Escape & Pray

D.I.Y

Devotional Pack



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## 12 days of #EscapeAndPray Preparation

Sometimes unprepared can be seen as spiritual.

It's not true.

Jesus says “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?" (Luke 14:28)

It's important to prepare for the mission and count the cost. These 12 reflections are designed to prepare you for the unplanned, and to help you excel at improvising with the Holy Spirit whilst on mission.

Here's how to get the best out of the reflections:

1. Make time. Don't rush, you're not reading a facebook status, so read the passage twice through slowly, prayerfully, and with God.
2. Follow the prayers, actions, and journal to help you reflect on what God's saying.
3. Do all twelve reflections and review each day with your team.

Enjoy!

**The Fusion Team**

##

## Day 1: #EscapeAndPray

**The Aim**

"To help every university student connect with a church in Europe" and "to help every church connect with the university students of Europe."

More than that, the aim is to stay alert to the Holy Spirit and pray, prophesy, serve and bless others as you are led to.

**The Vision**

#**EscapeAndPray** is part of a vision to see a net cast over Europe for a great catch in the sea of university students.

**The Way**

A net of relationships built on love across many churches, students and believers.

**A Tool**

A tool to "knit" the net together is Student Linkup. There is an app and website that you can invite a student or church to sign up to: www.studentlinkup.org

**Will you help create the net on** #**EscapeAndPray?**

1. Pray for workers to be raised up in the city you visit.
2. Find the churches in the city and ask them to create a church profile at [www.studentlinkup.org](http://www.studentlinkup.org)
3. Stay focused on the mission: follow the #EscapeAndPray guide and give out the calling cards.

**Prayer for Europe's students:**

May these students see

Their Father running toward them.

May they feel his embrace,

And hear his tender words.

May their hearts come alive

And their minds awaken.

May they go on this wild adventure

To risk all to share the Father’s love.

**Action**

The above prayer is a declaration over Europe. Now it’s your turn to write your own prayer as a declaration. Write and hone your prayer until you feel it reflects God’s heart. Pray it every day in the lead up to #EscapeAndPray and share your prayers as a team. **Take it on your trip ready to pray in the place you go**.

## Day 2: Chosen

**Read Luke 10:1**

After this **the Lord appointed** seventy-twoothers **and sent them** two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

1. Pause, close your eyes, still yourself.
2. Ask for the Holy Spirit to come and wait for signs of His Presence; peace and joy.
3. Read the scenario below, slowly and purposefully, as you engage your imagination.

Imagine yourself in a battle, getting ready to enter into enemy held territory.

Adrenaline is pumping, palms are sweating, your eyes are fixed ahead.

Do you allow fear to overcome or courage to rise?

You stand shoulder to shoulder with your friend and fellow warrior. You're steadied by one another's presence.

A firm hand is placed on your shoulders. It's your commander, Jesus, and He is with you.

The worries swirling around your heart dissipate, strength wells up as Jesus speaks over you the words of his Father- *your* Father.

The words baptise you in confidence. You sense his authority is now yours. Where you go, He is going, and your Father is waiting.

He then grabs your shoulders and propels (“sends”) you both onto the battlefield shouting “go!”

You're commissioned to take ground from an enemy who is starving and isolating a generation from God’s love. Be strong!

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**Prayer (dialogue and journal your response)**

What are you feeling as you anticipate E&P?

In the meditation, when Jesus laid his hand on you, what did he say?

**Action:**

Take some time alone and quiet to be with God. Ask him about how he sees you.

## Day 3: Prepare the Way

**Read Luke 10:1**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-twoothers and sent them two by two **ahead of him** to every town and place **where he was about to go**.

Your trip is short, but it can be sweet, as you prepare the way for God to raise up new workers and partnerships in the city you visit. You’re part of a much bigger story to be outworked in the city you visit.

Jesus' intention is that your prayers and interactions with people prepare the way for more of God’s Kingdom. **You're going where He's going**.

This is a [reconnaissance](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reconnaissance) mission - exploring the territory that will be confronted by God’s Kingdom. It’s spiritual warfare; your weapons are your prayers! Each prayer can tear down a barrier to the gospel and prepare the way for more of God’s Kingdom to come.

Your prayers are prophetic and powerful. They can change the atmosphere of a university and city, so that students become more open to the gospel and serve a Kingdom agenda.

Remember on your reconnaissance mission to **connect with what God's already doing with the church**. Pray for the church and share the vision of a net across Europe being formed to bring in a huge catch of students.

During your preparation and visit keep asking the Father: “**What do you want to do in this place?”** Your prayers prepare the way for this to happen.

**Prayer:**

Father God, thank you that your Kingdom is Light and the powers of darkness have no ultimate future in the universities. Use our team to prepare the way for more workers and more Kingdom outposts. Amen.

**Action:**

Ask God "What do you want us to prepare for you in this place?" Journal the response.

## Day 4: Team Play

**Read Luke 10:1**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them **two by two** ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

Jesus sends us out in twos because mission is a team sport. The challenge ahead for your team is to not just survive but thrive. So, how can you position yourself for that?

**1.Always Pray**

Pray before you go, and on the go. Start your prayer by thanking God for anything and everything then launch into faith filled big asks for God to move.

**2. Identify Purpose**

Teams can go wrong when they forget their purpose. #EscapeAndPray is part of a vision to see a net cast over Europe for a great catch in the sea of university students. You are part of "mending" the net by **praying and connecting** with the church in Europe. The #EscapeAndPray commandments can help keep you focused.

**3. Know your People**

Who is on your team? What are their strengths and weaknesses? Work out how you can best work together, avoid rubbing each other up the wrong way, and stay focused on the mission.

**4. Keep Persevering**

The needs of food and shelter can dominate our thoughts and cause a stress as a team. Why not fast in the lead up to E&P? Be prepared to miss a meal or a few! Be aware people might ignore you, misunderstand or even be rude. Don't let your head drop - you're blessed! Pray, encourage one another, and move forward together.

**Prayer**

Father, thank you that you want us to work as a team. Help us grow together as we go together. Thank you for your blessing as we maintain unity and focus on our goal to "mend the net".

**Action:**

Take an evening out with your team to pray and chat about the trip.

Find out your mission style at [www.missionstyles.org](http://www.missionstyles.org) and discuss with your team what it is and how you might complement each other on your #escapeandpray mission.

## Day 5: Higher Vantage Point

**Read Luke 10:2**

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

Jesus shared these words with those who knew all about harvests - it's what they lived for. Jesus was saying, just as the fields are ready to harvest, **there will be people open to us and our message.**

For us in Europe, the idea of people being "ready" can be challenging. We can buy into the fake news of young people being uninterested in faith. It's almost like, in Europe, we've believed that Jesus said "the harvest has failed, we don't need any workers."

#EscapeAndPray is a faith statement from a generation in Europe saying "God is sending us as workers because the harvest IS ripe!" So, be ready because there are people who've been prepared for you and your message.

Jesus' words take us to a higher vantage point: to see from God's perspective. Everyone is made by God and for God, and he's placed them where they are so they might hear about God ([Acts 17:26,27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2017:26-27)).

God will be at work on the hearts of the people you meet. Your job is to love everyone, avoid annoying those not ready, and find those open. It's a great game of hide and seek. God is hiding treasure on your trip, are you willing to find where he's hidden in it?

Choose to believe the reality Jesus portrays for us - the harvest is ripe - say it, pray it, remind one another as team. This will be your great challenge as it was for the disciples.

**Prayer**

Father, I agree with your word. You are preparing people for me to meet on this trip who are open and ready to share what God’s given them. Amen

**Action:**

Ask God to show you that the harvest is ripe.

## Day 6: The Essential Prayer

**Read Luke 10:2**

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go!"

Don't you just hate wastage? I remember being in Zimbabwe during a time where there was a hungry population, a good crop, but not enough skilled workers to bring it in. Jesus doesn't say ask for a harvest, he says ask for workers. We need workers across Europe, skilled up and ready to get stuck in.

#EscapeAndPray is about praying for workers to rise up across Europe’s churches to reach university students. Below are some ideas to inspire your prayers now and later.

**Who are you addressing?**

"The Lord of the harvest"

The Lord is the owner. The people or harvest belong to Jesus. He loves people to the point of death, so we can confidently ask that he will act to raise up workers to love like he loves.

**What are you asking for?**

**"To send out..."**

The Greek words translated "send out" at the root level means "drive out, expel." There's no room for molly coddling in this commission, ask Jesus to propel workers with the momentum and perseverance to love students.

Workers that are sent like this are compelled by heaven's invitation, not religious duty. Pray that the call for workers goes deep into the hearts of many in Europe and they are propelled from that deep place to go. This is nothing less than the awesome power of the Holy Spirit.

**"..Workers"**

Lets pray for workers rooted in local church families fuelled by the father's love.

That make disciples, form community and train leaders.

**Action /Prayer:**

Time to practice your prayer. Get a map of Europe and pray for workers in every university city to rise up and be part of the net over Europe's universities.

## Day 7: Mission Focus

Read verses Luke 10:3-8

3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 5 “When you enter a house, first say…"

Time to get practical.

1. Travel light, a small bag and €20 will be enough -we’re pilgrims, not tourists
2. Stay focused; don’t get distracted, worry, waste time or do anything stupid.
3. Be friendly, greet people, tell them what you're doing and be open to receive an offer of hospitality.\*
4. Pray for peace (safety, reconciliation, healing) to come upon the "house"- the people you meet, the campus and any places you go.
5. Share your faith and offer to pray for people where appropriate. You could ask “'If God could do a miracle in your life, what would it be?
6. Look to connect with a local church, share what you're doing - you've come to pray and connect (remember to share Student Linkup).
7. Consider remaining in touch with people you meet and whether God is building a longer term relationship with your group/church/Fusion.

**Prayer**

Lord, thank you that you're preparing people of peace to meet on #EscapeAndPray. Help us to see who these people are, connect with them and love them well.

**Action**

Go out one day/evening with one or two others to practice finding "people of peace" - people open to you and your message.

\*Be sensible, be safe, you're adults!

## Day 8: Facing Fear

**Read Luke 10:9**

Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

Have you ever prayed for healing? And then followed it up by asking "are you feeling any better?" It can feel a bit scary, almost like God's reputation is on the line!

We've all seen cringey claims of healing. The problem with focusing on the dysfunctional is that we fail to actually demonstrate faith that can make a difference. Healing becomes theoretical, an awkward debate and comfort rules.

Jesus' instructions are "heal the sick".

We think, "arghhh we can't heal, we don't have power to heal!" Or do we? Jesus places the responsibility to heal in our corner. Why? Well, it seems when Jesus sends us out, he really believes we have his authority to heal.

So, how about laying theory aside and putting Jesus’ words to the test!

Some simple instructions when the opportunity comes to heal the sick.

1. Ask if you can place a hand on their body and pray for healing.
2. Keep your eyes open.
3. Command in a normal voice the pain/sickness to leave (this is a very short prayer!)
4. Ask the person if there is ANY change.
5. If there is, thank God, and command healing again if necessary.
6. Tell them what they're experiencing (Jesus’ love and power).
7. Keep repeating until they're healed / had enough!

**Prayer**

Lord, thank you that you've given me authority to heal. Give me courage to step out and test this authority and perseverance until I see people healed as a sign of your love. Amen

**Action**

If you know anyone sick or meet someone saying they're in need of healing then practice Jesus' ministry of healing.

## Day 9: Rejection proof

**Read Luke 10: 10-16**

10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say… 16 “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

Have you been to a place and not felt welcome? It happens. It could be you, it could be them. It doesn't matter why, it matters what happens next. Do you retain the right perspective?

As Jesus' ambassadors you need to know that the Kingdom drawing near is based on Jesus and not a person's response. We’re not in control of people's responses. We're to do our absolute best to follow Jesus' instructions and trust the Holy Spirit to make up the difference.

Be assured that you are a living, breathing, walking temple of God. You’re taking your cues from the Holy Spirit within not just the circumstances you’re facing.

Misunderstanding frustrates. Disappointment aches. Rejection hurts.

Jesus knows this is going to happen and he wants to prepare you for it and ensure you’re strong enough to keep moving forward.

As Jesus' ambassadors you are carrying a message which can be rejected. It's not you, it's the one who sent you. "Failure" as much as "success" is designed to form you in Christlikeness. Persecution brings perfection. Don't resist it, you're rejection proof.

Keep moving forward on this ancient path.

**Prayer:**

Thank you Father that I am accepted and free in your Son. I never need to fear rejection, misunderstanding and disappointment. Strengthen me with a revelation of who I am as your loved son /daughter.

**Action:**

Memorise ONE verse about who God is that will provide a firm foundation for your mission ahead. Share this “rejection proof” verse with your team.

## Day 10: Joy

**Read Luke 10: 17-21**

v20...do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.”

What's the greatest joy you've experienced? Usually joy is associated with an outward circumstance. Jesus takes joy out of view and places it firmly in a hidden place. Jesus gives us an insight to an unconditional joy.

The disciples come back from their mission excited by the results. People are freed, it's dramatic, they feel powerful! Jesus responds to their obvious joy by redirecting them toward a different source. One without limits.

You cannot plumb the depths of this joy. Jesus says "rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Names in hebrew culture refer to a person's identity. Jesus is directing us toward our eternal identity - our position in God as his children.

Rejoice! Get excited! Who you are isn't transient or temporary, your joy is sourced in your eternal nature as a beloved son or daughter of God.

God is pleased when we find joy in who we are and not what we do. Whether there are dramatic responses on #EscapeAndPray or hardships, remember joy is found in who you are not people’s response. Breathe deep and enjoy that truth washing over you.

**Prayer**

Thank you God that you call me your son/daughter and share your joy with me. Help me enjoy who you are more than what I do.

**Action**

Find a funny clip on youtube and watch it “with God”. Laughter is medicine to our souls and can prepare us to not take ourselves too seriously.

## Day 11: Opportunity knocks

**Read Luke 10:22-24**

23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

We live in extraordinary days with incredible opportunity.

Student numbers have increased500% in the last 25 years.

Never has there been such an opportunity for the gospel to shape so many of the future leaders of society in nations.

Internet and social media have created a whole new way of connecting.

Never has there been such an opportunity for the gospel to spread far and fast, taking no account of borders or denominations.

Europe hosts the most non religious people in the world, immune from most traditional forms of gospel presentation and churches.

Never has there been such an opportunity to be creative in sharing the gospel, forming community and sending people on student mission.

The church's vision and passion to reach, disciple and church plant among students has never been greater.

Never has there been such an opportunity to see workers sent into the harvest fields of the universities.

You are an answer to the prayers of generations that long to see workers raised up across Europe to be bold, take risks and see God's Kingdom come.

Do you see the day we're living in?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, show me the opportunities on #EscapeAndPray to do what can only be done in my generation.

**Action:**

Write down all the benefits you have living at this time in history. Thank God and ask Him how they can be used to be more successful on mission.

## Day 12: It’s over to you!

Now you’re prepared and confident in what your mission is, it’s over to you. However you and your team have chosen to do Escape & Pray, you can be sure that there’s a brilliant adventure in store. It may be unplanned, but you are *ready*.

**Action**

Spend some time with your team (why not share a meal together the evening beforehand?), praying for one another, and for the people you’re going to meet. Ang get a good night’s sleep!

Stay blessed, trust God and take your best prayers with you. You're jumping into the flow of God's Spirit - hold on, it's going to be wild!

*Enjoy the adventure.*

**The Fusion Team**