



## Spiritual Preparation

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having fastened on*

*the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 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."* ~ Ephesians 6:10-18



Even more important than planning the details of your trip and deciding what to pack, is your spiritual preparation for your upcoming trip. As you're busy packing and getting ready to go, be steadfast in your study of God's Word. It will help equip you for your upcoming trip and the work God is planning to accomplish while you are in Haiti. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." Draw near to God through prayer. Specifically pray that your team would be given God's heart for the Haitian people and that you would be able to share His love through your words and deeds. Pray also for God to be working in the hearts of the Haitian people in preparation for the message you will be bringing. Your time in the Word and in prayer will strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ. Also spend some time reflecting on Ephesians 6:10-18. The spiritual battle is real, especially when you enter into the battle.

## Homework

We would encourage everyone taking a mission trip with World Wide Village to study the book of John. While you are reading, pay special attention to "Jesus stories." Ask yourself the following questions:

- What does Jesus do?
- What does Jesus say?
- How does Jesus interact with the people He meets?
- What do these stories demonstrate about the character of Jesus?
- How can you share these stories to encourage others?

The second part of your homework includes establishing prayer partners. We would encourage you to have one prayer partner from your team going to Haiti and one prayer partner back home. Share your hopes and fears about the upcoming trip with your prayer partners. Ask for prayer, accountability and encouragement.





# Prayer Walk

Most teams that travel to Haiti with World Wide Village will spend a day prayer walking – visiting Haitians in their homes and encouraging them with the love of Christ. CARE is a model of Biblical Soul Care from Harvest Bible Chapel in Chicago, IL. It is an acronym for four steps in providing Biblical soul care and a great way to be focused in our interactions with the Haitians we meet.

- **CONNECT** – It is important to connect personally with the Haitians you meet on the prayer walk. Ask about their life, family and interests. Share about your own life & family.
- **ASSESS** - Assess their heart. Ask questions to learn if they know Jesus and have a relationship with Him. Assess their understanding of the gospel. Ask questions such as:
  - What does it mean to be a Christian?
  - How do you know if you're going to heaven?
  - How do you live out your faith daily?
  - Why did Jesus die for us?
- **RESPOND** – When you respond, be sure to do so with truth and grace. Share the gospel. Share your testimony. Share Biblical truth that speaks to the heart.
- **ENCOURAGE** – It is so important to encourage them with the love and Christ and the hope of the gospel. Ask specifically how you can pray for them and their family.



# Sharing the Gospel

1 Peter 3:15 says, *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."* As you prepare to go to Haiti, practice sharing the gospel and your testimony with others. We have provided The Romans Road & The Bridge Illustration in the back of this handbook to assist you in sharing the gospel.

## The Gospel ABC's

- A – Admit your sins and ask for forgiveness
- B – Believe in Jesus and that He died for you
- C – Choose to follow Jesus the rest of your life



## Suffering

### A Biblical Perspective on Suffering:

During your time in Haiti you will experience suffering. Sometimes it is difficult for us to understand why God would allow the Haitians to suffer in poverty while we seem to prosper. It's hard to see the suffering and remember that God is good AND sovereign. The Bible has a lot to say about how God uses suffering. These five purposes of suffering were taken from an article written by John Piper. This is a good starting point in understanding suffering from a Biblical perspective.





## Five Purposes of Suffering



1) **Repentance** – Suffering is a call for us and others to turn away from treasuring anything else on earth above God. There are many examples in scripture of God allowing the Israelites to be overtaken by an enemy so they would turn from false gods and return to the one true God.



2) **Reliance** – Suffering is a call to trust God and not the life-sustaining props of the world. 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 says, “For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired even of life. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”



3) **Righteousness** – Suffering is the discipline of our loving heavenly Father so that we come to share in his holiness. Romans 8:28-29 says, “And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those who he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son.”



4) **Reward** – The apostle Paul says, “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen” in 2 Corinthians 4:17. Suffering is working for us a great reward in heaven that will make up for every loss here on earth a thousand-fold.



5) **Reminder** – Suffering reminds us that God sent his Son into the world to suffer so that our suffering would not be God’s condemnation but his purification. Philippians 3:10 says, “... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and may share in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...”

For more in depth study on the theology of suffering from a Biblical perspective, we would recommend the book entitled, “Suffering and the Sovereignty of God” by John Piper & Justin Taylor.