

# DEVOTIONS FOR YOUTH

A RESOURCE BY:  
**LeaderTreks**  
YOUTH MINISTRY<sup>®</sup>

Daily devotions are about habits and vision. We want to develop habits in our students that will make them fully devoted followers of Christ. Through studying God's word daily, students will develop the habit of listening to his voice and they will also begin to see his vision for their lives.

Spending time in God's word every day is so important and that is why we gathered some of our favorite devotions for youth that you can check out.

We've compiled 4 devotions pulled from some of our favorite student journals that your students can get started with:

**DEVOTION #1: Authentic Community**

**DEVOTION #2: The Upside Down Triangle**

**DEVOTION #3: Becoming a Cross-Cultural Missionary**

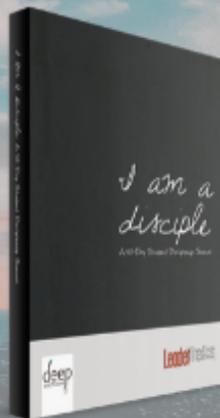
**DEVOTION #4: Seeing God Clearly**

# DEVOTION #1: Authentic Community

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Use this devotional to help your students strengthen their spiritual muscles and learn to become more like Jesus.

***I AM A  
DISCIPLE***



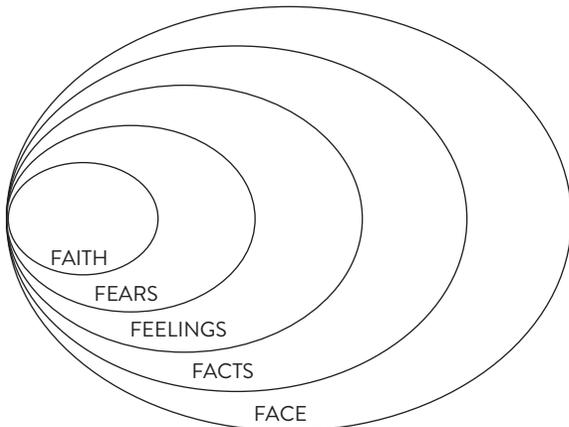
40-DAY  
DISCIPLESHIP  
JOURNAL

# DAY 3 - Authentic Community

Being a part of a community is more than being surrounded by people or having a position on a team or group. Many people are part of several groups but are still lonely. This happens because the depth of their community is shallow; it lacks authenticity and purpose. Often these shallow groups are filled with people who refuse to open up or pretend to be someone they're not.

The thing is, to follow Christ, to join his mission of making disciples and reaching the lost and the least of this world, we need some serious help. We need a ton of abilities, gifts, talents, resources, and wisdom. Thankfully, God already knew that! He set up the church to be a community where Christ-followers could get together, worship him, and do great things. The people who make up Christ's church should help each other out, rely on each other, and reach the corners of the world with the story of Jesus. Unfortunately, many of us have downgraded church to just the place we go on Sundays.

Take some time to evaluate your own community. Think of five to ten friends (maybe the ones in your small group or youth group) and write their names in the circles below according to the depth of your relationship.



**1. FACE:** You recognize them, but you don't really know them.

**2. FACTS:** Now you know their name, a little bit about them, where they live, what they like, what their family is like.

**3. FEELINGS:** Your relationship starts to go a little deeper—you learn about their opinions, how they feel about certain subjects, events, and a little bit of their story.

**4. FEARS:** Once you get to an authentic level of friendship, people begin to share their deepest concerns, their fears, and their anxieties. They start taking off the mask so you can see the real person beneath.

**5. FAITH:** This is the deepest level of friendship. You know about their walk with God; their temptations; their weaknesses; and their spiritual gifts, goals, and passions.

Now answer the following questions.

What's the deepest level of friendship you have with someone? Describe how your friendship progressed all the way to that level.

What level are most of your friendships on? Do you wish they were deeper? Why or why not?

How can you start moving your shallower friendships to deeper levels?



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Disciples of Christ form **DEEP RELATIONSHIPS**  
with other disciples. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

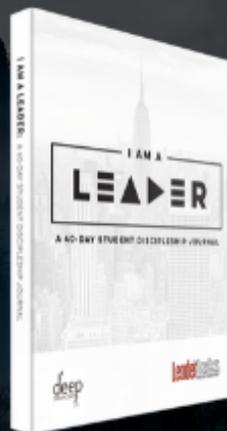
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# DEVOTION #2: The Upside Down Triangle

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Use this devotional to invite new student leaders to learn what godly leadership looks like, and challenge growing student leaders to apply these essential principles to their lives and their leadership.

***I AM A  
LEADER***



40-DAY  
DISCIPLESHIP  
JOURNAL

# DAY 1 - *The Upside-Down Triangle*

A pastor named Rick Warren once wrote this simple definition of humility: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”<sup>3</sup> But we spend most of our time—even when we’re trying really hard to be humble—thinking about ourselves and our own needs. As a result, our lives end up looking like the first triangle; we might know that God should be at the top, but that’s just not the case. The more we understand true humility, the more our lives start to look like the upside-down triangle instead. We value God and others more than ourselves and our lives prove it as more of our thoughts and actions are directed toward them.



If our lives are supposed to look like the upside-down triangle, then our leadership should too. Humility has to be the foundation of our leadership. It orients our character, our thoughts, and our actions toward God. This isn’t easy, but we have the example Jesus set for us in his life on Earth to see what true humility in leadership looks like.

**JOURNAL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

When you think of the word “humility,” what first springs to mind?



What are some examples of humility you’ve seen? Who are leaders you think of as humble?



How could a leader use the upside-down triangle to make leadership decisions?



What keeps you from living your life like the upside-down triangle?



How do you think you could make your life look more like the upside-down triangle?

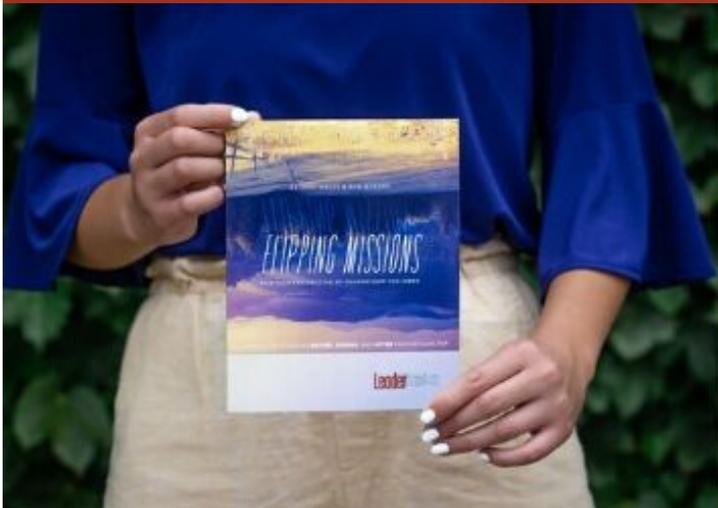


# DEVOTION #3:

## Becoming A Cross-Cultural Missionary

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This devotional will help your students see behind the scenes from all angles so your trip can change from a one-time experience to something life-changing.



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### ***FLIPPING MISSIONS***

Flipping Missions helps you see behind the scenes from all these angles so you can push your trip from a one-time experience to something life-changing.

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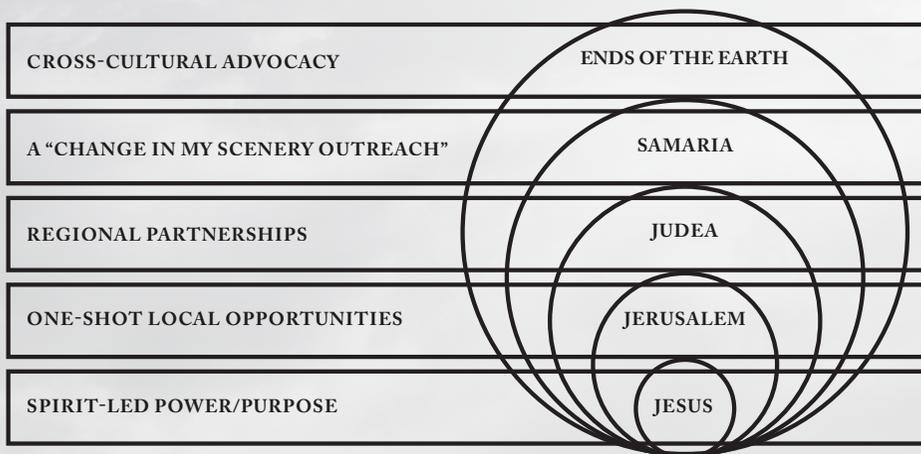
WEEK THREE  
*BECOMING A CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONARY*

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DAY TWO

It's absolutely true that you are a missionary to the community you're in today. It's also possible that you may be called to go somewhere else as a missionary to another community.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus told his disciples they would be his witnesses (once they received the gift of the Holy Spirit) in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In today's language, it would be like him saying, "Once you're grounded in me, let's make a difference right where you are, then in your larger state region, then further out where people aren't like you, and ultimately to the rest of the world."



Jesus' approach is not about enthusiasm. He wanted his disciples to begin with Spirit-led power and purpose. You have to start here, and then work your way out.



## WEEK THREE

### *BECOMING A CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONARY*



## FLIP IT:

Being a cross-cultural missionary involves viewing the world through three different lenses:

1. **SURRENDER YOUR PERSPECTIVE** // Devote time and energy to surrendering your own way of thinking. You have to move from an “us and them” mentality to an “I am them, and they are me” focus. If Jesus waited 30 years before teaching and engaging in ministry, we should be willing to get to know a culture or community before trying to meet its needs.

2. **DON'T GET OFFENDED** // Avoid getting offended by your own culture. It can be difficult to spend time in a financially poor culture, only to come back and see people you love spending great sums of money on silly things. Just as you prepared to go on your trip to a new community, you have to slow down, look for more similarities than differences in your own community, and ask God to overcome your temptation to be critical.

3. **SEE THINGS THROUGH GOD'S EYES** // We'll never see the world exactly the way God does, but we can keep moving one step further towards that goal. He is our holy Lord who, at one point, used a massive flood to cleanse the earth. He is also our gracious Savior who pursues us with an unrelenting love. Invite him to break your heart for what breaks his heart.

Take a look at the world. It's in a mess. God wants to change and redeem it, and he's looking for men and women of all ages willing to let that transformation start in them. Are you one of them?





**WEEK THREE**  
*BECOMING A CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONARY*



**OWN IT:**

⇒ If Jesus makes disciples, and his disciples are supposed to be like him, what does that mean for your life? Be as specific as possible.

⇒ Read Matthew 28:18–20. What words or commands stand out to you?

## WEEK THREE

### *BECOMING A CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONARY*



## LIVE IT:

1. Go back to the last chapter and review the MISSIONARY acronym.
2. Visualize how you would live this out in another culture where you wouldn't have the resources you have now.
3. Write out a prayer for the Christ-followers serving in foreign cultures.



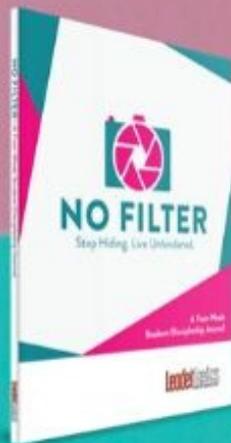
- My daughter Acacia is awesome at seeing the needs around her and
- making a plan to help. When she was 14, she took a tour through our
- local crisis pregnancy center and was inspired to help. She decided to raise funds by going around the neighborhood and getting sponsors for a "Swim a Mile" campaign. In just a few days, she raised awareness for the center and \$300 to support it.

# DEVOTION #4: Seeing God Clearly

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This devotional will help your students understand that when we see God clearly, we aren't worried about the past mistakes we've made or about gaining others' approval.

***NO FILTER***



FOLLOW UP JOURNAL  
DNOW CURRICULUM

## DAY TWO: LOOKING FOR GOD IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

When things aren't going great and it seems like everything in your life is crumbling around you, have you ever looked around and thought to yourself "Well, God, where are you?" When things are going poorly, it's easy to blame God for not showing up.

In today's passage, you'll see that the disciples were having a rough couple of days. Their Messiah, the hope for all Israel, had been crucified. Their purpose in life was uncertain. And then they heard that Jesus' body was missing. What else could go wrong? God, where are you?

The truth is God is *always* with us. He *always* shows up—just not always in the way we'd choose. Sometimes God shows up, and we don't even recognize him.

Read **Luke 24:13–35** using the **OPA Method** for Bible study: Observation, Principles, and Application.

*Helpful tip: the more effort you put in to making observations, the easier the principles and application will be to see.*

## OBSERVATION:

Compile all the facts found in this passage.

Try to make 10–15 observations about what you read.

## PRINCIPLES:

Draw a few principles from the observations you made.

What is God trying to teach you in this passage?

## APPLICATION:

How will you apply these principles to your life?

Be specific—a good application will tell who, what, and when.

“WHAT WRITING TEACHES ME, OVER AND OVER, IS THAT GOD IS WAITING TO BE FOUND EVERYWHERE, IN THE DARKEST CORNERS OF OUR LIVES, THE DEAD ENDS AND BAD NEIGHBORHOODS WE WAKE UP IN, AND IN THE SIMPLEST, LIGHTEST, MOST SINGULAR AND LUMINOUS MOMENTS. HE'S HIDING, LIKE A CHILD, IN QUITE OBVIOUS AND VISIBLE PLACES, BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE FOUND. THE MIRACLE IS THAT HE DWELLS IN BOTH.”

— SHAUNA NIEQUIST<sup>3</sup>