

2019

# JUST VISITING

IMPACT MISSION  
CAMPS 2019

“And the Word became flesh and made his home among us” John 1:14



**IMPACT**  
MISSION CAMPS

#IMPACT2019

#IMPACTJUSTVISITING

 [Facebook.com/VB.Impact](https://www.facebook.com/VB.Impact)

 [@impactvirginia](https://www.instagram.com/impactvirginia)

# PRE-CAMP DEVOTIONS

We are thrilled to embark on this journey of preparation for your mission trip at Impact! Thank you so much for your willingness to respond to God's call and your willingness to serve with us.

We hope that resources such as this devotion guide will be helpful to you as you prepare for your experience. Our goal is that your time at Impact will be more than a short-term experience – that it will be a new chapter in a life of mission. Obviously, a few devotions cannot provide everything you need to be spiritually prepared for your Impact experience. So we have focused on three main areas that we hope you will consider as you prepare to go. These areas are:

1. **Mission** – we will ask you to consider how God relates to the world and how any missional activity of ours is really just a part of God's greater mission.
2. **Call** – we will ask you to wrestle with how you have been aware of God's call in your own life and how this experience will inform your sense of call before you leave and also when you return.
3. **Worldview** – we will ask you to consider how important it is that we see others appropriately and how our own preconceptions may color our experience.

The final devotion will help you to understand the theme for Impact this year – Just Visiting.

Each devotion includes a passage to read, devotional thoughts, a reflection question, and a prayer prompt. You will also find a coloring sheet (all created by staff member Alexis Epperly) and a space for writing your thoughts at the end of each section (before, during, after).

We pray God's peace on you as you prepare to take on a new challenge as part of God's worldwide mission.



# MISSION FOCUS

## BEFORE YOU GO

Whose Mission Is This?

**John 20:21-22:** *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

The Mission Trip. For many it's a highlight of the church year – falling right behind Christmas and Easter for the amount of energy and preparation involved. You've probably been thinking for months about what this trip is going to be like – getting information about where you'll sleep, what the food will be like, who's leading worship, and a thousand other things. And now as you prepare to go, there's one last thing to remember.

God is already at work where you are going and in you as you prepare to go.

The mission trip is one part of an overall mission that has been going on since the beginning of the world. God is at work in the world, and God sends us to help make that work happen. You are part of something bigger than this one week of construction mission. Just as God sent Jesus, Jesus has sent us and sent the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us as we serve. So as you prepare to go...

Peace be with you.

## REFLECT

What does it mean to think of this trip as a small part of God's overall mission in the community and God's overall mission for you?

## PRAY

God, help me to have eyes to see your work in the world, a heart for the people I see, and a willingness to join you.



# CALL FOCUS

## BEFORE YOU GO

**Exodus 3:2-5:** *There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."*

Sometimes it takes something really different to get our attention. We have to get out of our normal routine in order to hear what God is saying to us. We need to be in a situation that's so different we are forced to pay attention to things we usually wouldn't so we can hear God speaking.

For Moses it was the burning bush – something he wouldn't see every day. When he noticed it, he would go to find out what exactly was going on.

For us, maybe it's taking a week of vacation and leisure time in the hottest part of the year to sleep and eat in much less comfort and spend all day outside in the heat that most "sensible" people try to avoid. But going into that kind of different space – going there to follow Jesus – you are much more likely to be aware of being on Holy Ground. We can hear God's call anywhere if we're willing to listen. But maybe your mission trip will be an opportunity to listen to God's call with different ears. As you prepare to go, go expecting to hear God's voice.

## REFLECT

What expectations do you need to go into your Impact week with in order to prepare to hear God's call?

## PRAY

God, help me to hear your call and help me have the courage to respond.

# WORLDVIEW FOCUS

## BEFORE YOU GO

**Philippians 3:20-21:** *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Perspective is key. One of the great challenges that churches in our culture have is that we see threats and enemies in anyone that is different from us. We take things that are particular to people in our neighborhood, our part of the country, or our culture and make them things that we think are essential to faith for everyone everywhere. We decide things that are important to us must also be important to God. But a mission trip is a great opportunity to expand our understanding because we meet others who claim citizenship in heaven but don't share all of those other values. It's easy to call another person's values idols and not understand why our values aren't seen as universal.

When you go to Impact, you will encounter people from other groups and in the community you serve who are different than you in any number of ways. Go there with the knowledge that those people are under the same transforming power of Christ that you are. All of us are changing, and Christ is guiding that change.

## REFLECT

What values do you have because of your faith? What values have you seen in other Christians that came from their faith that have surprised you?

## PRAY

God, show me your image in the people I encounter and help me to remember my value as your child as well.

# THEME FOCUS – *JUST VISITING*

## BEFORE YOU GO

**John 1:14:** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

It's hard to overstate how shocking a thing that is. God coming to earth and living among us and living just like us. It shows us how important God's presence is for us. The Incarnation (God being present on earth in Jesus) gives us a model for how we should live and minister as well. When Jesus told us in the Matthew 25 parable "I was sick, and in prison, and you visited me," he was showing again just how important our presence is. You are preparing to go on a mission trip where you will be present in a community and will be serving as part of Christ's presence in that community. To a large extent you are "Just Visiting" for a week. But during that week, you're bringing a kind of justice that we don't often talk about. There is one kind of justice where people "get what they deserve," but there is another type - which is the type God commands us to do - that is concerned with people "having what they need." As you go to offer people one small thing that they need, you are taking a just action. Over that week, you will get to practice "just" visiting. Prepare yourself to go as Christ's presence in that situation, and know that Christ goes with you.

## REFLECT

Who is someone that is always present for you? How can you use their offering of presence as an example for yourself?

## PRAY

God, remind me of your presence when I feel alone, and help me to be your presence to others.



