**CROSS Missions** More than just a short term mission experience.

**Luke 18: 35-43**

35As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. 37They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

38He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

39Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

40Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, 41“What do you want me to do for you?”

“**Lord, I want to see**,” he replied.

42Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”43Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

**CROSS 2018 Summer City Serve Devotions:**

***20/20: “I want to see”***

**Luke 18:41**

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**Sunday Night Devotion**

*Find a room in the building or a space outside that will serve of your youth group’s meeting place for devotions this week. Please speak with the other leaders and agree on your meeting places so that the youth will consistently know where they should go during your home group time.*

*Feel free to use this devotion guide as you think is best for your group. Use it every night or every afternoon, or whenever the time seems right. We want you and your group to have time together to process and grow as a group. We hope this time will help you reflect on how God is working in and through your youth as only you can do.*

**Open in prayer**

*At this time, invite a youth to open the group in prayer or consider leading the group in an opening prayer. If your group is full of energy, this might be a good time to help them center by quietly taking a few deep breaths and focus on a moment where they were truly grateful today.*

**Engage**

*Invite the youth to share in this discussion by guiding them through the questions and ideas below. Please use your own words and phrases.*

* Why are you here? Take a moment to think about this question. Did you come here because your parents/family made you? Are you here because your best friends are here? Are you interested in serving people in this city? Do you want to grow closer to God? Why are you here? *Please give the youth a chance to answer this question out loud if they would like to.*
* Read the scripture passage from the first page. Even better have each person read a line or divide it up among two or three people.
* If Jesus were to ask you “what do you want me to do for your youth group this week?” how would you answer.
* Think about the strengths of your group and what are some ideas you could grow.
* Try and get everyone to say something and see if you can make some hopes together, even goals, for how you want to try and grow as a group.

It’s been a long day! Give thanks to God for getting you here safely and close in prayer.

You may also use this prayer:

*God of journeys, thank you for bringing us here. Thank you for calling us each by name to be part of this mission week. Help us with our vision and the way we see ourselves, each other and strangers. You have heard our hopes for this week. Hear our prayers and grant us your mercy. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.*

**Monday Night Devotion**

What do you want to see in yourself this week?

*Return to your meeting place for devotion with your home group.*

**Open in prayer**

*At this time, invite a youth to open the group in prayer or consider leading the group in an opening prayer. If your group is full of energy, this might be a good time to help them center by quietly taking a few deep breaths and focus on a moment where they were truly grateful today.*

**Engage**

*Invite the youth to share in this discussion by guiding them through the questions and ideas below. Please feel free to use your own words.*

* Was there anything that stood out to you today? What was it?
* What challenged you today?
* Was there anything that was very different than what you expected? What was it?

Go back to the devotion this morning. What word/s did you select from Romans 12?

Did you remember it today? Did it help you live out this gift having it written on your bottle?

Ask if there are some stories to share in the group about their day and their word.

Ask if anyone wants to use a different word for tomorrow or continue with the one they used today. Why?

**Scripture:**

There are many healing stories in the gospels and several of them are Jesus healing a blind man. This particular one may not be especially unique but its intriguing the question Jesus asks the man before healing him: “what do you want from me?” or “what do you want me to do for you?”

If Jesus were to ask you tomorrow “What do you want from me?” how would you answer.

This is a powerful question. Help move the group from answers that sound like wishes for a genie, like “I’d ask for a million dollars. Or I’d ask for all wars to stop.” Jesus’ question is a very personal one. What do YOU want from JESUS?

**Close in Prayer**

*Invite the group to hold hands and stand in a circle. If you feel short on time ask one person to pray. If you feel your group is willing to share, ask each person to say the word they are choosing for tomorrow (either the same word as today or a new one) AND a name of one of the sites you are going to. For example one person might pray “love at Crisis Assistance Ministry.”*

**Tuesday Night Devotion**

What do you want to see while you are serving tomorrow?

**Reflect on the highs and lows of the day**

Encourage everyone to say a few words, call it what you want “highs and lows”, “roses and thorns” and so on.

**Open in prayer** using some of the highs and lows.

Ask everyone to reflect on how they served today. Were there times they were frustrated, nervous, embarrassed, uncomfortable, elated? Try to get at the range of emotions we might feel in just one day doing this kind of work.

Talk about the kinds of things you learned. How does this compare to your home town? Are there similar problems? Similar places doing this kind of work?

What do you want to know more about after today?

**Looking ahead to tomorrow**:

If Jesus asked what you wanted to see tomorrow what would you answer?

Silly answers are ok but make an answer to get to something more serious. What might you go to God in prayer with about tomorrow?

After your group has a sense of what they are hoping for tomorrow (to do, feel, see, experience, be as a group), ask for specific prayers requests.

**Close in prayer.**

**Wednesday Night Devotion**

**“I want to see how God sees”**

*Return to your meeting place for devotion with your home group.*

**Open in prayer**

*Gracious and Holy One, creator of all things and of emptiness, I come to you full of much that clutters and distracts, stifles and burdens me, and makes me a burden to others.*

*Empty me now of gnawing dissatisfactions, of anxious imaginings, of fretful preoccupations, of nagging prejudices, of old scores to settle, and of the arrogance of being right.*

*Empty me of the disguises and lies in which I hide myself from other people and from my responsibility for my neighbors and for the world. Hollow out in me a space in which I will find myself, find peace and a whole heart, a forgiving spirit and holiness, the springs of laughter, and the will to reach boldly for abundant life for myself and the whole human family.*

Prayer by Rev. Ted Loder

**Engage**

Last night you may have written a tweet to describe your day. Today imagine it is Instagram. If you could have taken one photo today that best sums things up, what would the picture look like?

If your group is feeling it, have them stage the photo. Get up and reenact the moment or the imaginary moment that describes your day well.

**Scripture**

There are several stories in the bible about Jesus healing a blind man. One time he spits on the ground and rubs mud in the man’s eyes so he can see. Another time the disciples see a blind man by the side of the road and they ask Jesus if the man’s sins caused his blindness. In the gospel of Mark and Luke we have this healing. What is unique about this healing story? Look over the two from John and Mark and talk about some of the similarities and differences.

*As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.****2****His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”****3****Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.****4****We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.****5****As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”****6****When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,****7****saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.*John 9:1-7

***22****They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him.****23****He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?”****24****And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.”****25****Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.****26****Then he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.”* Mark 8:22-26

How much does it matter how the man become blind?

How much does it matter what he does after he receives his sight?

What are the different responses of the disciples or the crowds?

**Closing Discussion**

Why do you think some people end of experiencing homelessness, hunger or addiction? In what ways should we place the blame on them? Is there ever larger reasons that cause these living conditions that are not the fault of the individual?

Does it matter?

What do you think is more important, what happened to someone before they needed help or how they responded after they got some help?

How do you look at people who need help

**Close in Prayer**

*Invite the group to hold hands and stand in a circle. Please invite everyone to just talk to God. They can share something they are grateful for, something they hope will happen this week or specific prayers but everyone should say something even if it is simply, “Thank you.”*

**Thursday Night Devotion**

**“I want to see Jesus”**

**Open in Prayer**

**Engage with Scripture**

Then think about some of these questions:

At the beginning of the gospel of John, one of the recently recruited disciples asks Jesus who he is and what he is about. Jesus replies, “**come and see**”.

This week you have answered that call to come and see. Start by simply answering the question: **“What did you see today?”** Just keep asking it over and over until it feels like you’ve gotten all the answers folks have to give.

Tomorrow you will be on your way home. What’s going to be different?

Ask everyone: is there any way you think you might be different, or see things differently, or do anything differently?

As a group how have they changed? Is the group closer? Were there any hurt feelings this week that need to be addressed?

We’ll be taking communion tonight and Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew that we should settle any problems in our faith family before coming to the altar at worship.

What needs to be said before worship tonight?

**Going home**

As a group discuss idea for doing mission back home. What new things do you want to try and get involved in? What are some things you saw this week that you want to bring back to your town?

What can you do as a group to inspire your home church to do more in mission? Or perhaps do mission differently?

**Close in Prayer**

This would be a good time to think of all the people who helped make this week possible for you. Include them in your prayer in a moment.

If you have some paper (or use this sheet) write down the names of all the people you met while at CROSS. Who in particular do you want to remember and pray for? Whose story do you want to share when you get home?

Keeping the page of names in front of you choose someone to pray for each named person.

God go with you, and we hope to see you back at CROSS again.