

Travel Notes #5: Last Boat Devotion — Preparing for Re-Entry

Leader Note: Share this during your final devotional on the boat to help team members process their experience before returning home.

1. Navigating the Emotions of Re-Entry

Whether this was the best week of your life or one of the most challenging, everyone processes a mission trip differently. Here are three of the most common emotions you may experience when returning home and how to handle them:

1. Guilt: *"Why do I have so much when they have so little?"*

- **The Danger:** Becoming paralyzed by guilt over your possessions or standard of living.
- **The Biblical Response:** Cultivate **gratitude** and **generosity**. God has blessed you so that you can be a blessing to others—thank Him for His provision and look for ways to give back.

2. Brokenness: *Tears, sadness, or feeling overwhelmed*

- **The Reality:** Returning home can bring an intense emotional weight.
- **The Biblical Response:** Recognize this as God graciously **enlarging your heart** for the poor, the hurting, and the lost. Let those tears lead you into deeper prayer and ongoing compassion.

3. Pride: *"Why isn't everyone else going on trips like this?"*

- **The Danger:** Looking down on friends, family, or fellow church members who haven't experienced what you just did.
- **The Biblical Response:** Practice **patience**. Remember that everyone is on a different spiritual journey—just like you were before this trip. Share your experience with grace rather than judgment.

2. Answering *"How Was Your Trip?"*

When you return, people will ask how the trip went. Most people want to hear about it, but their time and interest levels will vary. Prepare **three different levels of response** in advance:

1. **The 1-Sentence Answer** (*For quick hallway catch-ups or casual greetings*)
 - Example: "It was incredible and truly life-changing!"
2. **The 1-Story Answer** (*For friends or colleagues who show genuine interest*)
 - Have one specific, powerful story ready to share that highlights what God did during the week.
3. **The Full Story** (*For close family, mentors, or small groups*)
 - Set aside dedicated time with those who want to hear the detailed, step-by-step journey.

3. Staying Involved with Amazon Outreach (AO)

Your ministry in the Amazon doesn't have to end when the boat docks. Here are two ways to stay connected:

1. Keep Coming Back

- Plan to return on a future trip and continue building relationships in the villages.

2. Join "The Crew"

Leader Action: Hand out "The Crew" info cards to team members now.

"The Crew" is AO's core community of committed **Intercessors, Influencers, and Investors**:

- 🙏 **Intercessor:** Commit to praying regularly. With over 30,000 villages along the Amazon still needing the Gospel, prayer is our single greatest tool.
- 🗣️ **Influencer:** Use your circle of influence to advocate for the ministry, share stories, and invite others to support or join an AO trip.
- 💳 **Investor:** Make a recurring monthly or annual financial commitment to sustain AO's ongoing mission work in Brazil.

Member Benefits:

- **Exclusive Updates:** Receive *The Crew Exclusive* newsletter with insider updates from the field.

Next Step: After you return home, watch your inbox for an email with a direct link to join **The Crew**.