

Essentials

Besides a toothbrush and a warm coat, there are some very important things that you will need to have packed in your head and heart to make this trip valuable for yourself and everyone else traveling in our group. In the two weeks (or “fortnight” if you’re brushing up on Brit-speak”) prior to take-off, you will receive some encouragement to pack well. Each day, *Beyond the Books Tours* will send you a new “item” to explore. Read the content, including



the scripture, and ask yourself the questions that follow. Finish each day with a short journal evaluation of your preparedness in this area.

While we are traveling, we will have short discussions based on these essentials. Be prepared to share this part of your heart journey with the rest of us.

Here are the **essentials** you’ll need to bring:

- Contentment
- Grace
- Integrity
- **Resourcefulness** (*see sample on next page*)
- Humility
- Forgiveness
- Discernment
- Hope
- Faithfulness
- Resilience
- Authenticity
- Generosity
- Adaptability
- Compassion



Essentials to Pack

Resourcefulness

How many times this week have I had to look my very capable kids in the eye and say, “Figure it out yourself. Be resourceful! You got this!” My mom had a handwritten note on our fridge as I was growing up. “All you have is all you need.” At the time, I couldn’t fully appreciate what that meant – but experience and maturity has brought perspective.

This is not the pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstrap pep talk, nor am I speaking of McGyver-type resourcefulness. I’m thinking more of a resolve to acknowledge that I have all I need at my disposal spiritually, emotionally and physically to respond biblically and appropriately to the needs of the hour and the situations that God has orchestrated in my life. We are not without resources.

So how do we reconcile those moments when we honest-to-goodness have looked at every resource possible and there still is no way. We know this truth: God will never ask us to do something or be something that He does not effectively equip us for.

What about the cancer patient that has run out of resources and options? God has still provided that person with all they need to live in such a way that their objective is met – the glory of God – is still accomplished. If our highest aim and our true passion is the glory of God, then those moments when I am depleted of resources gives me even greater occasion to give thanks. Because in that moment, His abundant grace gives me the courage and the resolve not to marinate in my inability but to thrive and rejoice in His sufficiency. That’s what Paul was driving at when he said, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength”. He gives the list of the moments when there was abundance and moments of lacking and regardless of the situation, he is rock solid because the cause is Christ and not his own comfort.

But I think our greater issue is not those extreme circumstances; it is the day in day out need for a creative approach to be a wise steward of all we have. Our lavish culture has schooled us well that whenever we can’t find it, don’t have it or think we need it – we just get it. Resourcefulness says I can live contentedly with what I have and find ways to be a faithful steward of what is already in my possession. That goes for stuff and time and anything else we feel like we need more of.

Perhaps some good questions to ask might be:

Is this something that needs to be done?

Is this something that needs to be done by me?

How can I use the resources I have already to meet the need without manipulating priorities?

What is the purpose of this?

Am I in this moment thinking of the glory of God or my own relief?

So that note on the fridge...We were a missionary family with limited resources, and it required ingenuity and resourcefulness for my parents to meet the needs of our family. In addition to our family, their ministry is to the disabled and those who have lost a loved one - a vast task that will never be accomplished. They have been called on to give spiritually, emotionally and physically for the past 45 years. And yet, they are still able to get up in the morning, love and serve and laugh and cry and have joy as if nothing had ever drained their

lives. They give what they have been given and they are careful to identify what God is requiring of them and what He is not.

I need that daily reminder on my own fridge – all I have is all I need.

My possessions, my time, my skills, my family are all mine to superintend for the Kingdom. God has given me all that I need in this moment to be faithful.

Read these verses:

John 6:12

And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost."

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

How does our culture aid and abet the notion that we need more than what we have presently? (besides commercials – since we usually fast forward them!)

Where are your specific "downfalls" when it comes to wanting more than what you have or what you really need? _____

In what ways have you overextended yourself? _____

How would using only the time that you've been given and the resources you have change your view of relationships with others? _____

With God? _____
