light of the morning each day? Was this day different?

At the end of the day—

- How has someone reflected God's light for you today?
- Did any surprises or unexpected turns in your journey become moments of grace or insight?
- What is your greatest concern or biggest challenge you face about your body on this trip?

Day 2

Exodus 13:17-22

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt."

So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, "God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here."

They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.



Ponder all that you have brought... are all these things necessary and helpful?

At the beginning of the day...

- How has God's light been before you, instead of *you* leading the way?

At the end of the day...

- Where were your "wilderness" times today, when you felt like the way chosen was not the easiest or fastest? What did God teach you in the "longer route"?
- What new guidance has God sent you already? New information, new friends, newly discovered talents or skills?

Day 3

Psalm 27:1-6

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-- my adversaries and foes-- they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.



Ponder the confidence, joys, and challenges of your hosts...

As you begin the day...

- Where might you see the beauty of God in the midst of the tasks for today?
- What fears have dissipated for you by this point in the trip?

As you end the day...

- With your hosts, ask what three great challenges the community faces. Then share with them three challenges in your home community.
- Praise, sing and make melody to God, learning a song or phrase from your hosts.

Day 4

Isaiah 9:2-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Ponder what burdens are made lighter with the Light of the world...

As you begin the day...

- How can you be an ambassador of Christ's joy and justice today?

As you end the day...

- What injustices may exist even within your mission work? How could they be addressed?
- How has Jesus appeared today? As a Wonderful Counselor? A Mighty God? An Everlasting Father? A Prince of Peace?

Day 5

Isaiah 58:6-10

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.



Ponder how God's light breaks forth today...

As you begin the day...

- What do you still have yet to share?

As you end the day...

- What "yokes" were removed today? Who needed them cast off, and who helped?
- What afflictions and needs do you see that you cannot (or should not) address in this trip? What do you with that knowledge?

Day 6

Luke 5:14-17

[Jesus said,] "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."



Ponder how your work is giving glory to God...

At the beginning of the day—

- What are the unique gifts God has given our partners?

At the end of the day—

- What lights shone before you today?
- How can you “lighten” the burden of your stay on your hosts and partners? On the environment around you?

Day 7

John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.



Ponder how you are testifying to the light, in word and in deed...

At the beginning of the day—

- You may be weary at this point; what do you need to begin this day anew?

At the end of the day—

- What things/people/events at home have you been missing, and how has Christ's light filled you this week?

Day 8

Revelation 21:22-26

22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its **light**, and its lamp is the Lamb.

24 The nations will walk by its **light**, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

25 Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there.

26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.



Ponder what has made the Light shine more brightly in the dimmer places in your life...

At the beginning of the day—

- How have we witnessed to the Light in other ways besides the physical installation of a solar power system?
- What persisting questions do you have as you draw toward the close of your journey?

At the end of the day—

- How have “the nations” been a witness to the Light for us?
- What non-material things are you taking home with you?
