

## COVID-19 Staff devotionals

This document provides daily devotionals that may be a resource for Water Mission teams, in light of COVID-19. These may be shared during team devotionals in the office. For staff not in the office, these devotionals may be shared through phone/Teams calls, SMS, WhatsApp, or email.

### No More Tears

God's original design for this Earth had no pain or tears in the plan. We can also have the assurance that the day is coming when the pains of the current time will be no more. Even on our darkest day, this truth can bring us the brightest hope. Who else do you know that would benefit from knowing this truth?

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place[a] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*

*-Revelation 21:1-7*

**Prayer:** God, thank you for making a way into heaven for us through the Son. This is what you originally intended for us, but not what we deserve. Thank you for loving us enough to secure our future. Thank you for this Good News. Continue to encourage us in this hope even as we feel the struggles and brokenness of this world.

### Run the race with endurance

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

*-Hebrews 12:1-3*

How can you apply this Scripture in your attitude toward your family, co-workers, and neighbors? Has this time during the effects of COVID-19 affected your endurance, or contributed to weariness? From where does our strength come?

**Prayer:** God, thank you for running with us, even carrying us, in times of trial and challenge. We ask that you continue to resource us with all that we need to carry out the task you have for us. Keep us encouraged so that we can encourage and remain a witness to others. Amen.

### God is for us

When we remember who God is and what He's done, we'll be more likely to walk with hope when things are threatening to overwhelm us. What we fill ourselves up with every day is important. When we



fill our minds with the truth from God’s Word, we’ll become so acquainted with it that when we’re faced with something that isn’t true, we’ll know. When we worship God through song or praise Him while looking at His creation, it’ll build our spirits and will lift our focus from the daily trials we face. When we walk through life with like-minded followers of Jesus, there’s built in encouragement for us in our experiences with them.

*The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? -Psalm 118:6*

**Prayer:** God you are our salvation and fortress. Thank you, Lord, for a mindset of love, power, and sound mind. Move your spirit to help us remember of this truth everyday so that we'll stand strong knowing that you when you are for us, nothing can be against us. Amen.

### When adversity hits, look up<sup>1</sup>

Where do you go for help when storms come into your life? Trouble has a way of drawing our focus downward to the immediate situation rather than upward to the Lord, who reigns over every event in our life. Therefore, our first response to trials should be to open the Bible and find out what God has said. When we focus our attention on the Lord and His promises, it’s like throwing wood on the fire of our spiritual life, which helps us face whatever challenges come our way.

*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?—Psalm 27:1-14*

**Prayer:** Lord, you reign over everything. Thank you for your Word, which opens us up to Your work within us. I ask that you continue to give me a sense of assurance and boldness to stand firm in obedience. Amen.

### In God's hands<sup>2</sup>

Uncertain times can leave us anxiety ridden. We look for someone that we can trust, someone who will speak truth. We look for someone who will tell us how to go forward. These are the times to refocus on God. He is our security. He is our source of wisdom. He asks you and me to commit ourselves and our future into His hands. God does not fail the one who looks to Him. Will you trust Him to lead you forward?

*Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. – Psalm 9:10*

**Prayer:** Lord, in this moment, I give my anxiety to You. I live to exalt You every day, no matter how uncertain the times. You have never—and will never—forsake Your own. So, in full confidence in Your Word and Your faithfulness, I trust You to lead me forward. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### By faith<sup>3</sup>

Living "by faith" is mentioned 22 times in Hebrews 11; the word "faith" is used almost 30 times. This chapter is about faith in God and how that faith is revealed in the lives of His people. Faith calls us to

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<sup>1</sup> InTouch Ministries, “When Adversity Hits, Look Up,” 2020 April 29,

<https://www.intouch.org/read/magazine/daily-devotions/when-adversity-hits-look-up>

<sup>2</sup> Lead Like Jesus, “In God’s Hands,” 2020 April 29, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/god%E2%80%99s-hands>

<sup>3</sup> Lead Like Jesus, “By Faith,” 2020 April 23, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/faith-0>



recognize that this world belongs to God. Faith calls us to align ourselves with God's purposes in the world, to obey Him despite what others think. Faith in God's promises gives us courage to walk into the future. Where is God calling you to live and lead by faith, faith in who He is and what He says?

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. – Hebrews 11:1*

**Prayer:** God, show me where and how I need to live by faith. Let faith permeate my life and leadership, so that I increasingly point others to You. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

### Believe it<sup>4</sup>

Jesus spent 40 days training and developing His disciples after His resurrection. He showed up at their gatherings. He revealed Himself to His followers along roads and beside the Sea of Galilee. He appeared to them behind closed doors. He sought them out one-by-one and in group settings. They learned that they could trust Him to find them wherever they went. Nothing keeps Jesus from coming to you. Do you believe this?

*Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. – Luke 24:13-15*

**Prayer:** Jesus, transform my perspective with this truth: You come to me wherever I am; nothing keeps You from finding me. Give me eyes to recognize Your presence. Grow my confidence and trust in You. In Your name I pray, amen.

### Look around<sup>5</sup>

Being used by God to positively influence those around us begins with seeing the opportunities He places in front of us. This starts with paying attention to other people, and not just ourselves. Turn your cares over to God, and trust Him to work in your life, then look around you. Is there someone who seems burdened and in need of encouragement, someone whom others overlook? Ask God to show you how you can encourage someone else today.

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. – Matthew 9:36*

**Prayer:** Lord, when the troubles of our lives keep us inwardly focused, remind us to give our cares into Your keeping. Open our eyes to the needs of those around us, and let us be the hands and feet of Jesus in their lives. Help us see people like Jesus sees them and serve them in His name, amen.

### His perfect peace

The promises God makes to us are certain. The gifts God gives to us are perfectly timed. The love God has for us is eternal. The Hebrew word Shalom means peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness. In the tough circumstances, we can be certain in the peace Jesus brings to us. Jesus remains constant in a

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<sup>4</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Believe It," 2020 April 22, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/believe-it>

<sup>5</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Look Around," 2020 April 17, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/look-around-2>



chaotic world. When we keep Christ at the center of our lives, we have no reason to be troubled or afraid. Jesus has overcome the world, and through faith in Him, we can join Him in this *shalom*.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." -John 14:27*

**Prayer:** Lord, you brought shalom to this earth. Thank you for giving this peace to your followers. I pray that I can lean into your promises and know I have no reason to be troubled or afraid, because I have you. Amen.

### Incomparable

The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God, heirs to His eternal glory. Although our earthly life may be challenging, it is incomparable this glory that will be revealed to us. In hope, we must wait patiently for this glory, striving every day to know God more deeply and to make Him known.

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us -Romans 8:18*

**Prayer:** Jesus, I am so thankful that through your death and resurrection, I am able to be a child of God. Thank you for reminding me in your Word that the sufferings of this present age are incomparable to your glory. We are more than conquerors through you, Jesus, who loves us. Amen.

### Partnership in the Gospel

God has designed that we would partner together in our mission to advance the gospel to those who haven't heard and bring safe water to all. This partnership involves a deep love for one another, commitment to pray for each other, and sharing in joys and sufferings together. It is amazing that we experience more of God's grace through our partnership. May God unite us even more in this season, allowing us more time to talk with and pray for each other.

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. —Philippians 1:5,7*

**Prayer:** God, we thank you for your body, the Church. Help us to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world and engage in partnership in the gospel. Thank you that we experience more of your grace by engaging in your mission with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Faith

When we face difficulties in life, there are two temptations that are common. The first is to believe that we are smart and strong enough to handle the difficulty. The second is to complain and act hopeless, because we do not feel smart or strong. Yet, these responses are the same, because both puts our faith in ourselves. We are believing in our ability or in our lack of ability. Let us instead place our faith in God our Father regardless of our abilities.

*Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." – Jeremiah 9:23-24*



**Prayer:** Father, help us to put our faith in you and to know you better through your word every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Leading during crisis<sup>6</sup>

Times of crisis are challenging to navigate, even for the most experienced leaders. When you talk with people in your spheres of influence—family and friends, co-workers, bosses, employees, your church family, and people in the community—pray for God to guide you. Ask Him for the grace to meet people where they are, listen to their hearts, and respond with Jesus-like words and actions.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philipians 4:4-7*

**Prayer:** Lord, I rejoice in who You are and that I am Yours. Help me lead like You so that others grow in confidence in You and see You at work in their circumstances. In Your name I pray, Jesus, amen.

### Grounded<sup>7</sup>

One of the most challenging parts of any crisis is the sense of being out of control. If we are honest, we know that there is little we can control in life—our health, the responses of others, the decisions of those in authority over us, even the unfolding circumstances of daily life. Scripture speaks of One who is in control and to whom we belong. The Bible reminds us that God knows our names and pursues us in love. What scriptural truths help you when life seems out of control?

*Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.—Psalm 119:89-90*

**Prayer:** Your Word, Lord, is a light to my path and an anchor in rough seas. Your Word reveals You in all Your greatness and calls me to continually depend on You in everything. Sustain me with Your Word and let my faith be grounded in truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Meeting needs<sup>8</sup>

James, Jesus' half-brother and the leader of the church in Jerusalem, challenged believers to act in accordance with their faith. He especially exhorted them to serve fellow believers who were suffering as a result of the famine in Jerusalem. For James, as for John, Paul, and others, the early church's witness included meeting the physical—as well as the spiritual—needs of people. In this, they followed the example and command of Jesus. Opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus surround us. What can you do to meet the needs of others today?

*Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? —James 2:15-16*

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<sup>6</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Leading during a Crisis," 20 March 2020, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/leading-during-crisis>

<sup>7</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Grounded," 23 March 2020, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/grounded>

<sup>8</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Meeting Needs", 27 March 2020, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/meeting-needs>



**Prayer:** Jesus, remake me in Your image. Open my eyes to the ways I can love and serve others with my actions as well as with my presence and my words. In Your name I pray, amen.

### Imperishable

Greater worth than gold. Unmeasured value. This is how our faith is described by Peter in this letter. Our relationship with God and thus our citizenship in His kingdom is the greatest blessing that we can ever experience. Peter also describes our faith as imperishable even when we experience trials of various sorts. While our lives and all that is in it are temporary, our faith and thus our promise of eternity never fade, despite all circumstances and experiences. In this, though we may experience brokenness, darkness, and even death, may our hope abound and remain alive (v. 3). How do you stay encouraged when you experience “all kinds of trials”?

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...— 1 Peter 1:3-25*

**Prayer:** Lord, protect my faith, in time of plenty and in times of want. In times of trial and in times of celebration. Help me to witness to the eternal value of our relationship with You and resist the temptation to over-value the perishable things of this world. Amen

### Call out<sup>9</sup>

The people of the Bible knew the same struggles that we know today. In their times of trouble and uncertainty, they repeatedly called out to the Lord. God doesn't respond to their fear—or ours—with judgment, scorn, or shame. As we spend time in His presence, He offers to transform our fear into faith and our despair into hope.

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. — Psalm 46:1-3*

**Prayer:** Lord, I, too, experience days of fear and uncertainty in my life. I come to You and call out to You. Transform my heart and mind as I spend time in Your presence. Comfort my heart, renew my faith, and steady my steps. Be my ever-present help as I lead in uncertain days. In Your name, Jesus, amen.

### Call to action

With so many self-isolating and practicing social distancing, it could make our call to sharing God's love with others much harder. Some would say, “We're finished!” Many will ask, “What next?” Others will say, “Just take a break, we'll start our work again when this is all over.” During this time, we must stay active to the sole purpose of life and why we exist as a ministry. How can we keep our eyes focused on our mission as Christians and a ministry during this global turmoil?

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.—Romans 12:12-13*

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<sup>9</sup> Lead Like Jesus, “Call Out,” 18 March 2020, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/call-out>



**Prayer:** Lord we thank you for inviting us to be your hands and feet here on earth. We ask that in these times of turmoil you fill us with your Spirit so we may keep our spiritual fervor and serving you Lord.

### Stillness

It is easy to lie down and go to sleep thinking of all the circumstances in our lives and wonder if things will change soon and what solutions are out there. But the Lord call us to something different. He calls us to rest in Him and stand confidently in the truth of His love for us.

*In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. – Psalm 4:8*

**Prayer:** God we praise you for you are sovereign and good. We ask that you use this time to grow our hearts to be more dependent on you.

### Contagious<sup>10</sup>

Basic needs for every person include hope, companionship, and perseverance, especially in challenging times. God designed us so that one person's faith strengthens another. The writer of Hebrews exhorted wavering Jewish Christian believers to hold onto Jesus as their hope and to encourage, love, and serve others. How can you spur others on to do the same?

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. — Hebrews 10:23-25*

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, I need You to keep reminding me to look to Jesus and to live for Him daily. Show me how I can stay connected to others in challenging times so we can encourage and support one another. In Your name, Jesus, amen.

### Hope and Help in Hard Times<sup>11</sup>

Jesus repeatedly warned His disciples that hard times awaited them. His coming did not magically right all the wrongs in this broken world. But He does provide a way for us to find hope and direction in navigating the world. He calls us to keep our eyes on Him, to remain in relationship with Father, Son, and Spirit, and to live by His priorities of love, service, and obedience. As we do this, our lives testify to Him, just as the lives of the first disciples did. Let God's presence transform your perspective and lead you forward.

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."—John 16:33*

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<sup>10</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Contagious," 30 March 2020, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/contagious>

<sup>11</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Hope and Help in Hard Times," 11 September, 2019, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/hope-and-help-hard-times>



**Prayer:** God, I take heart in the reality of Your presence which is always with me. Remind me of Your words and values. Let my life and priorities reflect Your peace and testify to Jesus, in whose name I pray, amen.

### Jesus Cares<sup>12</sup>

The sudden storm overwhelmed the disciples. In their panic, they cried out to Jesus, not with faith and God-confidence, but with doubt and fear, questioning Jesus' care for them. Isn't that what many of us do when overwhelmed? How could God allow this to happen, we cry. Jesus' immediate action reveals that He does care, not only about the storm that threatens them but about the fear that holds them captive. Where do you need to trust that Jesus cares about everything that concerns you?

*A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"—Mark 4:37-38*

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for caring about all that concerns me. Let me call out to You with faith and God-confidence, knowing that You are present and that You hear my call. Amen.

### Facilitation Tips

If you want to use other relevant Bible stories or scriptures, here are three questions that can be useful in studying God's word.

- What does this text teach us about God?
- What does this text teach us about man?
- How can we apply this text to our lives?

### Note

This is Version 3.0 developed on May 8, 2020. To make sure you are accessing the latest version, and to get other helpful resources, visit [2020 COVID-19 Community Development](#) folder.

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<sup>12</sup> Lead Like Jesus, "Jesus Cares," 30 August 2013, <https://www.leadlikejesus.com/devotionals/jesus-cares>