

# *Team Devotional*



Casas por Cristo  
*short term missions*



Greetings,

Welcome to Casas por Cristo! If you are reading this, then more than likely you are embarking on a week-long adventure serving our Lord and Savior along the U.S. / México border with Casas por Cristo. As you spend this week with our staff, your group, your sponsoring pastor, and your family, remember to spend a few moments each day with God. Without a doubt, this will be a crazy busy week. But remember that HE is the reason we are all here to serve the families and the pastors of México.

This devotional guide is designed to help you reflect on this experience and spend time with our God. Think and talk about the experiences you are having and ask Him to lead and guide the ones that are yet to come. We have attempted to provide you with this tool that will help walk you through this busy week, hopefully helping you grow in your relationship with God. It is our desire that this devotional guide will help you process all that you will see and do throughout the week. And we hope that it will help open your eyes to clearly see the power of the amazing God we serve.

We feel blessed that you are here serving with us. Our prayer for you is that this week will be life-changing in so many ways. Thank you for being here to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Blessings,  
Scott DeWitt  
Director of Spiritual Outreach  
Casas por Cristo



## Day 1: Laying a Foundation

There is nothing more important in the house building process than laying a quality foundation. It affects the strength and integrity of the rest of the house. If the foundation is not level, the house will not stand straight. If the foundation is too small, the house won't fit. If it is too thin, the weight of the house will crack the foundation. If the house is not built on a solid foundation, when storms come and the winds blow, the house will fall. The same is true with our own lives. Consider the words of Jesus in **Matthew 7:24-29**:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.’ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”

This section of scripture comes at the end of one of Jesus' most popular teachings called “The Sermon on the Mount.” In this account, Jesus brought His disciples to the top of a mountain and began to teach them important lessons about making God their number one desire. In this lesson, He also taught the disciples about using His word as their foundation for living.

Jesus is the only perfect foundation for our lives. Everything else is not level, too small, too thin, or too weak. If we build our lives on anything else, we will be warped and crumble when the storms of life come. But if we build our lives upon Christ and His word, we will stand forever.

Do you claim that Christ is your foundation? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does your life demonstrate that He is your foundation? \_\_\_\_\_

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What specific things can you do to continue to build yourself upon the rock of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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What would your life look like if Christ was not your foundation? \_\_\_\_\_

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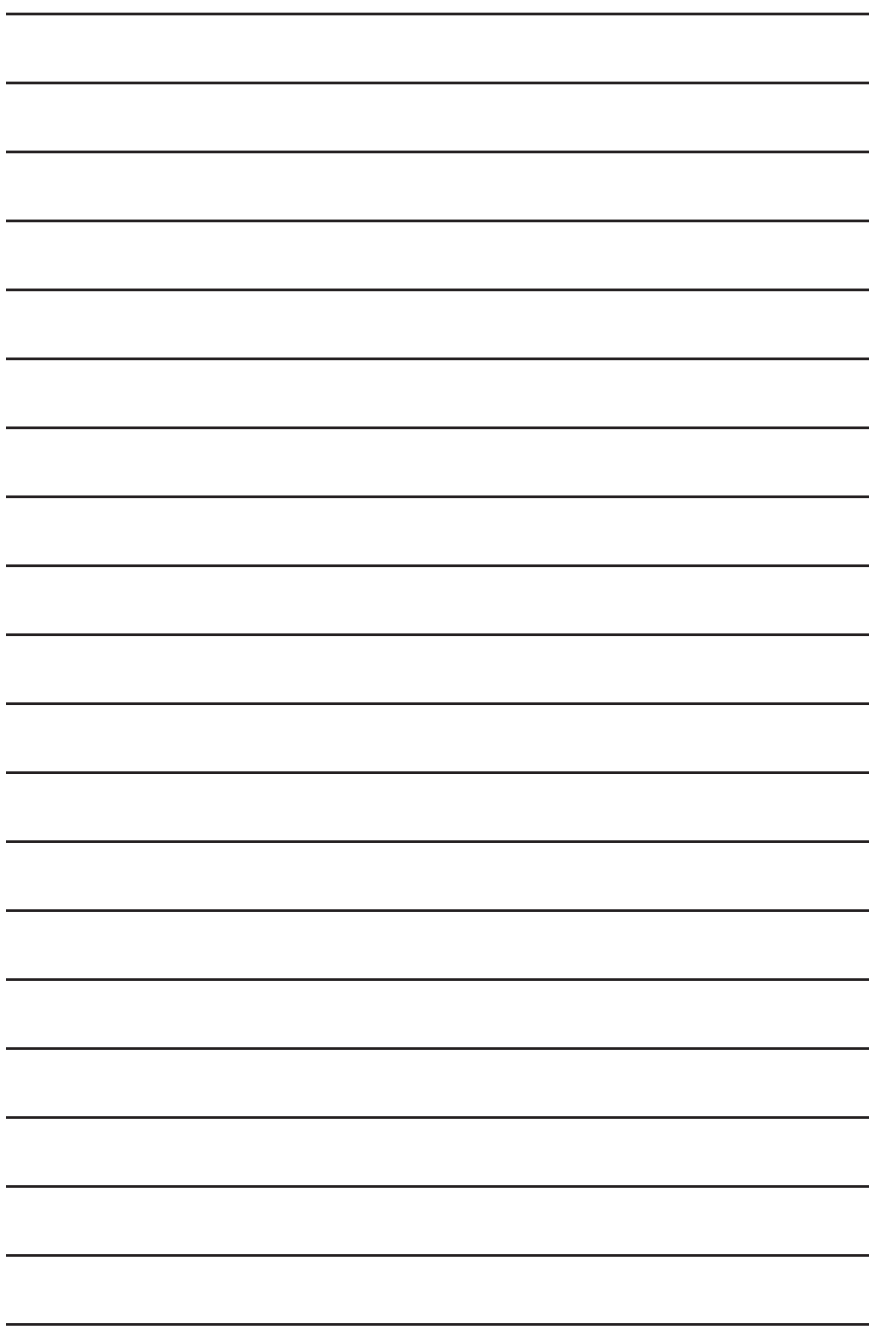
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Spend some time examining your life. Is Christ truly the foundation that you live your life upon? Pray and ask Him to be your foundation and to reveal areas in which you are not founded on Him. As you have laid a physical foundation for a home today, ask Christ to establish Himself as the foundation of the family's life you are building a home for. Pray that His strength would encourage you and your team for the work days to come.





## Day 2: One Body, Many Members

Today and for the rest of the week, the work days are different than the first day. There are going to be many different tasks going on all at once as everyone works for a common goal of building a home for this family. Read the text from 1 Corinthians 12:12-25

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another . . .”*

This is a perfect picture of what the body of Christ - the church - should look like. We all work for one goal, even though each of us is doing a different task. Though everyone has a different role and each of the jobs require different talents, no job is more important than the next. All individual tasks must be completed in order to finish the house.

This is exactly how we as God’s people should operate. Each of us is equipped and able to serve. There is one goal - to show people the importance of following Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Each of us is responsible for helping each other follow Him, allowing God to work in and through us as individuals and as a body. No work is more important than another work.

What talents and abilities do you have that will help build the house this week? \_\_\_\_\_

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What talents and abilities do you have that could be useful in showing others the importance of Jesus as Lord and Savior?

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What are you currently doing to serve in the body of Christ when you are at home?

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Are there things you would like to do to serve? What is holding you back? \_\_\_\_\_

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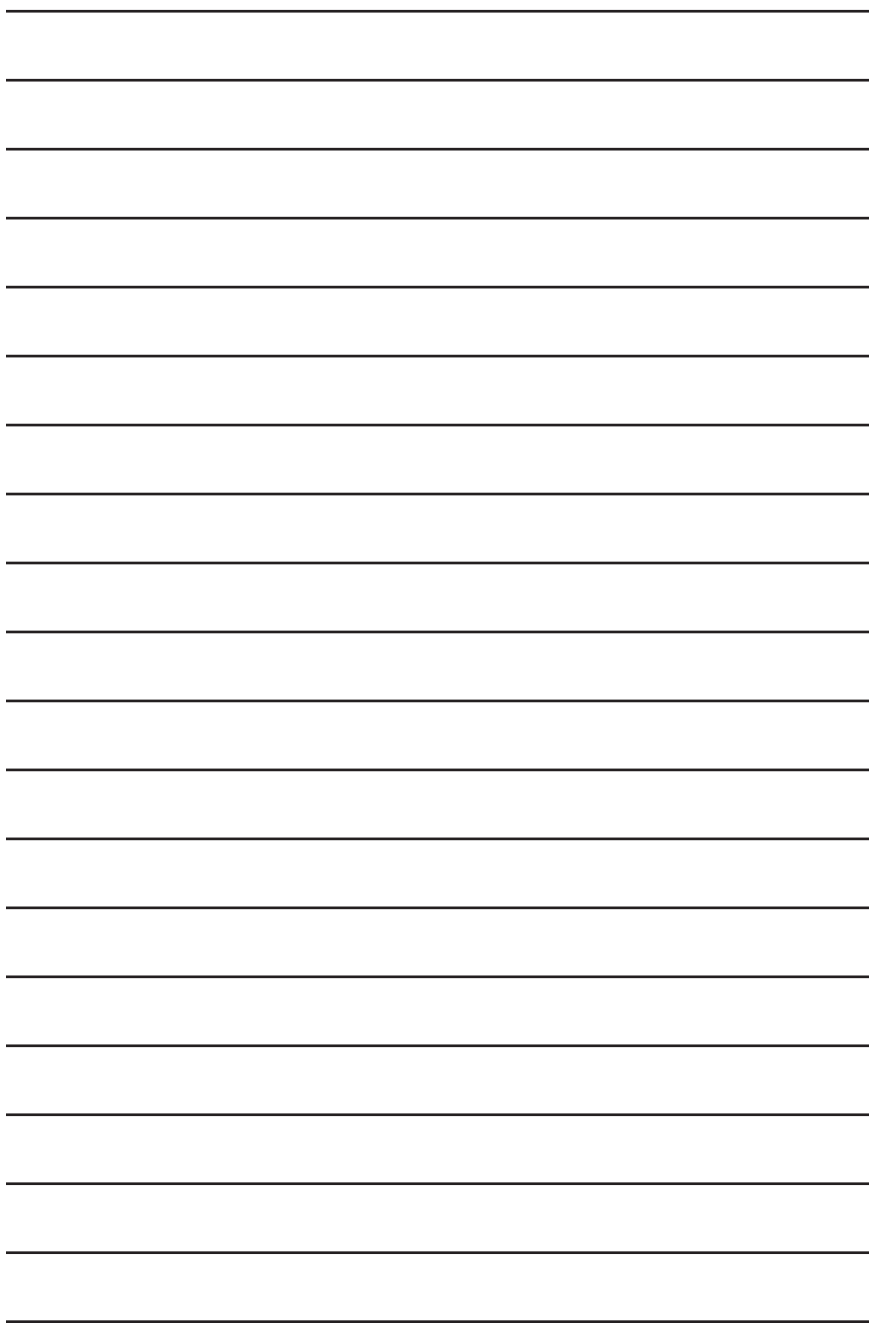
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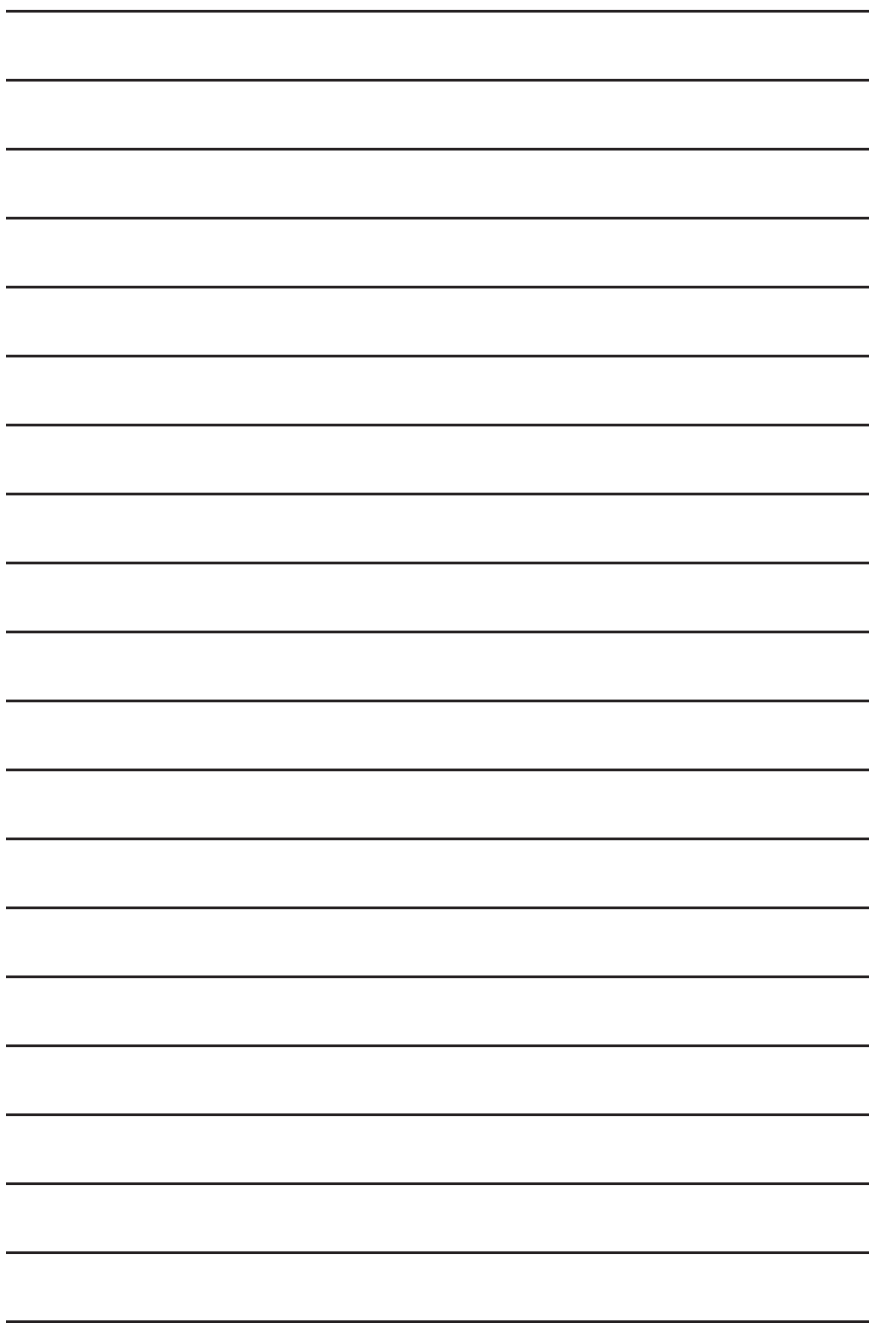
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Pray that God would help you understand your part in working to show others the love of Jesus, not just here, but also when you get back home. Ask Him to remove any barriers that are keeping you from serving as part of the body. And pray that God would use you and this team to share the importance of knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior with the family you are serving.





## Day 3: You are a Miracle

After Jesus had risen from the dead, before He ascended into heaven, He started appearing to people. In one instance, He told his disciples to meet Him at a mountain in the town of Galilee. Let's pick up the story in Matthew 28:16-20:

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**’”

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we too are called to go into all nations spreading the hope and love of Jesus Christ. This is the Great Commission. Many people who are skeptical of Christianity and the Bible will argue that there are no miracles today. They say things like, “If God is real, where are the miracles that come with your religion?” If we are honest with ourselves, we too long to see those kinds of miracles today.

But what, aside from a miracle, has brought you here? Wherever you came from, it makes no logical sense for you to be here in Mexico building a house. You have never met this family. You owe them nothing. You gave up your time, money, energy, and emotions. And you have invested in people you have never met. It defies all logic. Why?

The only explanation is a miracle. Defying all logic, Christ has fulfilled in you the Great Commission and brought you here to Mexico to advance the hope of the Gospel to all nations. That is the common denominator in everyone on your team; Christ is defying logic by performing a miracle in you. As you work today, look around and notice Christ in the people around you. You will see Him in His people, as they do the work He has inspired them to do.

What does it feel like to have Jesus living and working in you and through you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever felt like you were a miracle of God? When?

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How do you think the family views you, your team, and the home that they are receiving? \_\_\_\_\_

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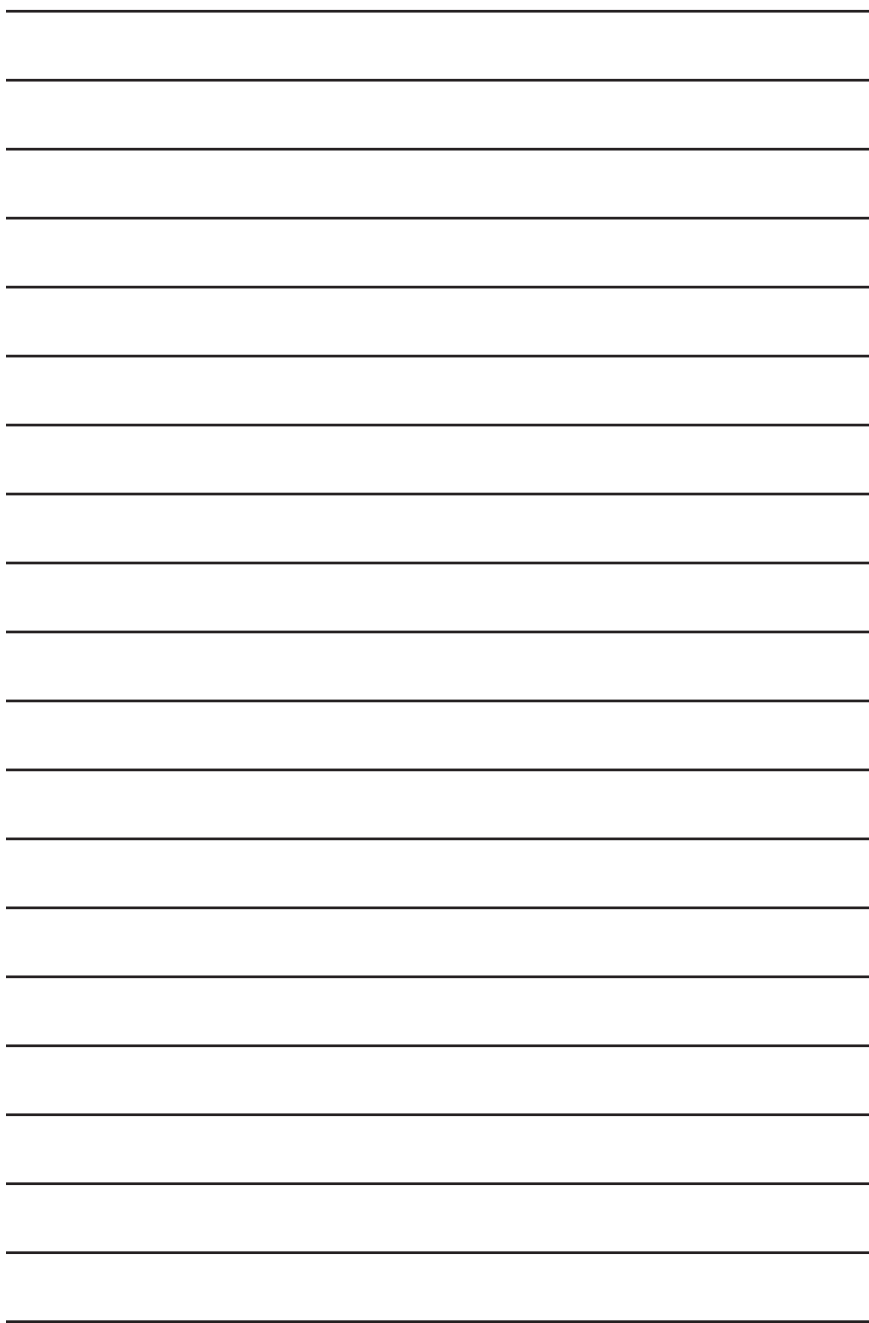
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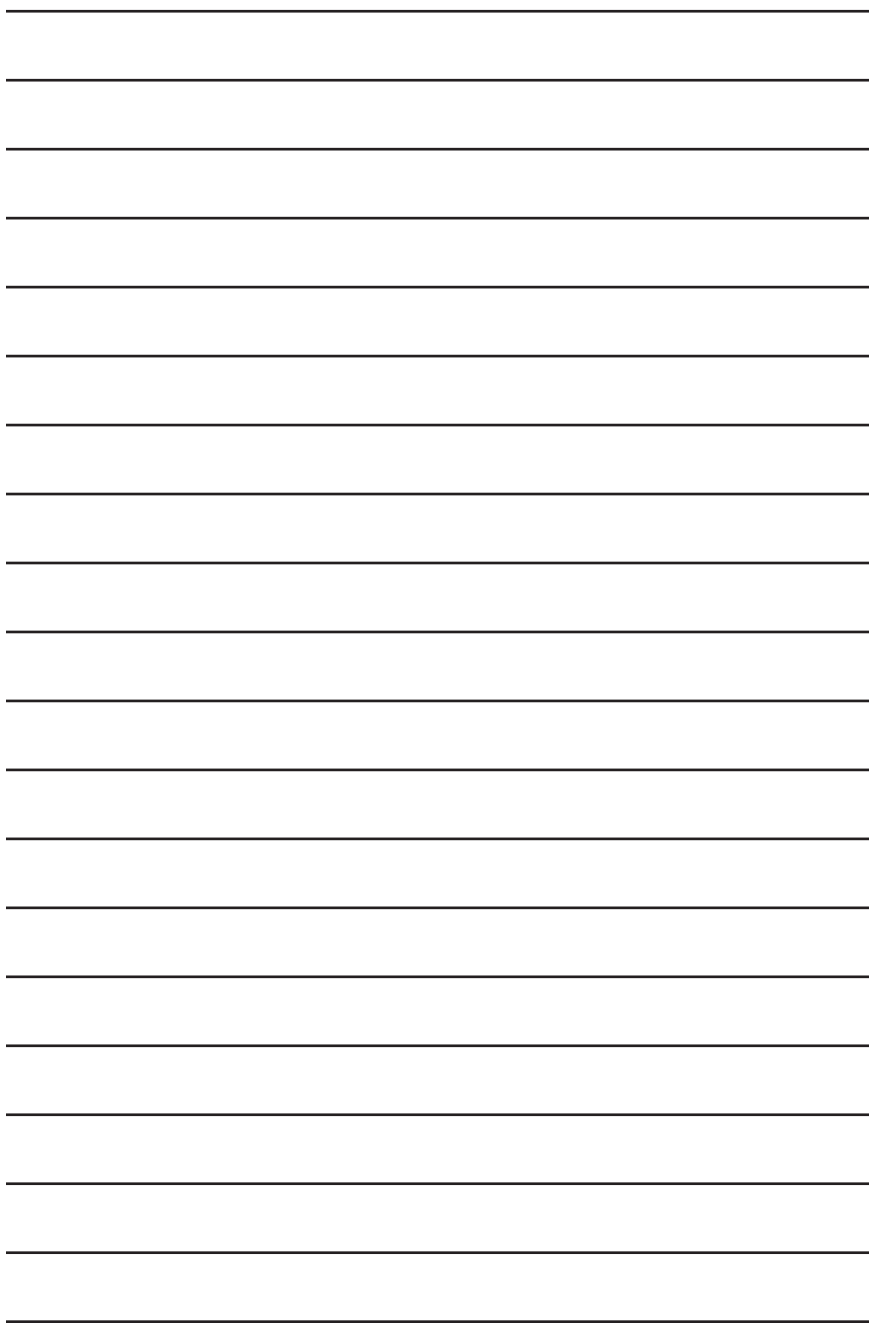
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Have you ever thought about or noticed Christ so active in changing the world? Take some time to think about the miracle you are because of Christ in you. Pray and express your gratitude that God would use you in this way. Ask Him to reveal Himself this week in the work He is doing in the team and in the Mexican family's life.





## Day 4: What You Were Made For

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

There is a certain feeling that comes from a week of building a home for a family in México. Even though it is tiring and difficult at times, you can't help feeling energized by it. It's a feeling of peace and a sense that you are part of something greater. It feels fulfilling and important. There is a reason for these feelings: you are doing exactly what God created you to do.

When God created you, He designed you for good works which He has prepared you to do. He has created you to serve others and to be selfless in giving. You are worshiping Him by responding to this call and by committing yourself to His design.

The peace you feel and the joy you are carrying is a result of lining yourself up with God's design for your life. Our minds and our bodies tell us that gratifying ourselves is the best way to find joy and peace. But that is sin talking. God has made you and has called you to something greater. He tells us not to lean on our own understanding but to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5).

Will you line yourself up with God's design for your life after you leave México? When you go home will you challenge yourself to serve and worship God the way you have here?

Do you feel any different this week than you normally do? How?

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What can you do at home to live the way that you were designed?

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Is there anything keeping you from living your life for God?

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How can you get rid of the things keeping you from living your life for God?

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Pray that God would come and stir your heart for Him. Ask Him to help you serve Him, not just once a year, but with your everyday life. Ask Him to show you where you are at and how you can improve. Pray that the family you are building for will find that they too are designed by God for His Glory.

