LIGHTSHINE ALASKA



**Crafting Meaningful Devotions**

1. Planning meaningful devotions for your team starts NOW!
   1. You are the pastor of your team for at least 40 days (Eph 4:11-12)
   2. You cannot lead people any deeper than you have gone/or are willing to go
   3. Think about your different team members and recognize their gifts and strengths
   4. Begin now to seek the Lord for direction
   5. Pray and Fast
      1. What Christian literature are you reading?
      2. What podcasts do you listen to?
         1. Check out Todd White – Lifestyle of Fasting on You-Tube
      3. What are you doing for your own personal devotions?
      4. What has the Father been teaching you in your life?
      5. Go deeper with your team than the Daily Bread or daily devotional
2. Consistency
   * 1. Pick a time of the day that works for your team and stick to it. Most times devotions are in the morning after breakfast and before you start your workday.
     2. Length of time for devotions can vary depending on your team, what you choose to accomplish, and who may be leading that day.
3. The Craft
   1. Be creative
   2. Pick a book of the bible and read through it one chapter a day. As you prepare, pick out key verses that speak to you or even apply to your team. Have your team comment on the chapter as well.
   3. Assign volunteers (Challenge by Choice) to take a day during the week to lead devotions
   4. If you do a themed study, you can develop handouts or a booklet for the week. You can include journaling, prayer requests, and assignments.
   5. Use “God moments” to work into your devotions pointing out what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through your team as the week progresses.
   6. Debrief on the last day
      1. Foot washing
      2. Bless each team members
      3. Speak to each team member on what you witnessed and experienced with them on the team during the week. Build them up.

**After the Mission…**

1. Bring closure to the experience
   1. Be intentional and plan for time to discuss the experience
      1. Host a picnic or plan to meet up at a designated location
   2. Involve all team members
   3. Conduct immediately after you get home from the mission trip
   4. Use open ended questions related to specific objectives
      1. Objectives driven by our devotion topics
      2. Objectives of the projects
   5. Identify strengths and weaknesses
   6. Use feedback to improve or refine the experience
   7. Focus on team members, leader and unit performance
   8. Ask team members to complete the survey
2. Conduct the team safely Home
   1. You are the team leader until the mission officially ends and the team disbands
      1. Be responsible and caring leader
      2. Remain focused on your team and their well-being
   2. If you are not traveling with the team, identify your “point” person to lead.
      1. Make sure they have emergency contact information and a way to reach you and/or another LightShine Team Leader.
3. Administrative Duties
   1. Send Tom photos throughout the trip so he can post them on your team’s album on Facebook.
   2. Keep your supporters informed of the trip
   3. Submit your expense report and receipts
4. Cultivate a Relationship
   1. Follow up with your host after the mission
      1. Let them know the team is home safely
      2. Thank them for the opportunity to serve
      3. Share praises from the mission (if applicable)
      4. Keep in contact via Social Media
   2. Demonstrate that you are invested in a long=term relationship
      1. Do your best to maintain communication throughout the year
         1. Social media, text, calls, emails, etc
      2. Work to expand the relationship beyond business
         1. Building the Kingdom of Christ
      3. Talk to your host about plans for the future
5. Making Future Plans
   1. While in Alaska discuss future plans with your host and identify areas for improvements, change or expansion
   2. After you return, follow up with team members and get their feedback. Work on recruiting new members, and set dates for next year.