



The group devotions are fine—but I need to pray alone as well. Jesus did it! Even if it's just at night before bed.

**—Horatio, 36,
Florida**

Hopelessly Devoted to God

List:

What purpose do devotions have for you?

The volunteers stood on the stairs of a Puerto Rican church, waiting to be transported for a day of hurricane cleanup. They used that very public time to pray for their daily task, the people they would serve with, and even for the people who walked by.

As the bus bumped along the road to the school, where the travelers would be painting and playing with children affected by HIV, these Midwestern church members sang songs from the compact disc that accompanies this book. Their favorite was the chorus from Salaam, “Give us peace, Lord, peace to light the way. Give us peace, Lord, peace for another day.” The words and music were the group’s daily prayer, their way of asking God to support them as they worked.



Ten teenagers sat in a circle on the sandy ground. The leader said, “When the first Christians met a stranger,

they drew a fish on the ground—a symbol of followers. Now it’s your turn. Draw a symbol of God’s presence in this unfamiliar place.”

One of the most important tasks on your trip will be connecting your experiences to your faith. To do this, your group will engage in a daily devotional activity. You do this to:

- love and worship God in community;
- support you emotionally and spiritually, especially when your experiences are difficult;
- express your joys, gratitude, questions, and fears;
- give you language and stories to hold and express your experiences;
- give voice to your hopes and prayers;
- connect you in prayer with your companions, hosts, family, and the strangers you meet.

Think of devotions as the Spirit’s daily “reset button” for your soul!