

# 40 Days of Spiritual Preparation

This guide offers a 40-day journey of spiritual preparation, inspired by the principles outlined in *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. Each day is an opportunity to reflect, pray, and grow in faith. As you embark on this spiritual journey, remember the words from 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NIV): "We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith."

## What Matters? (40 Days From Your Trip)

This trip is not about you. It is about God. God's purpose is what matters most, not yours or mine. It may seem easy to remember on a mission trip. Not necessarily. Emotions, both positive and negative, may be heightened during this trip. Begin praying right now that we will all remember that what matters most is fulfilling God's purposes.

*"...Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him." — Colossians 1:16 Msg*

## What Makes You, You? (Day 39)

You are not on this team by accident. You have felt God's call to go to the Amazon at this time and with this team. That happened because the Sovereign God chose you before you heard His call. In addition, He formed you before you were born. And when He did, He had this occasion in mind along with all the others He planned for you. That's what makes you, you. God's creation, call, and commission. Pray that you will carry out His call in Brazil.

*"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born, I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the world." — Jeremiah 1:5 NLT*

## What Motivates You (Day 38)

What is your motivation for going to the Amazon? It is unlikely that you are seeking personal glory, but that is a possibility. The best times on this trip will be when you feel closest to God. You will feel closest to God when you know He is smiling with you. Pray that you will make it your goal to please God in every situation.

*"...We make it our goal to please him...." — 2 Corinthians 5:9a NIV*

## **What is the Meaning of This Trip? (Day 37)**

God has an eternal meaning for this trip. While you are on this trip, you may experience an overwhelming sensation of being part of His eternal purpose. You may not know all that that means, but you will know that you are where God wants you. Pray that you will keep your eyes on His eternal purpose.

*"We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." — 2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV*

## **What Kind of Manager Are You? (Day 36)**

God has blessed us with more than we can use just for ourselves. He wants us to use our talents, gifts, money, and time to honor Him through ministry to others. Everything we have is His—we are managers of God's gifts. Pray that on this trip you will be a faithful manager of all with which God has blessed you.

*"A person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful." — 1 Corinthians 4:2 NLT*

## **What Message Do You Take? (Day 35)**

When we get to Heaven, we will realize that most of what we thought of as important has ceased to exist. Pray that you will not be "ashamed of the gospel".

*"Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life." — John 3:15 NASU*

## **What Matters Most? (Day 34)**

It's all for God's glory. That's the bottom line. Pray that you will bring glory to God through all that you think, say, and do on this trip... that He will be glorified because of you being in Brazil.

*"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." — 1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV*

## **God's Delight (Day 33)**

Do you know that God delights in you? No matter how much family and friends love you, God loves you more. You are His delight, His pleasure. Thank God now and every day you are in Brazil that He takes pleasure in you as His child.

*"The LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation." — Psalms 149:4 NIV*

## **My Delight (Day 32)**

Real pleasure comes from making God smile. How do I do that? By honoring Him with my life. Pray that you will honor God on this trip. Pray that your greatest delight will be His smile.

*"He takes pleasure in those who honor him, in those who trust in his constant love." — Psalms 147:11 GNT*

## **God's Delight, My Delight (Day 31)**

The secret of surrender is doing it daily. Willingly offer yourself to God right now and every day for Him to use according to His pleasure.

*"Offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness." — Romans 6:13 HCSB*

## **Delight in Friendship (Day 30)**

God wants to be your best friend. You will deepen friendships with your team on this trip, but begin praying now that you will develop a deeper bond with your best friend, Jesus.

*"I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer.... But I have called you my friends..." — John 15:15 AMP*

## **Delight in Closeness (Day 29)**

Intimacy occurs when you allow God to remove anything in your life that hinders you from giving Him full access to the deepest part of you. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare you to choose intimacy when your weaknesses come face-to-face with God's holiness.

*"Come near to God and he will come near to you." — James 4:8 NIV*

## **The Pleasure of God's Delight (Day 28)**

The most important preparation for this trip is to reaffirm your love for Him—to take pleasure in loving Him with all you are. Tell Him that now.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." — Mark 12:30 HCSB*

## **Distant Delight (Day 27)**

There may be times on this trip when God seems distant. Be sure that God is working even when you cannot see or feel Him. When God seems distant, delight in His promise to be with you always.

*"Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." — Matthew 28:20 NLT*

## **Embracing the Family of God (Day 26)**

On this trip, you will meet other Family members who look, live, and speak differently than you. Begin to pray daily for the Brazilian believers that the Father will bring into your life.

*"His love is so great that we are called God's children." — 1 John 3:1 GNT*

## **Loving the Family of God (Day 25)**

You will be in close quarters and stressful situations for ten days. Pray that God will help you to love each team member as you love yourself and that you will express that love to the missionaries and other believers you meet.

*"The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" — Galatians 5:14 NIV*

## **Serving in the Family of God (Day 24)**

God has placed you on this team and will use your unique gifts, talents, and personality. Pray that you will humbly serve the Lord in the role He will show you.

*"God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it." — 1 Corinthians 12:18 Msg*

## **Supporting the Family of God (Day 23)**

We are a TEAM. Cooperation is about sensing what others need. Pray that you will "be there" when others need you and that you will allow others to "be there" for you.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2 ESV*

## **Making the Family of God Work (Day 22)**

Honesty, humility, courtesy, and confidentiality can make our team successful. Pray now that you will not deceive, be proud, be rude, or violate confidence.

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." — John 15:12 NIV*

## **Healing the Family of God (Day 21)**

Travel weariness and being out of your comfort zone can lead to disagreements. Take care of these quickly and in love. Forgive, restore, and move on with the mission. Pray for each other—starting now!

*"Make this your common practice: confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you can live together whole and healed." — James 5:16 Msg*

## **Protecting the Family of God (Day 20)**

Nothing you do or want is as important as protecting the work of God's Kingdom. Pray for the team to respect the Brazilian church by observing all rules of safety and security.

*"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ." — Philippians 3:7 NKJV*

## **DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST (Day 19)**

Everything God does in your life is meant to make you more like Jesus. God will use every event on this trip to develop the character of Christ in you. Since you have a servant's heart, you are going to The Amazon for the Brazilian people—you want them to know Jesus' love. And you know that this trip is not about you, but about God. Do you also know that God wants to use this trip to transform you into the image of His Son? Pray that you will be more like Jesus when you return.

*As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT*

## **DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST (Day 18)**

Mental preparation is crucial to our success. What you think about and how you think about it will determine how prepared you will be for the experience you are about to have. Don't let Satan fill your mind with negative, fearful thoughts. Instead, let God transform your mind so that you see everything that happens through His perspective. Pray that you will have the mind of Christ.

*Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Romans 12:2 GNT*

## **Devoted to the Word of God (Day 17)**

The verses you read in this guide can transform you if you take them to heart and live them out. Pray that you will be devoted to God's Word, reading and obeying it from your heart.

*"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine." — John 8:31 NASB*

## **Disciplined by the Purpose of God (Day 16)**

God uses every experience, good or bad, to conform us to the image of His Son. Pray that you will be open to the discipline of God, even in difficult times.

*"God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." — Romans 8:28 NLT*

## **Dashing the Hopes of Satan (Day 15)**

Satan will try to ruin this trip with worry, discouragement, or selfishness. Commit now to resist temptation and trust God. Ask God to equip you with discernment, discipline, and devotion.

*"Do not give the devil a foothold." — Ephesians 4:27 NIV*

## **Defeating the Attacks of Satan (Day 14)**

You have a spiritual arsenal available. Find the list of spiritual armor in Ephesians 6 and pray through it, "putting on" each piece for this trip.

*"Put on God's armor now! Then, when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks." — Ephesians 6:13 GNT*

## **Dedicated to the Process of Growth (Day 13)**

This trip will change you. Dedicate yourself to the lifelong journey of spiritual growth and maturity.

*"He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." — Phil. 1:6 NASB*

## **A Servant's Heart (Day 12)**

Instead of finding ways to criticize, find ways to serve each other. Pray that God would give you a servant's heart of compassion for team members and love for the Brazilians.

*"Serve one another in love." — Galatians 5:13 NIV*

## **Servant's Assignment (Day 11)**

Your primary assignment is to follow Jesus. Pray that you will follow Him every day in Brazil.

*"What is that to you? You follow Me." — John 21:22 NKJV*

## **A Servant's Shape (Day 10)**

You are a unique combination of Spiritual gifts, Heart (passion), Abilities, Personality, and Experience (SHAPE). Put your SHAPE at the disposal of Jesus. Pray that He will put the whole team together for His purpose.

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." — Psalms 139:13 NIV*

## **A Servant's Service (Day 9)**

Diligence is more important than knowing your SHAPE. God can use you if you want to serve. Pray that you would be a diligent worker.

*"This work is being done diligently and succeeding through the people's efforts." — Ezra 5:8 HCSB*

## **Servant's Attitude (Day 8)**

Just as important as diligence is humility. Pray that you will be a humble servant to team members, to the missionary, and to the Brazilian people.

*"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant."*

## **A SERVANT'S THOUGHT LIFE (Day 7)**

Just as God transforms us through our minds, Satan defeats us through our thoughts. The point is not to think only positive thoughts, as some have said. The point is that every thought

we have to be subjected to the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is an easy jump from humility to haughtiness. One “success” can change your attitude from servanthood to sarcasm. Pray that you would submit every thought (good or bad, positive or negative) to the Lordship of Jesus.

*We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* 2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV

## **A SERVANT’S STRENGTH (Day 6)**

The world promotes strength differently than the Bible does. The world talks about the power of personality and the confidence that comes with “six-pack abs.” Products to enhance performance, energy, and appearance all claim to make you more confident, more in charge. God has a different message—weakness is our strength. Not the weakness, but God’s grace. Pray that you will depend on God’s grace for your wisdom, confidence, and strength.

*“My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.”* 2 Corinthians 12:9 GNT

## **Commission—Obeying the Command (Day 5)**

The Great Commission to make disciples of all nations is for all Christians. Pray that you may complete the personal mission and work He has for you.

*“I only want to complete my mission and finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do.”* — Acts 20:24 GNT

## **Confession—Telling Your Story (Day 4)**

Be ready to give your testimony—to tell your story of the hope in you from Jesus. Ask God to open doors to give testimony about His Son.

*“Be prepared to explain to anyone who asks why you’re living the way you are, always with the utmost courtesy.”*

## **COMPLETION—BEING PART OF GOD’S STRATEGY (Day 3)**

Every person is created in God’s image. Since that image is marred by sin, most people do not know God. In His mysterious wisdom, God chose to use people like us to tell those who don’t

know Him how they can. His strategy was in place when Adam sinned. It will culminate when He decides, in Heaven. Pray that He will use you as part of His eternal, global strategy.

*Before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9 NIV*

## **CONTEMPLATION—JOURNALING (Day 2)**

Mary, the mother of Jesus, has always impressed me. She not only listened to God, but she also meditated on any message she received. After the shepherds left, she *treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.* (Luke 2:19 NASB) Contemplation is a lost art in our day. Journaling can help. Recording the events of the trip through God's eyes will help you see His hand and understand His heart.

*At the LORD's direction, Moses kept a written record of their progress. Numbers 33:2 NLT*

## **Commencement—Let's Go! (Day 1)**

Tomorrow we leave for the Amazon! Put all fears and concerns in God's hands. This trip is about accomplishing God's purpose.

*"Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand." — Proverbs 19:21 AMP*