



First Edition

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Welcome to the Team Devotional Guide!

As we walk together on this journey of faith, obedience, and self sacrifice, we strive to stay connected in the Spirit. The busy-ness and distractions of life tend to consume our attention, and we end up being focused on the work the Lord has put on our hearts only when we can fit Him into our schedule.

This Team Devotional Guide is a tool we will use on the Kairos experience to help us stay focused on the work of the Lord as we go through each day.

You'll find this Devotional Guide not only helps us to focus on the spiritual context of our joint work, but it also helps with our understanding of the foundations of this experience that we call "Kairos."

I pray that we find the time to allow the Spirit of God to speak to our hearts as we spend time each day being focused on His purposes during our time of preparation.

You are on a Great Journey!

It's a dark and stormy night. The wind is really howling – there's a lot of lightening. The rain is pouring down. Aren't you glad that you're cuddled up in your easy chair with a cup of hot tea there in your cozy family room?

Outside, on the "other side of town," the scene is quite different. There's a group of down and out folks. They're huddled under an overpass for shelter. Trying to start a fire from some trash, but it's too wet. It's really dark and cold out here.

Look at them. Lost. How'd they get this way? What happened in their life that painted them into this picture? Made some bad decisions. Some really bad decisions. Didn't have a family life to speak of. Nobody cared. Maybe found acceptance with the wrong people. Now, just look at them – out here in the dark, stormy night.

And then, something you can't imagine happens! You get up out of that cozy chair and go out into that stormy night with them! A couple of friends get in the car with you along the way, and you go out to that overpass where they are huddled together.

They are suspicious of you as you approach. You stand there with them in the dark. It's cold. You offer friendship. They respond. Laughter starts. One of your friends in the car brings over something warm to eat. Bet they haven't had a good, warm meal in a long time. Stories get told. Then, they want to know – "Why?" Why are you here? Why did you come from the comfort of your home to this dark overpass? Why?

With a lump in your throat, all you can do is to whisper one word. The reason you came, all rolled up into one word. Jesus. "I came because of Jesus, and He'll light up the darkness for you, too."

Oh, what a journey, when you travel with Jesus. No telling where He may ask you to go, but one thing is for sure – He'll light up the darkness through you!

God bless you as you travel out to where it's dark and stormy. People need you to show them His light.



Vulnerability-1

And now I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I loved you, so you must love one another.

John 13:34-35

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How are love and vulnerability connected?

Prayer Focus: Christians persecuted in weakness

My prayers go out for...

Vulnerability-1

Being Strong in Our Weakness!

I don't know about you, but I grew up being taught to be strong. Never show your weaknesses. Hide your faults. Emphasize your strong points. Nowhere is the need to "be strong" more noticeable, and more important, than in prison. A weakness makes you vulnerable – to being hurt or taken advantage of. In the free world, being vulnerable opens the door to being hurt, too. We don't want to be taken advantage of, so we keep our "be strong" face on.

"Being Strong" is mankind's way, isn't it? I mean, Christ told us that it is in our weakness that we become strong. It is in our becoming vulnerable that the power of the Holy Spirit works. When we take off our "game face," we let down our guard. We lower the wall that protects us. The very wall that shuts out Jesus finally comes down, and Christ's love shines in and new life begins.

Becoming vulnerable is key if the inmates are to come to that point where the love of Christ can penetrate those hardened walls. But, being vulnerable is not a natural thing – it is an uncomfortable thing. So, the team models vulnerability to show that it is OK in the family of faith to let our guard down and let the true person God created shine through.



I had a lot of experience with hate. This was one of the first experiences I ever had with love.

Every speaker talks from a position of being vulnerable. They are modeling for the residents. And, perhaps even more importantly, the rest of the team is modeling how the Christian Community responds to a brother or sister who is vulnerable. We don't poke fun at them, we embrace them. We speak of our appreciation of, and our love for the one who has become vulnerable.

How we respond is critical. We are being watched, and our actions do indeed speak louder than our words. And that's true whether we're in the prison, or at church, or at home, isn't it?



Vulnerability-2

If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back.

Luke 6:32-33,35

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who are your enemies?

Prayer Focus: People who shut out Love because they have been hurt

My prayers go out for...

Vulnerability-2

The Problem with Love

As Christians, we know that we are to love one another. But, to love, to truly love, we must become vulnerable to one another. How can we really love someone if we are not willing to let them know who we really are?

It's hard to allow yourself to become vulnerable to one another. Our experiences in life, even in the church, may have taught us to be cautious - to be on guard - to build our own "hedge" of protection around ourselves - to keep others out of our sensitive areas. Even in the loving environment of a Kairos team, we may find it difficult to become vulnerable to one another. It is risky. But, it is no where nearly as risky as it is in the prison environment. And yet, we know that to allow the gift of God's grace to be received, one has to become vulnerable. That's a very hard thing to expect of a prisoner.

During the course of the Kairos weekend, every participant has to be gently led over that "distrust hurdle." In order for them to become a viable member of the sharing Christian Community, they have to take the risk of exposing their lives, their hurts, their disappointments, and their hopes.

As team members, we model the message. We too must be vulnerable, and to show one another that real love springs forth in that vulnerability. One way we risk becoming vulnerable to one another is to share our vulnerable moments with another person.

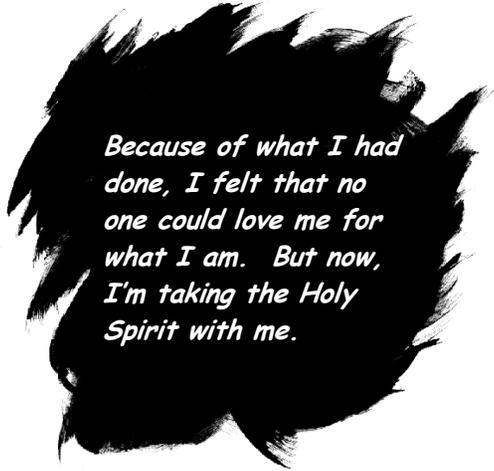
Use the following page to guide your heart to a deeper sense of how much you need Christ and how it is through Him that we can truly become vulnerable to one another.

Vulnerability-2

Where is the ONE place in my life when I truly needed Christ? That one place where I know that I was in so great a need that it was only because God carried me through it that I was able to make it. What was it that created that need? How was it that God stepped in to carry me? Be specific – do not use “cheap grace” and simply say that “I can see now that God was with me,” but be specific – what exactly did God do, and how do YOU know it was God?

Vulnerability-2

God's way is so different than mankind's way. With God, we find strength in our very weakness. It's not our strength, but in realizing our weakness, we find God's strength. It's been there all along, but we miss it because we keep trying to live from our own strength.



Because of what I had done, I felt that no one could love me for what I am. But now, I'm taking the Holy Spirit with me.

When you meet the Kairos participants on Thursday night, don't be surprised to find that they express self-confidence. Don't be surprised to hear that they have close, loving families that write and visit often. Don't be surprised, because they are simply living through the “wall” that they have built to protect themselves. Becoming vulnerable is not part of their mindset.

Don't worry about what they tell you on Thursday night. Just love them. Listen to them, and love them. God will use your loving spirit, born of making yourself vulnerable to them, to break down those barriers that prevent the resident from living joyfully in the Spirit. Don't worry – just listen and love.

What Have You Learned?

Telling my story is risky. My REAL story is risky. Private stuff, you know? If I tell too much, I might get embarrassed, or rejected, or hurt. I'd become vulnerable.

Yes – vulnerable – to each other and to the Holy Spirit. Being vulnerable isn't easy, but it's the way God finds us. That's why it's so important!



Vulnerability-3

We love because God first loved us. If someone says he loves God, but hates his brother, he is a liar. For he cannot love God, whom he has not seen, if he does not love his brother, whom he has seen.

1 John 4:19,20

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who have you loved that was unlovable?

Prayer Focus: Persons that are hard to love - they need my love more than those who are lovable

My prayers go out for...

Vulnerability-3

Building a New Foundation

When I was in high school, I went to a junk yard and bought a 1946 Chevy panel truck. It was a mess – didn't run, but it looked pretty good. I mean, the body wasn't rusted and dented. I could do something with this! I worked on that old truck for months. Never did get it going. It took a lot more than I had in me to get it fixed.

You see, what I saw in that old junk yard was the body. It looked good! A little sanding and some nice paint, and it would really be something to show off. The problem was, however, that the "guts" of the Chevy were no good. I kept trying to patch them up – you know, new spark plugs when new pistons were needed. New wires when new bearings deep inside were needed. I was working on the surface stuff, and missing the need to start at the beginning. I needed to rebuild that ol' truck from the foundations up.

Have you found your journey of faith to be like my journey with that truck? We focus on superficial things. We work at being "nice" people, we go to church. A new foundation? What's wrong with this one?



A new foundation. Our old foundation was built in a way that we find it so easy to focus on ourselves. We see everything from our perspective. How is this going to affect me? But, a new foundation is needed so we focus on God! No simple tune up – no jazzy paint job will do it. Something serious is needed. Sacrifice. A sacrificial attitude in life. An attitude where I love others, even the unlovable, even above myself. Letting my self focus die out and make room for a new way – a way where I think of myself last. A way where my love is focused on others.

How can I take my focus off of myself as I journey on this Kairos?



Vulnerability-4

You can be sure that who ever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward.

Matthew 10:42

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who have I given a drink to in the name of Christ?

Prayer Focus: Those who are spiritually thirsty

My prayers go out for...

Vulnerability-4

Transformations

Something really special happens on a Kairos weekend. There is a transformation that happens. You get a glimpse of it during the Closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon when the participants reflect on the spiritual condition they were in when they arrived, and what they found during the Kairos. They come lost, broken, rejected, angry, faithless. They find unconditional love. Love from Christ, delivered by His children.

You will see this transformation occur. It happens differently for different people. For some, the person you met on Thursday night has been replaced with a new spirit on Friday morning. Others will hear “their” story given by a team member in a Talk, and they will be transformed. Others will find a change through worship experiences or through table discussion. Still others will find transformation in the weekly Prayer and Share fellowship that forms after the Kairos.

*The point is that change takes place – but that change is different for every person. As a team member, it is best to avoid bringing any kind of expectation of this transformation. Just be willing to be a tool of the Holy Spirit. **You** will not transform anything. But through you, the Spirit can work miracles!*

Our role, as team members, is to represent Christ to the residents. Listen, don't talk. Love, don't preach. Sit at the foot of the table, rather than the head of the table. No agenda. No expectation. Just be yourself, loving simply because Christ loved you.

Transformation will occur. And, if you listen and love, you might even realize that you too are being transformed!





So then, my brothers, because of God's great mercy to us, I appeal to you: offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.

Romans 12:1

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How have I been a living sacrifice?

Prayer Focus: Our Clergy Brothers and Sisters

My prayers go out for...

Clergy

Living the Servant Life

Prison is a dark place. The Light has come into the world, but people have loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their works were evil. Prison is not designed to be a fellowship. There are strict rules. We are allowed (permitted) to enter the prison solely because the warden has given his/her permission. We are guests – living under their rules.

Kairos has become one of the most welcome and trusted volunteer groups in the nation in the prisons in which we are ministering. The reason – because we understand that we are guests. Our invitation is conditional. We follow the rules rather than make the rules. One team member choosing to ignore the rules and do their own thing can jeopardize the entire ministry. We take our invitation and our role as guests seriously.

Our clergy brothers and sisters can be a blessing in this area. They come as humble team members. They come as brothers and sisters. They come as examples of the Christian Spirit for both the participants and the lay team members. They come willing to set their “stuff” aside, and demonstrate the sacrificial life of sitting at the foot of the table rather than at the head of the table.

Clergy team members are part of the Table Family. They do not serve as the family leader, but as part of the family. While they may be experts in theology, they don't come as the “Table Answer Man”. But they come as the model of loving humility in servanthood.

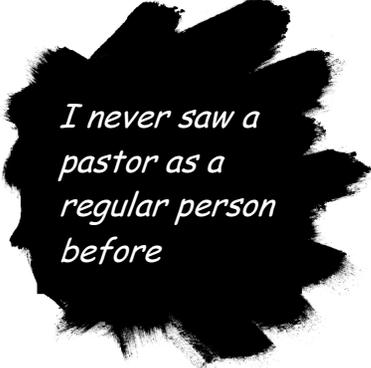
Clergy members may struggle with the fact that Kairos is truly inter-denominational. One of the revelations for the participants is how people from so many different denominations can live and love together. They see us not in our differences, but in our commonness in Jesus Christ.

Vulnerability-5

We stay away from things which highlight denominational differences. We seek to highlight the unity in Christ on a Kairos weekend, and ask all team members to set their denominational loyalty aside and let our loyalty to Christ be our banner.

Communion is one of the Areas that we set aside for the weekend. Because of the denominational barriers that surround communion, Kairos does not conduct communion on the weekend or at team meetings.

During the Kairos weekend, a participant may seek a counseling session. These one-on-one sessions are handled by the clergy. A counseling session must not interfere with the talks. Special sensitivity needs to be given to the reality that a participant may feel the need to confess to previously committed crimes. In most states, this communication is considered "privileged" communication if it occurs between the resident and a clergy person in the environment of counseling and confession. No such "privilege" exists for a lay person.



*I never saw a
pastor as a
regular person
before*

Our clergy team members play such an important role. They help the team see that we can honor the rules we live under and still honor Christ. They help us, by their own acts of servanthood, to understand the nature of the sacrificial life. They help us see how humility is an attractive, inviting lifestyle for the believers. And they offer a special avenue of hope for residents who are hurting.

Pray for our clergy brothers/sisters and watch and learn from them.

Vulnerability-5

Clergy Guidelines

Respond to requests for counseling, remembering that there is no counseling during any talk

Avoid denominationalism

Requests for Baptism are to be referred to the prison chaplain

Participate in the Family, help build Family community

Be a model of Servanthood

Listen with your heart rather than preaching with your lips



Servanthood-I

This, however, is not the way it shall be among you. If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be your slave – like the Son of man, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.

Matthew 20:26-28

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What does the Holy Spirit need to remove from me so that I can hear Christ's calling?

Prayer Focus: Those who are struggling to hear the whispers of our Lord

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-I

Holy Listening!

Jesus said that we should love our neighbor just as we love ourselves. It is a good thing to develop a loving attitude toward others – even our enemies.

But, Jesus didn't stop there. He showed us that love is more than an attitude – it's an action. Wash the feet of others. Give the thirsty a drink. Visit the prisoner. Christ Himself was the essence of this love in action. The Word (love) became flesh (service).

One of the most basic ways of putting love into action is to listen. Are you a good listener? I struggled with listening – I was always preparing for what I was going to say next. Then I learned that Holy Listening requires surrendering our agenda to the speaker!

I began to realize why I sometimes have trouble in my prayers – to listening to God. It's because I don't surrender my "stuff." I'm thinking about my response. I'm focused on me, rather than on the speaker – God.

We become Holy Listeners when we surrender our agenda to the speaker. The speaker's message becomes more important to us than our response. When we listen with a holy heart, we have put love into action.

Who do I need to listen to?



***It's the first
time I can
remember
when someone
cared how I
felt***



Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them.
Remember those who are suffering, as though you were suffering as they are.

Hebrews 13:3

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What prison is holding me?

Prayer Focus: Christians persecuted in weakness

My prayers go out for...

Listening With Our Heart

*The theme of every Kairos is **Listen, Listen, Love, Love**. Most of us can understand the “love, love” part, but “listen, listen”? Why would listening be raised to the level of a key attitude that we should have?*

We come to the prisoner not as “experts” with all the answers. We come simply as Christians – the family of Christ, who love even the unlovable. We love, not because we are so great, but because Christ is!

We listen to hear – not to react – but to hear. Hearing is a foreign concept in prison. There is seldom an opportunity to be heard. Oh, sure there’s the superficial stuff – the surface things. But, what’s going on inside you? How you feel about something personal? It’s a rare event in prison. However, rare or not, it is so critical to learn to truly listen to each other in order that the inmate be able to be an active and vital part of Christian community.

During the Instructional Reunion after the Kairos Weekend, there is a talk on Listening. Afterwards, rather than discussing the talk, groups of 3 form to practice listening. One person is the speaker, one is the listener, and one is the observer who will reflect back to the listener things they did well, and things that could be improved.

Listening Essentials

- *Suspend judgement, be open to the presence of a painful heart*
- *Body posture should indicate your interest*
- *Good eye contact*
- *Use oral responses which are affirming, which say “I am with*

Servanthood-2

Imagine the scene:

You are with someone who has asked you a hard question – a deep question. You sense that they really want to know. There’s a genuine caring in their voice and in their body language.

How do you want them to respond as you begin to make yourself vulnerable by honestly answering the question? Imagine what they are doing and saying as you open up with your heart felt answer. Are they paying attention, or are they distracted? Are they talking as much as you, or are they truly listening? Are they understanding or are they trying to counsel you?

How do you feel about them? Do they really care about you? Do they really want to know what you feel? Or, are they just passing time? If you sense that they really do care by their interest in hearing your answer, are you more likely to really share what’s going on inside? Are you more likely to trust them?

How a person listens is so critical in Kairos. Not only does it say a lot to the person talking, but it says a lot about us!

Are we really concerned, or are we just going through the motions?

Are we more concerned about what we’re going to say next than what the person talking is really saying?

Pitfalls to Avoid

- *Me-too-ism*
- *Moralizing, preaching, being judgmental*
- *Becoming an “interviewer” rather than a listener*
- *Giving advice (trying to “fix” it*
- *“Oh, that’s not so bad”*
- *Arguing or disagreeing with the speaker*
- *Analyzing or interpreting*

Servanthood-2

Let’s imagine the scene again:

This time, imagine YOU have asked someone else the question, and they are becoming vulnerable to you in their answer. How will you respond as a Holy Listener?

Here’s the question that you have been asked:

How do I deal with being hurt by others?

Now, imagine the other person answering this question. How will you respond? Will you be focused on them? Will you communicate your “judgement” or your compassion by your body language? What will your facial expression say to the person talking?

Practice this scene in your mind. Play it over and over to help you prepare for being a Holy Listener.

In what area do I need to be a better listener?



Servanthood-3

I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

Matthew 25:35,36

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who has fed you?

Prayer Focus: Those who are giving to people in need

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-3

Agape

Love, Sacrificially Given

Imagine with me for a moment. Think back to when you went on your Cursillo/Walk. What do you remember? The food and snacks? The laughter? The talks? The discussions? The chapel time? Each of us might have a different answer, but I bet there is one thing that runs like a thread through a weaving. Love. Love! Do you remember feeling loved? Loved by the Body of Christ – on behalf of Christ?

My eyes still tear up as I remember the overwhelming realization of what Christ meant when He talked of Agape. Love. A love that doesn't come from us, but a love that comes from Jesus – passed on through His unselfish body – you and I. Not just team members on a Kairos, but the body that I couldn't even see, and yet I knew that they were there. Making sacrifices so that I might experience the reality of Agape. Remember how powerful it was?

Now, think about the prison resident. Most have lived lives starved of love. Unselfish love isn't part of their experience. Love freely given isn't even a concept to them. You entered your Cursillo/Walk with a much better understanding of Agape than the average prison resident has as they enter their Kairos. Just think of the impact of being washed in all that Agape when you've lived a love-starved life!

So, how important is Agape on a Kairos? It's huge! But, it's even bigger than you're thinking!

Think about all those people in the Body of Christ who are seeking ways to be Christ's disciple in the world. Think of all those church members who need to find a way to love others on behalf of Christ, yet don't know where to start. Think of those little old ladies who have compassionate hearts, but who can't get out much anymore. They think that their lives of being servants are over. They have no vision of how to minister in Christ's name anymore.

Think of the young family. Young, faithful parents who are looking for ways to teach their kids how to live like Christ. Think of the opportunity for parents to teach youngsters about Agape love – Christ's love – even to the unlovable!

Servanthood-3

Think of the Sunday School class that doesn't know how to serve on behalf of Christ. Think of how powerful it would be for them to realize how they were really the hands of Christ in action.

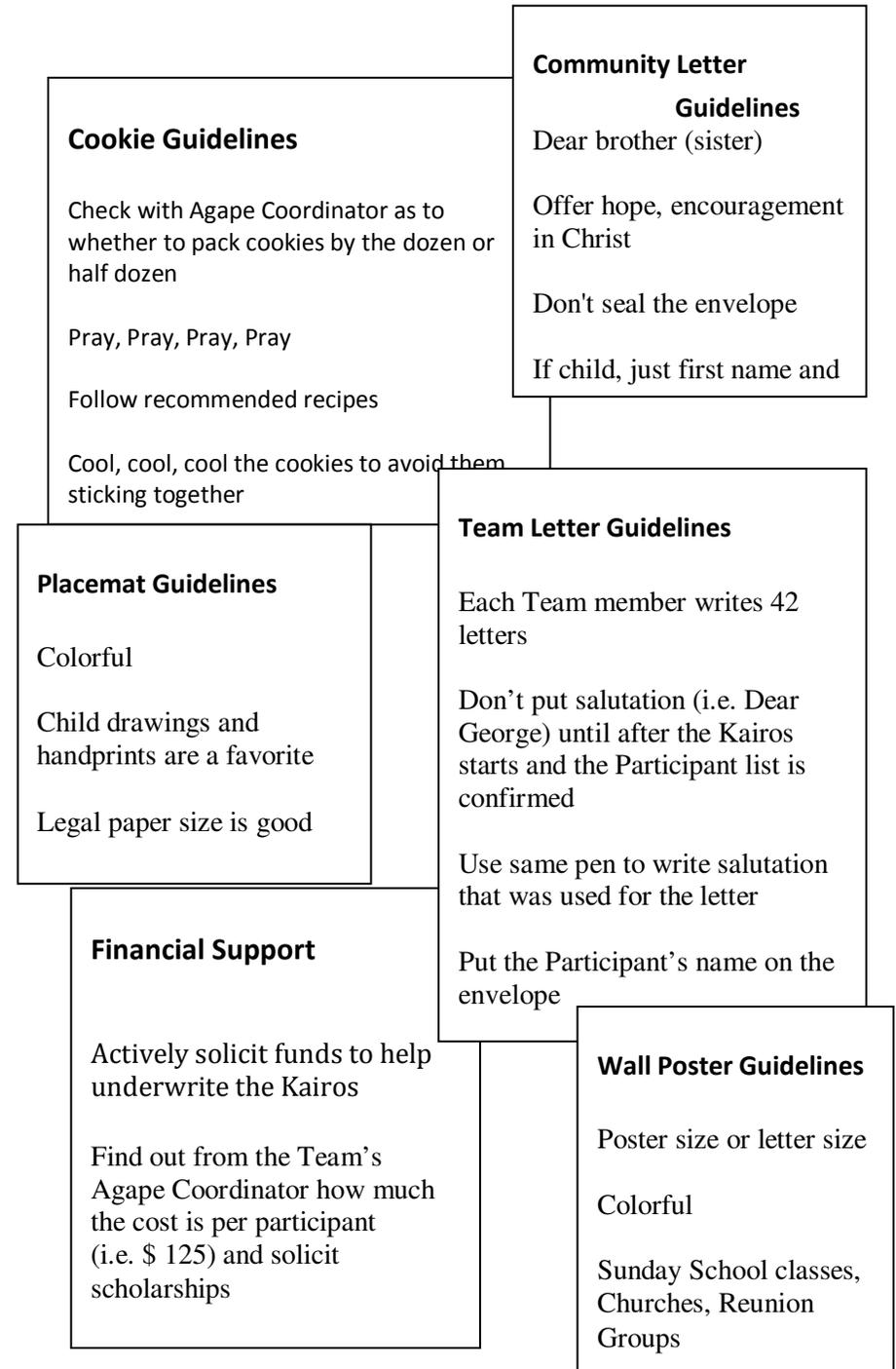
There's a whole world of Christians who don't know how to pass on Christ's uncompromising love to the lost and the needy. Christ's unselfish love. Agape love. What a gift you have to offer them!

A gift? You bet – by just asking “Won't you make a poster that expresses hope in Jesus? Won't you help spread God's love by baking cookies that are washed in prayer? Won't you help financially sponsor a lost soul to come where they may find Jesus – and a new beginning? Won't you help make disciples?”

Agape is God's gift of love. It gets communicated by tangible objects – Cookies, money, posters, letters, and placemats. These are the tangible acts of Agape. But it is the love that is working miracles – on both sides of that cookie! Won't you help make those miracles?

Who do I need to give a chance to express Christ's love through an act of Agape for this Kairos?

Servanthood-3





Servanthood-4!

Obeys your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting, since they must give to God an account of their service. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; If not, they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you.

Hebrews 13:17

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have I let "my" focus prevent me from being a Servant for Christ?

Prayer Focus: Those who fail in trying to live as a
Servant

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-4!

Just Let Me Serve!

We don't just volunteer to "work" on a Kairos, we are to "experience" the Kairos. We get the opportunity to practice living out the sacrificial life of love to which Christ calls us. We are to approach the experience with the heart of a servant.

Did you know that there's a difference between living a life "in service" and in being "a servant?" When you make yourself available to be "in service," who is in control? You are! You determine when and how you can serve. You fit serving into your schedule – into your agenda – on your terms. You are in control.

But when you are a servant, who is in control? The servant's master is! It is the master's schedule that determines when and where and how we will serve. The servant sets their own priorities aside and adopts the master's priorities.

In the Kairos experience, you are asked to be a servant. We set "our" stuff aside, we make ourselves available for how God wants to use us. The team Leader searches in prayer for God's direction – then makes the team assignments. The Leader asks you to be a servant – and to trust that God has a purpose for your assignment and will give you the strength to accomplish His job.

Lord, give me a willing heart to set my desires aside and to humbly accept my assignment with a joyful and trusting heart.



Servanthood-5

You are the people of God; He loved you and chose you for His own. So then, you must clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I clothe myself in love for this Kairos?

Prayer Focus: Christians who joyfully serve the Lord with a humble heart

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-5

Blessed Servants

A foundation of living the Christian life is learning to be a servant. A servant – giving with no expectation of receiving anything in return. It's in the free giving that we find true blessings. Nowhere in Kairos is that more evident than in the Outside Support team.

Many people think that the Support team is there for the purpose of making that great, home-cooked food. Well, yes food is usually part of the Support team's responsibility. But there is so much more. Usually, the Support team handles a number of responsibilities:

Breakfast for the team

Meals

Cookie packaging

Agape-Posters, Letter packaging

Inventory – preparing the deliveries

Runners – transporting meals

Even all these “jobs” on the Support team don't describe what the team's real job is. The Support team is a model, a real-life experience in living the life of a servant! Not visible – just focused on serving so that Christ's purposes are fulfilled!

So often people comment about the sacrifice, the giving, the blessings of the Inside team. But that Support team, quietly serving in the shadow with prayers on their hearts and lips represents a great Agape gift. Those inmates just can't imagine people doing all that work – for them! What is expected from the participant in return? Nothing. Nothing – no price – nothing in return! They just want you to know that they are lovingly serving you because of Jesus' love for them! They want you to know that they serve with love in their soul because of what Jesus has already done for them.

What a blessing the Support team is! And you know what? By giving away Christ's love, they find they are blessed! Oh – how God surprises us. What a great Master we serve!



Nature of God's Love-I

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some of you are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another, all the more...

Hebrews 10:24, 25a

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I show love to my teammates?

Prayer Focus: Those who no longer are part of a prayer & share group.

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-II

Endless Love

The very nature of God is love, don't you think? Love – what a marvelous creation. I mean, God had to create this thing we call love. Can you imagine life if God had never given us love? Can you imagine a life without love?

For many of the residents, they have lived life with very little love in it. They don't understand love. Agape love, God's love is not even a concept with them. And then, they meet you – the Kairos Team. The Love Team.

They see the very love of Christ in the eyes of the family workers. They hear the love of Christ coming through the speakers. They experience the love of Christ through the unselfish servanthood of the Support Team. They are overwhelmed with the love of the Body of Christ through agape gifts.



Where is this love coming from? You know. It's from God. Yes, you know. But, the residents may not know. They will see it as you! Help them see that it is not you - but God, acting through His family. Help them recognize that the feelings of appreciation they have should not be aimed at you – but to God. Let "Praise God" be on your heart and on your lips.

Oh, thank you Lord Jesus. Thank you.



Nature of God's Love-2

You have received without paying, so give without being paid..

Matthew 10:8b

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have I given freely?

Prayer Focus: Those who give sacrificially

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-2

Giving – As I Have Received

As a Kairos Team Member, you are asked to give a lot. You give of your time. You give financial support. You give your prayers. Give, give, give – that's the life of a Team Member.

Do you ever feel used? Do you ever feel unappreciated? Do you ever feel taken advantage of out of your willingness to be kind? That's a natural thing to happen.

We start off wanting to give because of what we have received. Then, as we give, it seems that the need for giving goes up. The demands for giving increase. Then we begin to feel that our giving has become expected – rather than appreciated! And, we pull back. Not so sure if we're going to give any more. We pull back.

We pull back from what? From the very thing that got us started in the first place! God put it on our heart to give and we did joyfully, and we found blessings in that joy! It was wonderful. Then, we started feeling used and unappreciated. Satan – he's there. A little twist here, a little discontent there and before you know it, the joy's gone. Where's the joy? Stolen.

See – it is so easy. Don't let Satan steal joy that God pours out on us when we live with our hands open so God can take and use whatever He wants of us. Give – give as freely as we have received.



Nature of God's Love-3

When the dew evaporated, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was as delicate as frost. When the Israelites saw it, they didn't know what it was and asked each other, "What is it?"

Exodus 16:14 -15

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have you had to trust God?

Prayer Focus: That Kairos cookies carry God's love

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-3

Manna From Heaven

Only God could have come up with manna! I mean, if you were writing a script for a movie, no one would have ever suggested such a crazy story. No one would believe it. No way!

And yet, God gave manna. Total dependence on Him. Can't store it up. Can't trade it in. It's there, free for the taking – but it comes from God, not man.

Kairos cookies are like that! They are really from God. Oh, I know they are not our provision like manna was. But they are from God. They come freely given out of the love of God. They come from God and not from man.

Those cookies carry a miracle in them, too. God uses them to open closed eyes! Yep. It's true. At first they are just a wonderful dessert. The participants gobble them up at first. It's sort of like they think they won't last so get as many as you can. But they keep coming and coming and coming.

Then, a question starts to form in the heart (not the mind) of the participant. "Where are these coming from?" And, "why?" The answer? They come from God, because He loves you. Yes, the family of God baked them, counted them, bagged them, and transported them. But they also prayed over them. Prayers to the Creator Himself that He would use this manna to sustain a new creation – to nourish a new heart.

Is Kairos a cookie ministry? No – Kairos is a ministry of love. Humble vessels filled with the love of Christ spilling His love all over the residents. And we call that "cookies."



Nature of God's Love-4

To conclude: you must all have the same attitude and the same feelings; love one another as brothers, and be kind and humble with one another.

1 Peter 3:8

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I love someone who is unlovable?

Prayer Focus: Those who will serve in the Table Family

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-4

Building Christ's Family

I remember my first Kairos. On the way into that prison, I couldn't understand how it is that God can transform those hardened hearts. I was to sit in a Table Family – face to face with these “hardened criminals”, and I didn't have a clue how to help God build a new family. I was lost. I couldn't do this. Looking back on that feeling now, I realize that in my weakness, in my helplessness, in my lack of being in control that I again was forced to be totally reliant on God. Yep, right where He wanted me!

So, how does Christ build a new family? He starts with you! You and a humble, loving heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to wash away those things in you that impede the flow of the spirit through you. Wash away pride. Wash away control. Wash away feelings of racism. Wash away hatred. Wash away old injuries. Wash away jealousy. Wash them all away so it is not you that the family sees, but Christ through you.



*I found a
new family
here*



Nature of God's Love-5

I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind.

Philippians 2:2

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I share my love for Christ in my letters to the residents?

Prayer Focus: Those who share their love for Jesus

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-5

Hope In Your Hands

Handwritten letters are special things, aren't they? Almost a lost tradition. Telephones, word processors and email have taken over. But it seems to me that something gets left out when the high tech replaces the low tech letter. Don't you treasure that handwritten letter from a loved one? It's like it's straight from the heart when it is handwritten. The high tech is more like straight from the mind. Oh, how we treasure those "special" letters.

Just think of the impact a handwritten letter has on an inmate. Talk about a shock! Many haven't received even a single letter from family or friend in months – maybe even years. And then they are flooded with handwritten letters. Special letters. Letters unlike any they probably have ever received. Letters expressing encouragement. They don't get much encouragement, you know.

*Letters expressing hope.
There's not a lot of hope
in their lives.*

*Letters expressing love.
Love. Love from God –
delivered by His people.*

*That's what happens as the
residents read those letters
of love. They slowly begin
to realize that these are love
letters - from God.*

Team Member Letter Writing Guidelines

Be joyful and hopeful

Express Christian love

If you are at a Table, write table family letters after getting to know the brothers/sisters

Don't use stickers (drugs can be transported in the glue)

Write the letters in advance (not enough time to write 42 letters)

Nature of God's Love-5

God Himself wrote those letters the old-fashioned way - on the hearts of His family. And the family hand scribed them just the way God wanted. And the Holy Spirit made sure they got to where they belonged - in the heart of the participant.

Yes, handwritten letters are special. They are special in Kairos because they are God's letters. Love letters. Thank you for being God's scribe. And be sure to thank all those folks in the family for also being God's scribes. They'll want to know how God's letter was received!

What is it that God wants to say in His letter to the residents?



Dear George,
May God bless you as you continue along the journey with Him at your side. I pray that His promise to love you fills your heart, soul and mind, and gives you strength.
Grace and Peace!

Your Sister in Christ, Beverly

Nature of God's Love-5

These are just examples of the wide variety of forms that people have used to communicate God's message.



Dear Jose,
I Am So Happy That God Chose You To Be Here This Weekend! I've Prayed That You Would Find Renewed Life With Christ And A New Family In Christ. Dear Brother, Never Forget That God, The Creator Of The Universe, Loves you Very Much.
Mike

Nature of Our Human Love-I

Team Devotional Guide

He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was a little man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was going to pass that way.

Luke 19:3 - 4

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have you sought to see Jesus?

Prayer Focus: People who are struggling to find Jesus

My prayers go out for...

Nature of Our Human Love-II

Rising Out of Poverty

Most of us are poor. We live in and around poverty. Oh, I know you live in a nice house, have a nice car, wear nice clothes, and have enough to eat. I'm talking about a different kind of poverty – spiritual poverty. Most of us live lives which spring from the poverty of our spiritual lives. Lives which are played out without spending enough time with God in prayer, in contemplation, in study and in listening.

Our poverty in Spirit has to do with love – but totally different kinds of love. First, there is Agape – a type of love where the motive is solely to respond to another's needs without trying to get our own needs met. Serving another with no expectation of return. We serve without regard to our needs, and we find blessings.

Then, there is Eros. Eros is love where we respond to another's needs with the motive of somehow having our own needs met. We serve so that we can benefit. We serve in order to be blessed.

God made us for Agape. We function best on Agape! But when we don't receive the agape we need to function as healthy individuals, we quickly learn to survive by seeking Eros.

Lives that depend on Eros tend to develop certain ways of behaving:

We learn to manipulate people to get what we want.

We seek status by possessing things.

We adopt destructive behaviors.

How has my dependence on Eros been revealed in my behavior?

Many of those in prison have come to rely on Eros rather than Agape. Their resulting behavior may be what brought them to prison. They have developed a wall to protect themselves, and they give the appearance of relying on themselves – on their strength.

How do we rise out of our poverty? We freely offer our love – our love in action – with no agenda – with no expectation of return. Then, we find that in our vulnerability, there is Joy! Being on this Kairos Team is a chance to practice living in that Agape love.

I hope you have a good practice session!

Nature of Our Human Love-2

Team Devotional Guide

What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies and do other things like this. I warn you now as I have before: those who do these things will not possess the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have I given up my way for Christ's way?

Prayer Focus: People who only seek their way.

My prayers go out for...

Nature of Our Human Love-2

I Did It My Way

Can't you just hear Frank Sinatra's beautiful voice proclaiming "I did it my way"? What a great song! For so many, it represented a message of being confident in yourself. A message of trusting in your way. That's the message of the world, don't you think? Aren't we taught to be strong? Be true to yourself. Blaze your own trail. Be your own person.

When we join a Kairos Team, we receive a beautiful gift. It's really a gift from God! We get the chance to step aside from the "World" and to practice a new way of life. We get to practice living the sacrificial life. A life lived not for my way, but a life lived for His way!

Christ talked about getting rid of "our" stuff so we could follow Him. We give up "our" way to go "His" way. We empty ourselves of "our" focus, and breathe in the newness of life in the Holy Spirit. What "I" want is not so important anymore – give it up. Don't let "Me" get in the way of God working through His empty vessel.

Let us learn a new song. A song of praise for "God's Way."

I did it His way!

Lord, let me empty myself of me!

Nature of Our Human Love-3

Team Devotional Guide

For this reason you must obey the authorities – not just because of God’s punishment, but also as a matter of conscience.

Romans 13:5

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When do I have trouble being obedient?

Prayer Focus: Prison wardens and leaders

My prayers go out for...

Nature of Our Human Love-3

Respecting Authority

As Christians, we know that we have an obligation to obedience. We learn that we can set ourselves aside. We don’t always have to be right – We don’t always have to have the last word – We don’t always have to be in charge. What we know is that we need to humbly acknowledge those in authority.

That is especially true in a prison setting. Kairos serves within a prison at the invitation of the prison chaplain and warden. Security is important to them – and there are many rules that are designed to help ensure proper security. Yes, some rules seem petty. Some seem unnecessary. But the rules are there, and we need to acknowledge the authority of the warden to make the rules, and we must follow the rules or risk having Kairos restricted from the prison!

Institutional Rules

- All vehicles in parking lot must be secured (locked, windows up)
- No tobacco products on the premises
- No weapons on the premises
- Proper attire
 - No short skirts or tight or revealing clothing
 - No shirts with “advertising” or messages
 - Shirts with collars (no T-shirts)
- No purses or billfolds
- No (or little) money
- No chewing gum or magnets
- Cannot bring in any materials that you plan on giving to the residents
- Books, magazines must be mailed directly from a book store or publisher, not from an individual

Nature of Our Human Love-3

General Relationships

- Do not smuggle anything into, or out of prison
- You may not be on the visitor's list of any resident
- No metal or glass objects allowed
- Do not give, or accept anything from a resident ANYTHING!
- Do not purchase anything from a resident
- Do not pass messages from a resident to others on the outside
- Do not mail letters or packages for a resident
- Religious materials must come through the chaplain
- Do not give residents money
- Do not get involved with a resident's family
- Do not pry into a resident's life of crime
- Do not join in a resident's criticism of authorities
- Do not defend a resident's crime or their failures
- Avoid involvement in a resident's legal matters
- Treat residents, officers and staff with respect and love
- Encourage healthy attitudes and behavior
- Be honest with residents, while guarding your own privacy
- Avoid any appearance of romantic interest – never be alone in the same room
- Evidence of serious misconduct should be reported to a staff member
- Avoid telling jokes (they quickly get out of hand)

Nature of Our Human Love-3

Spiritual Relationships

- Recognize your limitations, acknowledging that with God's help you can make a difference
- Be sincere in reaching out to residents
- Glorify God in all things
- Listen and care
- Appreciate officers' responsibilities
- Present God's love, understanding, forgiveness and acceptance
- Present God's holiness and your capacity to relate to God
- Present the need for discipleship and how it disciplines your daily conduct
- Avoid suggesting a cheap form of grace:
 - As though it doesn't matter how one conducts themselves since God forgives
 - As though spiritual vitality were indicated by emotional display
 - As though exercise of a particular gift were the ultimate in religious experience
- Avoid putting down the theological concepts or practices of others
- Say everything in the love of Christ
- Seek answers in the Bible when offering guidance

Nature of Our Human Love-4

Team Devotional Guide

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ He has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.

Ephesians 1:3

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How have I been blessed?

Prayer Focus: That prisoners will find Christ's blessings

My prayers go out for...

Nature of Our Human Love-4

Flow of the Kairos

The Kairos weekend is a time of transformation. Listen and watch as the Holy Spirit forms new life in hardened souls.

First Day *A time of uncertainty. Superficiality.
Greeting time. Friendliness.
Becoming comfortable.*

Second Day *Begin to set a pattern. Talk, Discussion
Listen, Listen, Love, Love. Openness,
Vulnerability. Walls start to crumble.
Light starts shining in.
More & more freedom and fun.
Music is fun.*

Third Day *Joy starts replacing freedom and fun.
Becoming more & more vulnerable.
Walls coming down. Music inspires.
Friendships developing. Trust growing.
Forgiveness. Testimony.*

Fourth Day *New Birth abounds. Love is evident.
Hunger for more. Want a new way.
Breaking old bonds. Music exalts.
New Birth is a birthday party.
Closing is an Opening.*

Nature of Our Human Love-5

Team Devotional Guide

God. I thirst for you, the living God. When can I go and worship in your presence?

Psalm 42:1-2

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

In what ways does my life give evidence of this Psalm?

Prayer Focus: Those who are not longing for God

My prayers go out for...

Nature of Our Human Love-5

Needing to Be Filled

Don't you find life to be a paradox? You know, the very thing we want least is the most important. Jesus knew this! He talked about it a lot. Has He talked with you about it yet? You know what I mean – the weak shall be strong – the first shall be last – the poor shall be rich – the giver shall be the receiver. God's world is just the opposite of man's world

The world, and our flesh, wants power, prestige, money, material things. We want to be noticed. We want to be in control. We want, we want, we want

Then there is God's way. We are needy. We need to experience love. Unselfish love. Agape kind of love. Love freely given with no expectation of return. Christ's love. That's it!

We need to be filled with the very love of God. Love offered by His people. Love delivered by His people. Love which fills the need we all have deep inside.

Agape. Oh, how important. To miss out on agape is to miss out on the kind of life that God intended for us. Funny thing is – when you receive it, then you have to give it away. That's God's way. Living life with your hand open, ready to give everything away rather than living with a closed fist, holding on to "your" stuff.

Take a look at your life's hand. Is it closed, or is it open?



Team Devotional Guide

Humility-1

You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you what ever you ask of Him in my name.

John 15:16

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What kind of fruit have you produced?

Prayer Focus: Those who are bearing fruit for Christ

My prayers go out for...

Humility-1

The Face of Death

What happens when we set ourselves aside for Christ? I mean, this idea that we have to die to our self so we can rise as a new creature seems a bit extreme, doesn't it? Extreme? You bet! Nothing lukewarm about Christ! Want to live – then you must die an inward death!

That dying “to self” is a deep inward process of yielding to the will of Christ. Humility is the outward presentation of that person who has died to self. It's kind of like being able to look through your self to Christ. It's like you become a transparent window through which people can see Christ – they don't see you much any longer.

In Humility, we set our self aside – not to degrade ourselves, but so that we empty ourselves of ourselves! Empty – so Christ can fill us with the Joy of the Spirit. We no longer carry around an agenda – we don't have to have our way – we can step aside for others.

What do I need to set aside for this Kairos?



*I saw Christ
in the faces
of the Kairos
team. They
just kept
loving me*



Team Devotional Guide

Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in Spirit; and you will find rest.

Matthew 11:29

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What have I learned from Christ?

Prayer Focus: Those who struggle with Christ's yoke

My prayers go out for...

Humility-2

Humility-2

Heartbeats

Have you ever listened to a heartbeat? Kind of a funny sound. It's not just a beat...beat...beat... kind of sound. It's more of a dah-dum...dah-dum...dah-dum... kind of sound. Makes you think that the pacing of the beat is made up of two steps. Dah-dum...

The Kairos weekend is sort of like a heartbeat. Maybe it is because Kairos is not about team meetings and logistics. Kairos is a living thing. It has a heartbeat. The weekend has a pace. You might even be able to hear it if you listen closely. Dah-dum...

The Talks are the heartbeat of a Kairos. They act as the pacing of the weekend. And, they have that "dual step" nature of the heartbeat.

As the speaker shares of themselves – becoming vulnerable in the process – they are "pumping out." They are not pumping out blood – but love. They are a Love Pump! Spraying God's love all over the Participants.

Then, the Table Discussions start. The Participants begin to "take in" the message the Holy Spirit is carrying. The taking in is as important as the pumping out. Dah-dum...

The message of the weekend is carried in the Talks. Reflect with me on God's message.

Listen to the heartbeat – Dah-dum... Dah-dum...

FRIDAY TALKS

Choices (lay)

To help the participants to begin to know themselves as unique human beings...

Begin to see themselves as products of past choices.

Move from thinking of themselves as victims of circumstances to considering their own involvement.

Understand that the course of their life will be changed by their choices from here on.

You Are Not Alone (clergy)

God wants us to live in community.

We need both God's Presence and the help of others.

Others are working on their behalf.

Friendship with God (clergy)

God isn't waiting to trap us breaking rules.

God longs for friendship with us.

God's friendship is the most worthwhile of any goal.

The Church (lay)

Present the Church in positive way.

The Church is the Family of God.

The Church is the Body of Christ.

Who is the Church? – We are the Church.

Opening the Door (lay)

Friendship with God is a precious and viable reality.

Ways that friendship is nourished.

Christian Life is joyful and filled with love.

SATURDAY TALKS

Discovery (lay)

Christian life is ongoing journey of discovery

- Learning and growth in friendship with Jesus

- An exciting journey filled with treasures

- Revealed in study, prayer, listening and sharing

Christian Action (lay)

Need to be genuinely concerned for each other

Pass God's love on to others

Introduce others to Jesus

Living in God's love is living in action for God

SUNDAY TALKS

Obstacles to Accepting God's Grace (clergy or lay)

Participants will face difficulties that can distract their ongoing journey with God. Help the participants realize the need for a spiritually centered fellowship to help each other on the journey.

Walking in God's Grace (clergy)

It takes effort to continue to maintain a friendship with God: (Spirituality, Study, and Christian Action)

Hang in There (Weekend Leader)

Christian journey has hills and valleys

Christ changes us into His likeness

Tools for the Journey -Prayer & share groups & Monthly Reunions

- Conduct P & S model

- Conduct Participant Family Prayer Circle



Team Devotional Guide

Humility-3

Humility-3

I urge you, then – I who am a prisoner because I serve the Lord: live a life that measures up to the standard God set when He called you.

Ephesians 4:1

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What kind of progress am I making in measuring up to God's standard?

Prayer Focus: Those who are prisoners because they serve Christ

My prayers go out for...

Inspiring to Excellence

Pride is a funny thing. We know that a prideful spirit is a sin, but it's "funny" how pride works – how pride gets in the way of the Spirit.

The talks that are given on the Kairos weekend all blend together to form one message. So, no talk stands by itself. It relies on the message of the talks that come before it, and it lays foundation for the talks that come after it.

We ask the persons who give the talks to be obedient to the talk's outline. They must make sure that they are good stewards of the talk. They must share how their journey gives evidence to the truth found in the talk. And they must do this in a way where they make themselves vulnerable. Vulnerable – to the Holy Spirit, the team, and the residents.

We ask every speaker to realize that the team "owns" the talk, and that the speaker is accountable to the team for their portion of the larger "Talk". So, every talk must be heard and reviewed by team members. This review is often called a "critique".

Rather than "critiquing" a talk, think of this review as a chance to inspire others to excellence. Let the spirit of those reviewing the talk be one that will lift up the speaker and encourage them even as you lovingly correct problems or suggest improvements.

Let the speaker's approach the talk reviews not with that troublesome, prideful spirit, but with humility. The speaker should earnestly listen and respond to the reviewer's suggestions which are offered in love.

Inspire others to excellence? Wouldn't our world be a better place if we lived to inspire rather than to critique?



And because of God's gracious gift to me, I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

Romans 12:3

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can we help people entrapped in pride?

Prayer Focus: Christians battling with pride

My prayers go out for...

Letting Go!

Oh, how I struggle with pride. No, no – not the big chest, inflated ego kind of pride. And not the “isn't it OK to be proud of my son” kind of pride. My struggle is that I start believing that things are going well because of me! It doesn't take too long, and before you know it my thoughts are on what a good job I'm doing. God gets pushed aside so I can take credit. I start out bowed before God, but before long, it's about me.

Pride is a subtle thing. It creeps into your heart – just a little. It won't bother anything. And left there, it begins to grow – not too fast or else it would be noticed. No, slow and steady – that's the way pride works. It takes tip toes in. Then, before you realize it, it flares up – me, me, me, my, my, my, I, I, I.

Pride can be a problem when it comes to our dress code on a Kairos. We are not to do anything that brings attention or glory to ourselves. And yet, for some, our clothing yells out look at me! What's wrong with nice clothes? I don't see a problem. This is overreacting.

No – this is pride speaking. Shake pride out for this Kairos. Purge yourself of its self focused hold on you. Our brothers or sisters in prison can easily be distracted by the things of this world. Don't let overly nice clothing distinguish you or set you apart. Don't let your choices become the source for a resident to covet your stuff! Don't let your pride become a source of sin for someone else!

Clothing Guidelines

- No Logos on shirts
- No T-Shirts – Must have collars
- No shorts
- No tight fitting clothing
- No short skirts
- No low cut/revealing blouses
- No excessive makeup
- No outrageous haircuts
- No overdone jewelry



So then, we must always aim at those things that bring peace and that help strengthen one another.

Romans 14:19

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have I chosen to help strengthen someone even though it wasn't what I wanted?

Prayer Focus: Persons who set their desires aside for Christ

My prayers go out for...

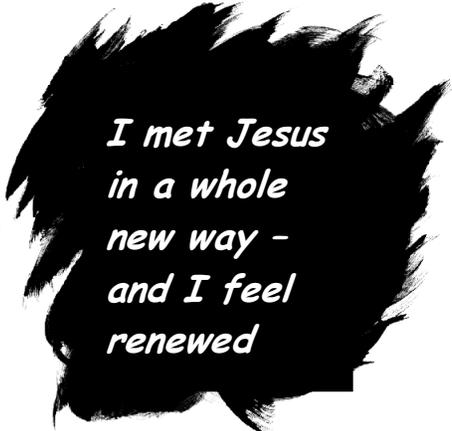
What Makes You Strong

Have you ever felt weak? I mean, like you didn't have enough to keep going. Felt like giving up? Overwhelmed? It's OK, you're among friends and family. We won't hurt you.

It's hard to do, isn't it? Talk about your weakness, that is. We just don't do that. We need to be strong.

The last shall be first. The weak shall be strong. God's way. Yep. God says His world is not like our world. His world is background. We don't need to be strong. We need to acknowledge that we are weak! We need to become vulnerable in our spirit As we humbly acknowledge that we are weak – that we are nothing without Christ.

We are nothing without Christ. And with Him, we are everything! We are strong not because of us – but because of Jesus.



***I met Jesus
in a whole
new way -
and I feel
renewed***



Gratitude-I

Gratitude-I

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. "Take and eat it," He said; "This is my body." Then He took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink it, all of you," He said; "This is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 25:26-28

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What am I thankful for?

Prayer Focus: Persons who don't know Jesus

My prayers go out for...

A Thankful Life

Are you thankful? I mean – Do you live life with a thankful attitude? Think about your life for a moment. Do you live with a thankful spirit? Think about the people around you in life. What would they say about how you live your life?

Gratitude is a hallmark of the Christian. Gratitude expresses itself in thanksgiving. It deepens and enriches our relationship with God. We're needy and thankful for the blessings we've received. Thankful for the very love of God. Thankful just because God loves me!

Imagine how God feels when He sees that our hearts are truly thankful. I can just see that loving smile. His heart is warmed. I love Him so. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Jesus. Thank you.

How have you expressed your thankfulness this week?



**I can't say
thank God
enough for
this
blessing**



Team Devotional Guide

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the father.

Gratitude-2

Ephesians 5:20

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How do we develop a thankful heart?

Prayer Focus: Thanksgiving for our blessings

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-2

Thank You for Being There

What a wonderful blessing it is to be a sponsor on a Cursillo/Walk to Emmaus! Your heart is warmed as you help usher that friend, that loved one up close to the heartbeat of God. What an experience – to help make a disciple!

In Kairos, being a Host is very unlike it is in Cursillo/Walk to Emmaus, and for good reasons – you didn't select the participant you will host. The participant's environment is totally alien to your environment. You don't live in the Christian Community that the participant will join! In fact, everything in Kairos is aimed at encouraging the resident to form a community with other residents instead of with team members.

The prison is the environment in which they live and in which they must find Christ and Christ's community. It is a natural reaction to want to form community with Kairos team members. Natural, because it is "safe" as compared to taking a chance at being vulnerable to another inmates.

As a Host, you help the participant feel comfortable, safe at being part of the Christian community. Make sure that your time with the participant on Thursday night and Friday morning isn't rushed. Let it be friendly and natural. Remember – you are helping find a home in a new family, the family of Christ in the prison.

Host Activities – Getting Started

Thursday afternoon

- *Greet participant with a warm smile*
- *Take the participant to get some refreshment and be seated*
- *Review the introduction card together*
- *Make mental note regarding their grasp of the language and their ability to read.*
- *Give them your undivided attention – make them feel "special"*
- *Give the participant a friendly goodbye at the door*



Team Devotional Guide

Gratitude-3

When one of them say that he was healed, he came back, praising God or a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked Him

Luke 17:15-16

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Do you need Christ's healing?

Prayer Focus: Kairos Brothers & Sisters who are thankful even though they are in prison

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-3

God's Special Time

When I first heard that Kairos means God's Special Time, it reminded me of the Bible verses "to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." The special timing of events are designed by God and He Himself arranges and promotes these events so that His will may be done.

I've come to understand that God may use a string of occurrences to bring about His special purposes. When God told Philip to go to an intersection along the desert highway, He didn't tell him who he would meet there. Likewise, the Kairos men who came to me here in my prison desert didn't know me either, but God knew us both and through their obedience, both of our paths came together in God's Special Time. Love spoken is love heard, but love in action is what shook the ground. One man's obedient actions can change another man's eternal destination and wayward course. And, so it is with Kairos.

God sent someone who took the time to make a difference for me. The Zack now has greatly evolved from the Zack I once was – the incorrigible is now the encourager. Not by simply hearing God's love but by experiencing it in action. I may not possess the voice of that angel, but I am a living testimony of the impact that many have had inside these prison walls.

An S.O.S. is not just for the Coast Guard, but for anyone who hears to respond. So, let us not pass by on the other side of the road, but like the Samaritan, stop and make a difference in just one man's life. Who knows, maybe this is your designed God's Special Time!

If my prodigal past took me from my first love (God) through the night life, the Marine Corps, the streets, drugs, crime, and prison, and then through redemption back to God, then there's also hope for many others in prison.

Zack Smith

Kairos # 16

Used with permission



Team Devotional Guide

Gratitude-4!

I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way we must help the weak, remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.

Acts 20:35

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Why is giving a better way than receiving?

Prayer Focus: Persons who live with open hands

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-4!

The Source of Life!

Have you ever been to the Dead Sea near Jerusalem? To its north is the Sea of Galilee. It's alive with life and activity. Kids play in its waters. Fishermen make a living from its abundance.

The Water of the Sea of Galilee flows south through the Jordan River to the Dead Sea. Nothing lives there. No one plays in its waters. It is dead! Same water as the Sea of Galilee, but instead of life there is death. Why?

The Sea of Galilee receives its waters, then gives them away to the Jordan River. The Dead Sea receives the very same water, but it holds on to it. The Dead Sea has no outlet. It receives and keeps. The Sea of Galilee receives and gives.

*The difference between life and death? **God intended us to receive and give.** In the giving away, we find life. When we seek to hold on – to gather the stuff of life, we find death. We are out of step with God.*

That's the way it is with Agape love. Love first received, then given away. Given freely – and given away freely. No strings attached.





Team Devotional Guide

Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.

Gratitude-5

Matthew 11:28

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How does Jesus give us rest?

Prayer Focus: Correctional officers

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-5

Double Blessings

There she was – hurt. You could tell just by looking. Don't know what happened to her in the past, but she was hurting now. Look at her eyes. Empty. No life there. Just going through the motions.

I wonder what happened to her that left her like this. I wonder, was she deserted once? Has she been let down? Let down over and over? Let down so many times that now, she expects to be let down.

“Move along,” she says. She's a guard. No, a correctional officer. That's what she is to Kairos – correctional officer. But she may not be that to the residents.

For many officers, there is a long trail at being disappointed by the residents. They become jaded – cynical – and frustrated. It wears on you – you know? They may even become hard hearted, even cruel.

She's really more than a correctional officer, you know? She's a Child of God! Even if she's not a believer, she is still God's child. And she deserves more!

What, you ask? How about prayers? Prayers – for her Spirit – for her Salvation – for new eyes to see – for a new heart to love.

How about encouragement to lift her up? How about love – to wash her clean for Christ? How about respect? Kairos Team Members need to be respectful to the officers, and to love them.

Come to think about it, you have a chance to minister to the incarcerated and to the incarcerator! What a blessing!



Compassion-I

If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.

Matthew 6:14-15

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who do I need to forgive?

Prayer Focus: Hearts so hardened that they can't forgive

My prayers go out for...

Compassion-I

At the Foot of the Table

Can you have love without having compassion? I mean, if you love – love like Christ loves – doesn't that mean that you have to be compassionate?

Compassion. Saying "I am part of this. I will listen. I will love," that's compassion. Saying I will journey the road with you, that's compassion. Providing a listening heart, that's compassion.

Superiority – now, that's not compassion. Feeling and acting superior to someone is not compassion. And neither is spiritual superiority! Coming to the table with a heart that's saying "I'm better" instead of "But by the Grace of God" is not compassion. "I'm better than you." Oh, how that hurts. Oh, how judging that is. Oh, how Jesus' heart must hurt.

In Kairos we strive to love, and compassion springs from that love. Not our love, but Christ's love – Agape Love. And, in that loving, if we will sit ourselves at the foot of the table instead of at the head of the table, we will discover anew the meaning of compassion.



Compassion-2

Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them..

Matthew 5:7

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How have you been a recipient of mercy and compassion?

Prayer Focus: Those who need mercy and compassion

My prayers go out to...

Compassion-2

Day 1 Overview

(Standard, Red Manual Schedule)

2:30pm Inside Team leaves for Prison

4:45pm Participants arrive

Greeted by the Hosts

5:20pm Leader's opening talk

Introductions

7:00pm Chapel

8:00pm Candidates leave

Set up Community Room

8:20pm Leave prison

9:00pm Dinner with Support Team

9:40pm Team Meeting

- Name Changes

- Language/literacy issues



Team Devotional Guide

A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat.

Compassion-3

Luke 7:36

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How did Jesus have compassion by having dinner with the Pharisee?

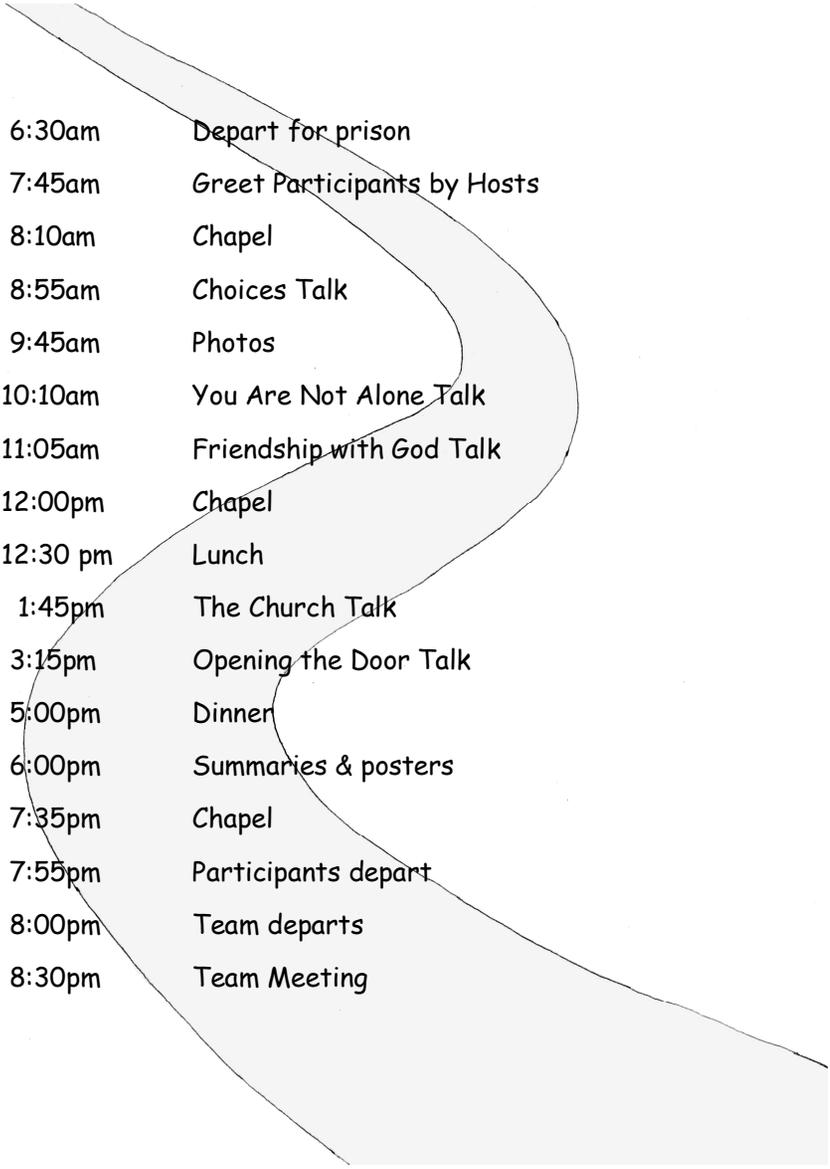
Prayer Focus: Those who are compassionate to their enemies

My prayers go out for...

Compassion-3

Day 2 Overview

(Standard, Red Manual Schedule)



6:30am	Depart for prison
7:45am	Greet Participants by Hosts
8:10am	Chapel
8:55am	Choices Talk
9:45am	Photos
10:10am	You Are Not Alone Talk
11:05am	Friendship with God Talk
12:00pm	Chapel
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:45pm	The Church Talk
3:15pm	Opening the Door Talk
5:00pm	Dinner
6:00pm	Summaries & posters
7:35pm	Chapel
7:55pm	Participants depart
8:00pm	Team departs
8:30pm	Team Meeting



Compassion-4

Compassion-4

You are the people of God; He loved you and chose you for His own. So, then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What do you like about this Godly "wardrobe"?

Prayer Focus: Prisoners who don't know of compassion

My prayers go out for...

Day 3 Overview

(Standard, Red Manual Schedule)

- 6:30am Depart for prison
- 7:45am Greet Participants by Hosts
- 8:00am Chapel
- 9:00am Discovery Through Study Talk
- 10:30am Chapel Visits Begin
- 11:15am Christian Action Talk
- 12:10am Lunch
- 1:20pm Personal Agape Letters
- 1:15pm The Wall Meditation & Discussion
- 3:15pm Poster Party
- 4:15pm Dinner
- 5:00pm Summary of the Day
- 5:10pm Open Mike
- 6:30pm Chapel - Forgiveness Windup
- 7:40pm Participants depart
- 7:45pm Team departs
- 8:15pm Team Meeting



Jesus answered, "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.

John 4:13a

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How have you tasted living water?

Prayer Focus: Those who thirst for Jesus

My prayers go out for...

Day Four Overview

(Standard, Red Manual Schedule)

- 6:00am Depart for prison
- 7:45am Greet Participants
- 8:10am Chapel
 - Healing Past Memories
 - Rooster Story
- 9:10am Obstacles to Accepting God's Grace Talk
- 10:20am Walking in God's Grace Talk
- 11:00pm Lunch
- 11:45pm Hang in There Talk
 - Prayer & Share Example
 - Family Prayer Circle
- 1:15pm Leader's Final Talk
- 1:35pm Blessing of Crosses
- 2:30pm Closing
- 4:00pm Closing Concludes

The details of how and when people leave is at the direction of security



Team Devotional Guide

Affirmation-I

He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How has God helped me?

Prayer Focus: That people who need my help become clear to me

My prayers go out for...

Affirmation-I

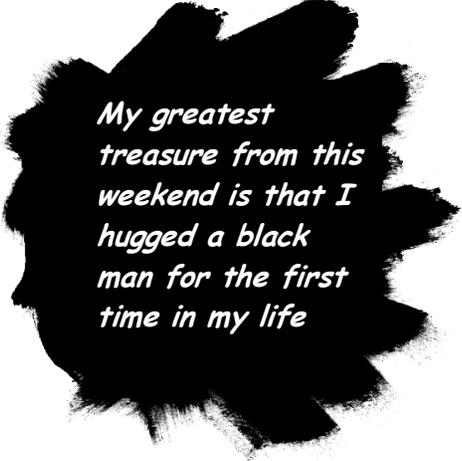
Loving Leads to Worthiness

Kairos is a ministry of affirmation. A ministry that says. "You are worthwhile to the Creator of the Universe!" As Kairos Team Members, we offer a loving affirmation of the person. How? We listen.... And we love!

Affirmation is so important to the human experience. Without it, we wither away on the vine. We fall away from the community, and the Lord. But when we are affirmed, our souls soar!

Affirmation on a Kairos starts with the Team. We should not enter the prison when we are questioning our own worth. How can we affirm when we need affirmation?

Worthiness – Where does it spring from? It comes with the courage to make yourself vulnerable. In our vulnerability, we become healed. We become whole. We become God's ministers.



My greatest treasure from this weekend is that I hugged a black man for the first time in my life



Team Devotional Guide

And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.

Affirmation-2

1 Thessalonians 5:11

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who do I need to encourage on this team?

Prayer Focus: My Kairos teammates

My prayers go out for...

Affirmation-2

Whispers From God

I love you! Aren't those special words? When you hear those words from people who are important to you, doesn't your spirit soar? When you are walking through troubling times, those little words whispered to you can change everything!

Who do you want to hear whispering those words to you? I wonder who inmates would want to hear whispering "I love you?" Can you imagine the Master of all life, the very creator of the universe, the author of love itself, the one who existed before time, the one and only God whispering those words to you? Think about that – the Holy Creator of life itself wanting you to know that He loves you. You! Can you imagine the impact it has on someone who hasn't known love very much to hear God whispering "I love you?"

God does that on a Kairos, you know. Oh, He uses His family to speak the words. And their words may not literally be those three little words. But there is no doubt that the inmate hears "I love you!"

On Sunday of the Kairos, the Table Family will participate in a prayer circle. One by one, every family member will get a chance to stand behind every member of the family, put their hands on the shoulders of their family members, lean over and whisper a prayer for them. A simple prayer. Short. Nothing fancy. But, oh - how profound.

The words express appreciation and affirmation. The words will bring smiles. And the words will quickly slip from memory. But what won't be forgotten – never forgotten – is what the inmates heard in those whispers from their family. They heard their Creator, their Lord whisper "I love you."

Imagine your teammates, sitting in a circle, and you go from person to person, standing behind them, and coming over to whisper a short word of love and affirmation. Imagine each team member.

What do you want to say to them on behalf of God?



Team Devotional Guide

We urge you, our brothers, to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak and be patient with everyone.

Affirmation-3

1 Thessalonians 5:14

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Where have I fallen down on this team?

Prayer Focus: That I may be strong in Christ on this Kairos

My prayers go out for...

Affirmation-3

My Wish for You

People like to make wishes. Sort of childlike wishes. Do you remember? I remember as a child wishing with all my heart for “this” or “that.” And we wished, and we wished. Do you remember?

Oh, how sweet those times were. We don’t “wish upon a star” much anymore. Too bad. Wishing has a childlike magic to it that’s really contagious.

Let’s have a little fun again! Let’s make a wish. A wish for this Team. A wish for specific people on the Team. Here, write down those wishes:

I wish....

Now, what are you waiting for? Go ahead. Actually tell the people you had a wish for that you love them, and you have a wish for them.



**I wish that
I could stay
here
surrounded
by all this
love!**



Team Devotional Guide

Affirmation-4

When he arrived and saw how God had blessed the people, he was glad and urged them all to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts..

Acts 11:23

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who needs my encouragement?

Prayer Focus: Kairos Brothers & Sisters who have fallen away

My prayers go out for...

Affirmation-4

When I Stumble

Have you ever noticed how it's when you are starting to feel really confident in life that you stumble? You know – something happens to foul up the “stuff” you were doing. Seems like there's a connection between a confident spirit and stumbling.

Why is that? Is it just chance? Or is it that when we get so full of what great things we're doing that we miss the important stuff and we just sort of trip up? It happens to us all, doesn't it? We take our eyes off the really important thing – the love of Jesus. And we start to worry about what we want.

Some of our Team Members may be stumbling as we journey the Kairos Road together. Oh, how we hurt when we see them trip up. Some may even fall down & get really hurt. It pains us to see it.

So, what do we do? Watch? No – we carry Christ's love into action. We mobilize. We go to our brother or sister and put a loving arm around them – and then we “Listen, Listen, Love, Love”



Team Devotional Guide

All of you may proclaim God's message, one by one, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged.

Affirmation-5

1 Corinthians 14:31

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What keeps me from being an encourager?

Prayer Focus: My pastor

My prayers go out for...

Affirmation-5

My Encourager

Who encouraged you when you were growing up? Who was there, cheering you on? Who ran beside you, helping you to stay the course? Was it a parent? A brother? A sister? A near-by relative? A friend? A pastor?

Encouragers are really important people. Their words of encouragement spring from their love for you. They love you, and it feels so good.

How about now? Still getting encouragement? Maybe not! But we were blessed on our journey to have had someone who spurred us on. We really were blessed.

Perhaps now, it's time for us to be the encourager! Who is on this Team that I need to encourage? Who needs to hear my loving words?

Lord Jesus, Give me the Heart to bring Your encouragement to another!