

*Family*

BIBLE  
STUDY



**BENJAMIN  
HOUSE**

*a 28 day journey of preparation*



# Day 1

## WHY SHOULD I CARE?

James 1:27(ESV)

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

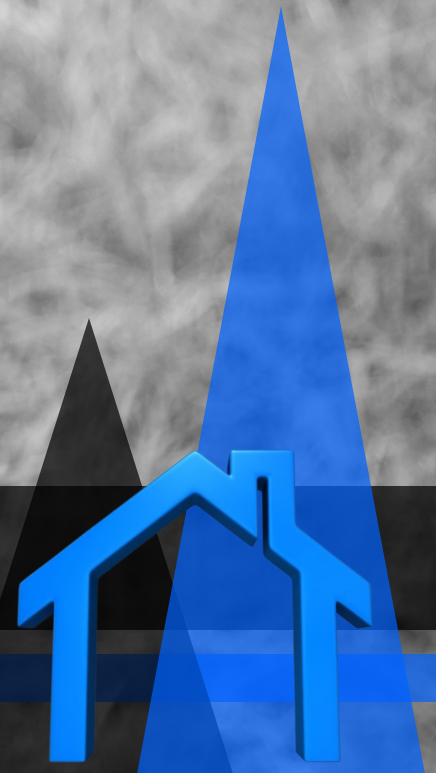
We don't do things to earn our salvation. However, the presence of the Gospel in us should go beyond simply listening. It should spur us into action. So, what specific actions does James say should be present in a believer's life? 1) To look after orphans and widows in their distress, and 2) to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Why would James add "keep oneself unstained by the world?" Could it be to remind us that caring for orphans and widows is counter-cultural? It will not come natural for most. It is so easy to get sucked into the American dream, and to focus on bigger and better everything (education, homes, cars, vacations, etc.). So we as believers have to remain diligent in our efforts to not get sucked into this cycle...a cycle where there is nothing left at the end of the month to care for orphans and widows.

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How is your family currently caring for orphans and widows?
2. What easy steps can your family take to start caring more for orphans and widows?
3. In what ways have you allowed yourself to become stained by the world?

Pray for the Lord to show you ways to be involved in orphan and widow care and to begin to incline your heart to love them unconditionally.





# Day 2

## WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

1 Tim 1:5(ESV)

5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Any time God gives us a command, like caring for widows and orphans, our goal for that instruction is to aim at love. Do everything in love. Where does this love come from?

- A pure heart—a heart that has traded our rights, our passions, and our desires for Christ's righteousness.
- A good conscience—a person who no longer carries their burden of sin and shame because they have been covered by the blood of Jesus and have been reconciled to God.
- A sincere faith—sincere faith consists of more than just knowing about Jesus and His Word. A sincere faith is a faith rich in works rather than words.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How do you consistently show Godly love?
2. In what ways can you build a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith?
3. Make a list of ways you can sharpen the charge that God has given you to show real love, particularly while you're in Uganda.

Pray for your love to look like God's love; Perfect, unyielding, and unconditional.





# Day 3

YOU... YES, EVEN YOU!

1 Timothy 4:11-12 (ESV)

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

In this passage Paul is writing to Timothy, and he speaks about his youth. In this time period it was a pretty big deal for a young person to speak his mind. That was seen as taboo. In verse 12, you see Paul telling Timothy, "Let no one despise you for your youth..." He goes on to tell him to set the example or pave the way, if you will. Paul gives him some solid ways in which he can do this; and they are, in speech, in conduct in the way we act, in love, in faith, in purity.

All of these can be applied in our culture and time period today. God uses young people all the time for the glory of His Kingdom. Probably one of the most well known stories from the Bible about a young person being used by God is David. He set an example in his faith in God to get him through that battle with Goliath (1 Samuel 17). We can be used by God to make a difference in his Kingdom in a major way.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What are some things holding you back from answering God's call for your life?
2. How might God use a young person on a mission trip, even in a way that would be more difficult for an adult to accomplish?
3. What can you do to prepare yourself to be used by God?

Pray for spiritual eyes to see what God may be asking, and the zeal and obedience to do it, even if you feel ill equipped to. You're never too young to be used by God!





# Day 4

## WHAT IS YOUR GIFT?

1 Timothy 4:13-16 (ESV)

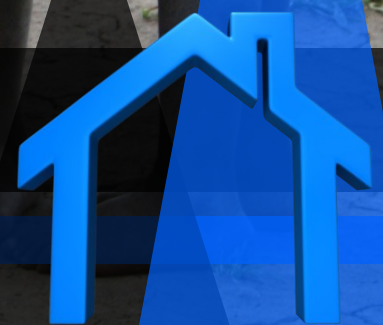
13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

God has a special skill set He has given you. He wants you to do awesome things with that set of skills and abilities. I am beginning to learn what gifts God has given me and how I can leverage those to further the Kingdom and to bring His name glory. At times, I think it's easy for us to understand some of the things God has gifted us with at and what He is calling us to. Sometimes that is really hard to discern. Regardless of where you are on that spectrum, it's important to be seeking God in all you do, in prayer and in the reading of Scripture. I know for me, I doubt my calling. I think, I can't be used in that way, or I wouldn't be good at that. Scripture is a great reminder of all the "misfits" God used to do awesome things. He used people who really wouldn't be good at what God was calling them to do, especially if they tried to do it by their own strength. God equips those whom He calls. He doesn't just say, "I need you to do this to the best of your ability. Good luck doing it on your own!" He will provide everything you need when you are doing what He has called you to do. So, really be praying about what that gifting is, and how you can use it while you are in Uganda.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How can you leverage your gifts to further the Kingdom of God?
2. What do you believe some of your gifts are?
3. What are you doing to improve in those areas God has gifted you?

Pray for God to continue revealing the gifting He has placed in you. Ask Him to help you have opportunities to put it into practice.





# Day 5

## ARE YOU BROKEN FOR PEOPLE?

Isaiah 6:8-10 (NLT)

8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." 9 And he said, "Yes, go, and say to this people, 'Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing.' 10 Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing."

In the beginning of this passage, God gives Isaiah a particular task at hand. Without hesitation, Isaiah accepts this task because he has a burden for the lost and unresponsive. God tells Isaiah that the people will become callous to the Word of God. Their eyes and ears will be closed. Yet God commands that Isaiah continues to invest in these people.

As you partner with us, there will be plenty of people you will come in contact with; babies, teenagers, and adults. While you will experience a lot of accepting and welcoming situations, you will also encounter situations where the person will simply say no or say they aren't ready. It will be discouraging but as God commanded Isaiah, we must continue to invest in those people. Even if they become unresponsive. We must be steadfast and have a burden for the lost and unresponsive just as Isaiah did.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. In what ways can you show the Word of God without being overbearing?
2. How can you prepare to deal with unresponsiveness?
3. What are a few passages from scripture that can be sources of encouragement during times of rejection?

Pray that God will prepare you for the rejection and unresponsiveness that you will undoubtedly face. Pray that as a team, you will be encouraging to each other as you face different situations.





# Day 6

## PUTTING SELF LAST

Philippians 2:1-8(NIV)

1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Last year God smacked me in the face. The fun day was intended to be four-wheeling. Four-wheeling in AFRICA! It doesn't get any better than that. Unfortunately, God had other plans. Because of the size of our group, it would be nearly impossible for me to have a turn within the time frame we had. I was bitter the entire two hour ride back to the city. As I kept thinking about it more, I began to realize that I wasn't about me and how bad I wanted to ride four wheelers. The decision was for the sake of the team.

As you begin preparing for the trip, be on the lookout for opportunities to serve others and to put them in front of you. In any decisions during the trip, "Don't be selfish: don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others better than yourself." Be in the mindset of Uganda first, team second and me last.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How can you serve others on this trip?
2. In every situation during this trip, how can you or your family put others in front of your desires and needs?
3. How can you begin to prepare to always be in the mindset of others before yourself?
4. What are you teaching the people you will encounter when you humble yourself?

Pray that God will give you many opportunities to put others in front of you and pray for obedience in those situations.





# Day 7

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

Philippians 4:4-9 (NLT)

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. 8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Throughout this passage, Paul talks about prayer...prayer in every single aspect in your life. Whether it's a worry or a praise, pray and be thankful for what God has done and will continue to do. The second half of the passage, he switches the topic from prayer to practice. We have to train our thoughts and fix our eyes on the truth.

During this trip, you will experience a lot of ups and a lot of downs. There will be times when all you want to do is break down. And then there are other times when you are on fire for Jesus. Through every minute and every situation you encounter, pray. Surrender to the one who has it all planned out. Don't just pray during the trip, but before and after the trip. Bathe the entire trip and your life in prayer, and see what God might do and use you to do!

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What can we give up and use that time to just pray over the entire trip?
2. How can we begin to prepare in a praying mentality to meet the needs of the people in Uganda?
3. What are some things we can pray for each other for the trip?

Pray that God will put you in situations where all you can do is surrender it all to Him. Pray that with any situation you will exalt Him through prayer and praise.





# Day 8

## REAL SACRIFICE

Luke 9:23-27 (ESV)

23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? 26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

In this passage, Jesus is teaching on the requirements for becoming a disciple. These things are essential in daily living and walking with Christ. Sometimes living in the U.S., or even other places in the world, we don't realize how blessed we are because we haven't experienced anything else. I hope on this trip you get to come to the realization of just how blessed you are. You will really have to focus on waking up each day and putting yourself and your needs at the end of your list of things you think about. We must deny ourselves and take up our crosses daily. This means you aren't concerned with what you want, or even with what you "need". Let us focus on the needs of the people of Uganda and show them that Christ is the motivation behind everything you and your team do. I encourage you to pray that God would help you in this. That he would prepare you and your team in a big way. Remember our motto, "Uganda first, team second, me last."

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. Why is it so hard to deny ourselves and to willingly pick up our cross and follow Jesus?
2. What are some ways that can help us to be better at doing these things consistently?
3. What things do you think you will have to deny yourself of while on this trip?

Pray for strength as you daily practice putting your desires second to the needs of others. Ask God to free you of personal wants and needs and make you keenly aware of the needs of people around you.





# Day 9

## BE THE FIRST TO TAKE ACTION

Luke 10:35-37(ESV)

35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

If you look at the rest of this story, you see that a couple of other people walked right past this man who was in need. But one stopped. This one even took it a step further and brought the man to a safe place, and even a step further by providing money to take care of his needs. It cost him something to care for this man.

While on the mission field, you're going to see hundreds of needs. Your heart, because you are doing this study and preparing to go, is already inclined to take care of those needs. The tension you'll feel is that, no matter how much you want to, you can't meet them all. God doesn't ask you to., but He does ask you to meet the need HE reveals to you. Maybe it's a hug, a smile, or a meal. Maybe it's a child who captures your heart and you want to sponsor. Maybe it's something even bigger. Just listen to him and be willing to be the first one off of your seat and ready to take action.

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What kinds of needs do you think people in Uganda will have?
2. What sort of things can you do, or prepare for, or bring that God might use to help meet a need?
3. What is God's purpose for having us meet the needs of others? What does it do for them, us and for others who see it?

Pray for God to open your eyes to see people like He sees them, and to go the next step by being His hands and feet and taking action if He tells you to.





# Day 10

## CHILDREN MATTER

Luke 18:15-17(ESV)

15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Our world prioritizes growth. Bigger and better is the name of the game. If we're not careful we can begin to think importance is tied to one's age. The older the person, the more important they are. Jesus blows this theory wide open and tells his disciples to hush and allow the children to come to him. Then he takes it a step further and tells them that unless they become like those children, they won't enter the Kingdom.

In Uganda, children are everywhere. It's pretty common for families and society in general to devalue children. They can, at times, be viewed as less worthy of time, effort, money, guidance, care, etc. While you are there, set the example for the locals in your interaction with children. Hug them, love them, play with them. They will be dirty. Choose to not care about that and love on them anyway. You may even learn a little bit about how to approach Jesus while you're doing it!

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. Why do you think Jesus said that the disciples needed to receive the Kingdom like children?
2. What makes kids so special to you personally?
3. What specific things can you do to show the Ugandan culture that loving children helps you be more like Jesus?

Pray for God to give you an unexplainable love for the children of Uganda. Pray you'll be able to make special and lasting connections with some of them.



Mark 10:46-52(ESV)

<sup>46</sup> And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." <sup>50</sup> And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." <sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Have you ever wondered why miracles like those we see in Scripture don't seem to happen around us every day? I mean, when's the last time you've seen a totally blind man begin to see again with just a word?

This blind man 1) recognized Jesus without even being able to see him, 2) called out to him for help, and 3) had faith that Jesus could literally make him see again. I think sometimes we don't see God's miracles around us because we're so distracted by other things this world has to offer. We simply don't see/hear Him anymore and we're too busy crying out to other things and placing our faith in other things that we miss out on His work.

As you're in Uganda, partnering with Benjamin House, you'll be away from your normal, everyday life and responsibilities. The normal pressures that you face won't be there. Wake up every day asking God to show you the miraculous things He is doing around you. Ask Him to use YOU to do miraculous things too. Be sure you're watching with spiritual eyes. You might be blown away by what you see.

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How do you see the blind man display each of the three items listed in the left column on this page?
2. In what ways might you need to exercise those 3 things (maybe not physically restoring your sight, but something else?) during your time in Uganda serving Him?
3. Do you think God is still in the miracle working business? Why or why not? How can you know?

Pray for God to begin to open your eyes to His work around you. Even before you get to Uganda, ask him to let you see Him at work and to have faith in what He can accomplish around and maybe even THROUGH YOU!





# Day 12

## IN HIS POWER

Acts 1:8(ESV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth.

Most sermons preached from this passage focus on the need to be witnesses both at home and across the world. That's great and a wonderful application of the passage, but if you're doing this study, you kind of already get that. You're bought in.

How are we to be witnesses? The verse tells us that we can be witnesses through the power available to us in the Holy Spirit. Through the power available to us through the Holy Spirit. If you try to be witnesses over the course of this trip in your own strength and your own wisdom, you'll fail. You might gather a crowd, some may even show interest, but nothing of eternal value can be accomplished apart from the Holy Spirit.

Every bit of power you need to share the Gospel, to boldly proclaim your testimony, to reach out to the "untouchables" of society, etc. is right there inside you, if you're a believer. Trust Him. Ask Him. Rely on Him, and not yourself.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What other things does the Holy Spirit do according to Scripture?
2. How can we be sure we're ministering through the power of the Holy Spirit and not our own?
3. What are some possible bad results of ministering and being a witness solely based on your own power and strength?

Pray that you will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pray also for His power to drive you as you minister and witness in His name. Ask Him to help you hear his still, small voice.



# Day 13

## CHILDREN OF GOD

Romans 8:12-17 (ESV)

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

One of our goals at Benjamin House is to raise a generation of leaders who are in love with Jesus and who strive to lead in a way that pleases God. God has called us to do this primarily through caring for orphans and families. The beautiful thing about this is, we get to tell all kinds of people that they don't have to focus on their past, or their family situation. We get to tell them that, if they are led by the Spirit of God, then they are sons of God! This is such great news! Paul goes on to say in verse 15, "for you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" This tells me that God loves all people enough to adopt them into His family. He created the idea of adoption. He talks in Scripture about His desire for the orphans of this world to be taken care of. This shows us that He not only desires for them to be taken care of, but for them to understand their worth, and that they are loved by the Most High. He wants for them to know that, He desires for them to be adopted into His family.

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. did you think of yourself as an orphan before you knew Jesus and received the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
2. Do you think it is important to take care of the orphans of this world? Why?
3. How are you/will you care for the orphans of this world?

Pray that God continues to write on your heart that you can call out to Him as Father. You are His and He cares for you so much! Pray for God to help you communicate that to others.





# Day 14

## TO ALL NATIONS

Mark 13:10-11 (ESV)

10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11 And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

This is an incredible passage for two reasons. The first is because God gives us a pretty clear command as to what we are to do, and that is, for the Gospel to be proclaimed to all nations. The second is an encouragement. Jesus was telling the disciples that things were going to get harder before they got easier. This doesn't seem like encouragement at all. It seems to be the opposite. Jesus goes on to tell us not to be anxious about what to say, but that He will provide the words to say through the Holy Spirit. It is encouraging, that through hardships, God is still with us, dwells in us and guides us.

Some aspects of this trip may be new and eye opening. They might very well cause some grief within your soul. Some of the things you are going to see and experience are hard to swallow. You will get to see the reality of millions of people in our world, and that reality is the life of loneliness and little to no hope. So, we are glad you have decided to be a part of our mission and joining us in what Mark 13:10 commands us to do. You are proclaiming the Gospel in a nation that is not your own. There is a possibility that you will get up in front of a group of people or maybe be talking to someone, one on one, and just telling them about your story. Sometimes that can be hard, for a multitude of reasons. But, take heart, for you have the Spirit of God dwelling in you. In that time, He will speak through you and that is so, so encouraging.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What is the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
2. What are you most anxious about in regards to this trip?
3. How does it change your perspective to be reminded that God will give you everything you need to be able to represent Him?

Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to empower you and prepare you for what God has planned for you and for this team and this moment. He will give you everything you need.





# Day 15

## TAKE HEART

Joshua 1: 9 (NLT)

9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

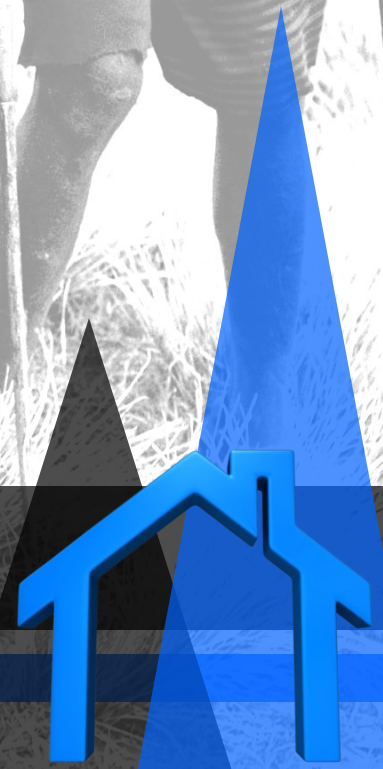
In the beginning of the book of Joshua, Moses had already died, leaving Joshua as the leader of the Israelites. As God gave Joshua these responsibilities, He also gave him a promise. A promise that, as long as he is with Him, no one will be able stand against him. God also commands to be strong and courageous in whatever situation, known or unknown.

During your time in Uganda you will experience a lot of unknowns. T.I.A.-This Is Africa, is something to always keep in mind. Your schedule will never be set in stone. One minute you're going to be on your way to speak at a school, the next minute plans change, and now you have to lead in a time of prayer for another school. God has made a promise to us, that no matter where we go or what we are asked to do, He is with us. Let go of the fear of the unknown, because He is with you. The One who has it all planned is looking out for you.

Questions for family discussion.

1. What are some passages of scripture that can be encouraging to you or a team member who is fearing the unknown?
2. How will your fear limit the opportunities to speak truth to someone in need?
3. What are some strategies to eliminate fear, based on your study today?

Pray that God will put you in unknown situations so that you will depend on His strength. Pray for readiness and an open heart to any situation you encounter.





# Day 16

## EVERY DAY MISSIONARY

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This scripture is an example of the importance of missions. God takes this stuff seriously. He told us to go and make disciples of all nations. Does that mean everyone is to leave home and family to move across the ocean? By no means! It does, however, mean that we are to live each day on mission. We are to live intentionally where we are currently. So, you fulfill this at home and in your work place. You also fulfill the great commission by coming here for a short term trip. You are investing in the Kingdom of God by making the commitment and sacrifice to come to Uganda. Jesus offers us more encouragement towards the end of this passage. He says, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." We have the Spirit of God dwelling with us always! What an encouragement!

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. In your own words, why are missions important?
2. Where is God calling you to be on mission in your life?
3. What is the importance of discipleship?

As you pray today, think about the different areas of life in which God has placed you. Ask Him to make you missional in each of those areas and to bring people to your mind as you pray.





# Day 17

## BEAUTIFUL FEET

Romans 10:14-15 (ESV)

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

There is a good possibility we will be doing a lot of evangelism. There may be times when you feel uncomfortable sharing with strangers. Just think back on this verse and think, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" This is God's grand design! It starts with you, taking the chance of being uncomfortable for a few minutes. People's eternities hang in the balance. We must learn to live uncomfortably in order that those who have never heard might hear, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, believe. God has brought you through situations in your life to demonstrate that His love and mercy are greater than our failures. Show others what he has brought you through so that they can experience Christ's love for His people.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. Before you come to Uganda, how can you prepare yourself to share your faith story?
2. Are there things that make you uncomfortable when sharing your story of when Jesus saved you?
3. Make a list of verses you can read before its your time to get up in front of a person, or a group of people, to share your story. Tuck this into your Bible to bring with you on the trip.

Pray for the Lord to give you boldness like you've never had. Pray that He will give you opportunities even before you come to share with someone at home.





# Day 18

IN LOVE

1 Corinthians 16: 14 (NLT)  
14 And do everything with love.

1 Corinthians deals a lot with problems and how they should be addressed. As Paul begins to close this letter, he gives a couple of instructions, and ends with this: Do everything with love. Paul doesn't go into specifics by saying do this or do that in love. He simply says do Everything in love, leaving nothing out.

There will be days where you will be asked to move bricks from one location to the another and this may be what the entire days consists of. Do it with love and in a way that will honor God. On the other hand, you will be in other situations where what you are asked to do what is right up your alley. Again, do this activity with love. Even before the trip, start getting into the mindset that we should do everything in love, to honor God and to glorify Him. This is His work, and there is no greater honor for us than to be invited to work alongside Him...doing every bit of it out of love.

Questions for family discussion.

1. How will doing everything with love impact the team members around you? People we encounter?
2. What example will we be setting when we choose to do everything with love?
3. How can acting in love be a witness to those around you even without saying anything?

Pray that God will soften your heart, so that, in whatever situation you face, love will be your first response.





# Day 19

## I AM DEAD...HE LIVES

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Have you ever thought about this Verse; "I have been crucified with Christ."? It means the old me has died. I am new in Christ! I live this life in the flesh in faith in the Son of God. Let your motivations and desires come from Christ. Sometimes that is really hard, and sometimes, when we are caught up in the flesh, we can start wanting to do our own thing. God has other plans for your life. They are awesome plans that will give you worth and purpose. This worth and purpose are what every person is searching for before God saves us. Let this challenge you to do a couple things as you prepare to come over for a mission trip. First, pray and ask God to be your driving force behind what motivates you to action, and to be the only desire in your heart. Second, ask Him what He is trying to teach you while on this trip. Be open to what God may be trying to do in your life through this trip or this Season of your life. Stepping out in faith can seem scary at times, but God has called us to do big things in order to bring glory to His name. Live a life that is different from your old self which has been crucified with Christ.

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What things has God been calling you to do that you have maybe been putting off?
2. What are some steps you can take to answer that call?
3. Why is being in the center of God's will important? How are you making steps toward or away from His plan?

Pray that you would be able to value God's plan over your plan. Ask God to help you put yourself last and put his Kingdom and His great calling on your life first.





# Day 20

## A GOOD MASTER

Matthew 6:24(ESV)

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Growing up in America, I learned that money was important. I was supposed to go to college so I could get a good job, so I could make a lot of money. There is nothing wrong with making good money at all. The motivation behind it is what makes the difference. So often, money is associated with less problems in America. I have always heard that even the guy that makes minimum wage in the U.S. is in the top 5% of the world (wealth wise). I could have never imagine this was true. It wasn't until I went to Uganda for the first time that I understood. People in Uganda have absolutely nothing, and yet they love God. I say all this to say that I think money has become a bigger idol in America than people realize. We should use our money in a way that shows the world money isn't our treasure, but that God is. I Would encourage you to pray that God will change your view of money and that you will see it for what it is: a tool to use in furthering the Kingdom.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What does it mean to serve money?
2. How can purposefully use our money to further the kingdom of God even if we don't make large sums of money?
3. If we do find ourselves in a position that we are serving money, what are some ways we can change our focus?

Pray that the Lord gives you a proper view of money and the purpose of money. Ask Him to help you steward the resources He has entrusted to you for the Kingdom.





# Day 21

## LEAVING THE 99

Matthew 18:10-14 (ESV)

10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

I love the illustration of the lost sheep. It is such an awesome picture of God's love for His people. Jesus uses an analogy of a shepherd and his flock saying that, the shepherd goes to search for it. He leaves the others to find a single sheep. He even says, if the shepherd finds the one sheep, he rejoices. This is true about God in our lives too. God values every single person, and when one goes astray, He will seek them out and rejoice over them when they are found. How awesome is that? That is the love of God! Even the people that this world has made feel worthless and not important, God seeks out and sees them as precious. When they are redeemed by Him, He rejoices over them! As the body of Christ, we should also seek to help or reach after one more; one more soul that doesn't know that their worth is found in Christ, or has lost sight of how God sees them, or the child that God treasures.

As you prepare to go to Uganda, remember that God treasures you and can use you no matter what your past looks like. He wants you to share that promise with others.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. Why do you think it is so important for people to understand the immensity of God's love for them?
2. Make a list of all the ways God has pursued you over the years.
3. What are some ways you can prepare to tell people about this love that God has for them?

Spend some time today praying a prayer of thanksgiving. Ask Him to reveal to you the ways He has pursued you. Be overwhelmed by God's love and protection. Ask God to lead you to those who need to know him.





# Day 22

## THOSE I WILL CALL MY PEOPLE

Romans 9:24-26 (ESV)

24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? 25 As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

God is an awesome, all powerful and loving God. It's amazing that He calls people to Himself, through His grace and mercy. It's simply beautiful. He saved not only His chosen people (the Jews) but also those who rebelled against Him time and time again. He also chose to call the gentiles to Himself, which were a sinful people. God proves over and over through Scripture that He loves those who are unloved by the world; those who are seen as nasty, disgusting and despicable in the eyes of the world. The awesome thing is that, through His love, He gives us the ability to love the "unlovable" of the world. In fact, we are required to do this. Just focus on these verses and really dissect them. Think about what it means to be 'sons of the living God'. It is truly a powerful thing. Lets show the world that God wants all people to be part of His family. He wants them to be sons and daughters.

Part of what you'll discover as you travel in Uganda is that people, particularly pastors, are very honored by you being there. Pastors tell us all the time that our presence, and our commitment to share the Gospel, helps show their people that faith in Christ isn't just a local thing. It's not just another tribal religion. Its worldwide. And just as you've been invited into His family through Christ, He wants to use you to invite others into that same family. No matter what nation, tribe, or tongue they may belong to.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How has God proven to you that you are a son or a daughter in His family?
2. How will you proclaim this truth in your life and on this trip?
3. It's easy to go about our day and not think of the people who are "invisible". How are you going to prepare yourself to be intentional about loving people who are not seen as valuable to the world? What's a simple gesture or phrase you can make a part of your week in Uganda that can help communicate this?

Pray that the Lord will help you see people the way He does. Sometimes we tend to divide and categorize people in our hearts. Ask Him to destroy that tendency or attitude. Ask Him to help you love unconditionally as you seek to minister in His name.





# Day 23

## ADOPTION AS SONS & DAUGHTERS

Galatians 4:1-7 (ESV)

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God

In this passage Paul talks about how we were once slaves of this world, but through Jesus, we have received adoption as sons. The Spirit of God's Son in our hearts is crying, "Abba! Father!" Ours hearts desire God because we have experienced His love. Some people have never experienced the love of an earthly father, let alone the infinite love of THE Father. We must strive out to put this love on display, through our speech and actions. We must proclaim what God's love has done in our lives and our hearts. We must also find ways to go out of our way to show people love. Not just with our words, but with how we treat them.

Many of the people you will come in contact with in Uganda may never have experienced authentic, appropriate love. Be willing to give a hug, hold a hand, give a note of encouragement, pray aloud over them, or whatever else the Spirit may lead you to do. You may be the first glimpse of the Father's love they see!

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. How does your life show that your heart cries out, "Abba! Father!"?
2. How can you tell someone about God's love that has never experienced the love of an earthly father?
3. How can you go out of your way to show someone Christ's love by your actions?

As Christians, we are sons and daughters of the King of kings. Pray that God will prepare the hearts and minds of the people you may encounter, and that the spirit of God will work in them to bring them hope when all they have felt their whole life is hopelessness.





# Day 24

## IN HIS POWER

Ephesians 3.14-21 (ESV)

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

If you haven't noticed a theme in the New Testament, you will probably notice it by the end of this study. We see Jesus and Paul talk about the Holy Spirit a lot. In this passage, Paul prays for the Ephesians and tells them they will be strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit. As you prepare and pray for this trip, pray that God would just fill you up abundantly, that His love would be oozing out of you. There is such a need for people in Uganda, specially children to feel loved. Pray for strength to be able to love and to withstand the attacks of Satan. Be in constant prayer as you prepare to come. If you have never been to Uganda, your eyes will be opened to a whole new world, one where people fight each day just to provide food for their families. It's hard for us to observe these things, but we can draw encouragement from this passage. The Spirit of God is with us, always. Lean on Him to help you on this trip.

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. What have been your experiences when you try to do things by your own strength?
2. How important is it that we understand we must fully rely on God?
3. Where do you draw your strength from?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to begin even now, whether its 2 days or 2 months until you are planning to come to Uganda, to fill you up and send you out. He is sufficient!





### Ephesians 6.10-24 (ESV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. 21 So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

This month of preparation and study isn't just something we ask you to do so you can check it off a list. It is to prepare you spiritually, which is very important when coming onto the mission field. We are on mission everyday, but this is different. You will be outside of your comfort zone, and you will be in a place and a culture much different than yours. It will be important to know how to fight in spiritual warfare. Paul lays out how to do this in this passage. Spiritual warfare will happen and so we want you to be prepared. We tell you all of this, not to scare you, but so that you can prepare. Focus on this passage and take up the whole armor of God. We have to remind ourselves that the devil is at work in a big way anywhere God is at work in a big way. Satan is trying to derail the efforts of God's people. Prepare yourself in prayer.

### Questions for Family Discussion:

1. In what ways will you pray for yourself? (Write down a short prayer)
2. In what ways will you pray for your team? (Write down a short prayer)
3. In what ways does Satan wage war with us? In other words, what is your experience with spiritual warfare?

Pray for the Lord to protect you, your family, and your team from the attacks of Satan and to bring Scripture to memory as you go about your week of ministry and these weeks of preparation.





# Day 26

## SHINE AS LIGHTS

Philippians 2.14-15 (ESV)

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in complaining or grumbling in America. People always want more, or "need" this or that. We must remember that we should always do everything without grumbling or complaining, just as Christ did. In all of Scripture, we never see Jesus complain about what he was asked to do for us by the Father.

As believers, we should follow His example in order to "shine as lights", as Paul says in verse 15. Complaining is unattractive, and by doing it, we make Christ look unattractive. Christ sustains us and He is all we need. He gives us the gift of eternal life. At the forefront of our minds should be the thought that we are blessed beyond measure. So as you are preparing for this trip, think of all the ways God has blessed you. Make a list if you need to. You will see much poverty in Uganda. Make a commitment to yourself and your team that you won't grumble or complain about anything that happens on your trip, even if it's something that is very disappointing. Be the light!

Questions for Family Discussion:

1. Off the top of your head, what are some things people often complain about?
2. What are some ways you can prevent this from becoming a habit?
3. Why is it important to make Christ look attractive through the way we live our lives?

Pray that God would prepare you for this trip, particularly that you will be flexible and open to things you may not want to do or things that you may have not been expecting to do. Ask Him to help you do those things happily without complaining or grumbling. Pray that you'll be used by God to remove barriers to the Gospel through your humble and understanding attitude.





One of the most powerful acts of obedience and preparation in Scripture is that of fasting. It can make all the difference between you having a good trip and you having a life-changing experience for you and those around you.

We want to challenge you to do a 24 hour fast at some point before traveling. We commit to you as well, as the staff of Benjamin House, that before any mission team comes, we will be joining you in this 24 hour fast. It's that important.

A couple of things to remember:

1. If you've never fasted before, you should talk to your physician first and perhaps do a "juice fast" where you don't eat solid food, but rather drink fruit juices to keep your blood sugar regulated.
2. The purpose of a fast is to deprive yourself of delicacies for a time, and use that time to focus on the Lord in intense prayer. It's a time of severity to prepare yourself, spiritually.
3. Share your experience with someone you love and trust for accountability.





# Day 28

## WORSHIP FOR PREPARATION

Make yourself a Uganda playlist chocked full of worship music. Fill it with music that will point your heart and mind to the Creator. There will be times as you prepare to come, and when you lay your head to rest at night in Uganda, that you will need this music to help focus you on Him.

Try to pick music that is lyrically rich and that will point you to Jesus. He must be your focus as you come and serve.

Write down a list of possible songs here:

Here are a few of our favorites:

Anchor, by Vertical Church Band  
Oceans, By Hillsong  
Sinking Deep, By Hillsong Young and Free  
Send us to the Nations, by Jarod Espy  
Blessed Assurance, Resurrecting and Your Promises by Elevation Worship

For more options, the website: [thegoodchristianmusicblog.com](http://thegoodchristianmusicblog.com) has many different playlists and genres of great worship music that you may not have heard before.









