

Short Term Missions

REACHING OUR WORLD - Small Group Resource

Short-term missions can be a powerful way to reach our world. Traditionally, missions is defined as bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ cross-culturally. Commonly throughout church history, this has been done by travelling abroad to share the gospel message. However, today, with higher rates of immigration and the amazing communication tools to which we have access, missions can happen both globally and locally! Below are some key pointers in considering and planning a short-term mission.

- Where is the furthest or most unique place that you have ever travelled and why?
- What cultures, countries, or people groups do you most enjoy? Which ones are you interested in learning more about or getting to know better?
- What international injustices or needs would you want to fix/eradicate? Why would this be important to you? How would you describe your level of passion for it?
- In what ways have you connected with, stayed informed about, or served the mission field?
- What skills, gifts, talents or resources are you equipped with that you would like to share with others?
- How can we as a small group reach our world for Christ through short-term missions?



*Small Group
Dialogue*

Additional Leader Resources

- Debriefing Small Group Activities - Small Group Resource
- *Helping Without Hurting* by Steve Corbett
- Heartland Global Partnerships - Small Group Resource
- *How to Get Ready for Short-Term Missions* by Anne-Geri' Fann & Gregory Taylor
- "Missions: The Heart of God" Sermon, The Gospel of John Series, Pastor Al Andrus, October 19, 2019 (<https://heartland.libsyn.com/missions-the-heart-of-god>)

Planning a Short-Term Mission

Defining the vision

WHO – People and Prayer: What is the Holy Spirit saying?

- What people group are you called to serve?
- How will you spend time in prayer over the specific people and places?
- What are the team members' gifts and roles?

WHERE – Location: Where do you want to go?

- Is your group interested in something global or local?
- Are you interested in partnering with an existing organization or missionary?

WHAT – Purpose: What do you want to accomplish?

- Are you wanting to raise funds for an existing project that is already happening?
- Are you wanting to start something or build something that does not currently exist?
- Is your group wanting to focus more on the ministry of evangelism or is your group desiring to work alongside the local church?
- What do you envision outreach/ministry to look like?

WHEN – What is the timeline?

- When will you go and for how long?
- How much preparation time do you need? How many team meetings do you need before you go?
- How does fundraising, preparation, medical needs or other factors impact the timeline?

Creating momentum

GOALS – How can you prepare your people to go?

- What is the goal of your team meetings?
- For what duties, responsibilities, tasks will each team member be responsible?
- What other goals need to be in place to help you accomplish the purpose of your missions?
- How will you keep this about honouring God? What needs to take place for you and your team to have the right heart/motives throughout this mission?

SUPPORT – What spiritual and financial resources do you need?

- Invite the team members to reach out to others for prayer support and the opportunity to support financially. Keep those who want to support your mission involved with updates for prayer and the missions' status.
- What spiritual and financial resources do you need?
- Keep track of spending and what finances and supplies you need to raise. Consider doing a fundraiser to share the vision and gain support.

TEAM ENGAGEMENT – How can you keep your group connected to the heart of God and each other?

- Consider learning about the people and places you are serving. Invite those you are working with to share with your team. Pray for the missions together.
- Consider a small group study or devotional that your team can work through together in advance and/or on the missions experience to keep you connected to God.

On mission together:

- Spiritual warfare is real. Satan does not like the intentional effort of believers to share the good news and bless those in need. Cover your team in prayer, grow in understanding of spiritual warfare, and keep a prayer team praying!
- Be flexible and patient, adapting the plan as needed. Be intentional about seeking God individually and as a team throughout the trip.
- Being tired is okay. Be aware of your needs as individuals and as a team. How will you serve one another as you serve others together?
- What does it look like to rely on the Holy Spirit's provision as you serve together?
- Plan and schedule team-only times to go over the day's agenda, devotions, prayer and debriefing.
- Maintain good communication with the leadership of the mission you are serving.

Finishing well:

- Within a few weeks of your return, have a meeting to debrief with the team and evaluate the journey including both the challenges and successes of the mission.
- Discuss ideas to keep the momentum of the bigger vision going. This can include telling others of your experience.
- How can you stay connected to the mission for the longer term? Will this include recruiting others for a future trip? It's amazing if you can build a healthy partnership over a long period of time and share in seeing God at work through the mission seeds you planted.

