

MISSION TRIP READINESS BOOKLET

Video Discussion: So, You Want to Go on a Mission Trip?

- **What has been your understanding of mission trips in the past?**
 - ◇ Have you seen them primarily as a way to help, serve or give? How does the idea of *abiding* shift that perspective?
- **What does “abiding” mean to you?**
 - ◇ How have you experienced abiding in Christ in your own life? What do you think it looks like to abide with others on a mission trip?
- **The video says, “Mission trips aren’t about bringing God somewhere — He’s already there.”**
 - ◇ How does this change the way you think about your role in missions?
- **Abiding isn’t passive — it’s an active choice.**
 - ◇ What are some practical ways you can prepare your heart to be fully present, patient and engaged on this trip?
- **What does it mean to “walk alongside” others rather than try to fix their problems?**
 - ◇ How can choosing presence over productivity make your mission experience more meaningful?

PRAYER FOR AN ABIDING HEART

“Lord, help me to see beyond my own expectations. Teach me to abide — to root myself in Your love, trust Your wisdom and rest in Your grace. May I go not to fix or to prove, but to listen, love, and walk humbly alongside those I meet. Remind me that You are already at work in the places I go, and my role is not to bring You but to join You. Give me a heart that seeks depth over hurry, faithfulness over convenience, and presence over distraction. Shape me into someone who abides fully with You and others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Video Discussion: Abiding in Christ and With Others

- **Read John 15:4-5 (ESV) aloud: “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”**
- **How can abiding in Christ change the way you approach serving others?**
- **How will you remain spiritually connected throughout the trip?**
- **What challenges might you face in abiding, and how can you overcome them?**
- **How can you encourage your team members to abide in Christ together?**

PRAYER FOR ABIDING

“Lord, as I prepare for this mission, help me abide in You. Keep me rooted in Your love, seeking You before seeking results. Let my actions flow from time spent in Your presence, rather than from my own plans. Remind me that I am only a branch, and You are the vine that brings life. Help me to slow down, listen to Your voice and walk in step with Your Spirit. May I remain connected to You in every conversation, every moment and every act of service. Let my abiding in You bear the fruit of love, patience and grace in all I do. Amen.”

Video Discussion: Acting with Humility Cross-Culturally — A Focus on Listening

- Read Acts 8:26-40.
- Why is humility essential in cross-cultural missions?
- Have you ever entered a situation assuming you had all the answers, only to realize later that listening was more important? How do you see this in Acts 8?
- What practical steps can you take to listen well on this trip?
- Why is it important to listen before offering help or solutions?
- How does listening first demonstrate the love of Christ?

PRAYER FOR HUMILITY AND LISTENING

“Jesus, teach me to listen before I speak and learn before I lead. Remove my pride and help me step into this trip with an open heart, eager to serve, not to be seen. Give me ears to truly hear the stories, struggles and hopes of those I meet. Remind me that every person I encounter has something to teach me about You. Help me to resist the urge to fix or control, and instead, trust Your work in their lives. May my presence bring encouragement, not solutions — friendship, not answers. Let my humility reflect Your love, as I seek to listen well and love deeply. Amen.”

Video Discussion: People Are Not Projects

- **Read Luke 19:1-10. What do you learn from Jesus in this passage?**
- **What does it mean to see people as partners in God's work rather than as projects?**
- **How can you intentionally build relationships rather than focus solely on tasks?**
- **How can your presence be more valuable than any material project?**
- **What are some ways you can show dignity and respect to those you meet?**
- **How can you ensure that your mission trip impact continues after you leave?**

PRAYER FOR SEEING PEOPLE AS PARTNERS, NOT PROJECTS

"Father, help me to truly see the people I encounter. Open my eyes to recognize their dignity, worth and value as Your beloved children. Guard my heart against the mindset of trying to fix or improve anyone, but instead, embrace relationships over results. Teach me to walk alongside others, rather than ahead of them, as a fellow traveler in faith. May I be present, not just physically but emotionally and spiritually, honoring their stories and experiences. Let my actions be shaped by love, not productivity, and may I leave behind not just completed tasks but lasting friendships. Amen."

Video Discussion: Five Questions to Cultivate Curiosity

- **Read James 1:19.**
- **Why is it important to ask questions rather than assume you know someone's story?**
- **How do these five questions shape deeper connections?**
 - ◇ What do you love about this place?
 - ◇ What are your hopes for the future?
 - ◇ What challenges do you face?
 - ◇ Can you share a tradition you cherish?
 - ◇ How can we serve alongside you?
- **Which question resonates most with you? Why?**
- **How can curiosity lead to deeper cultural understanding?**
- **What is one thing you are excited to learn about the people and culture you'll encounter?**

PRAYER FOR FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY

“God, I surrender my plans to You. I know that things will not always go as expected, but I trust You are in every change, delay and unexpected moment. Give me patience when things don't go my way and joy in the surprises You have planned. Help me to embrace discomfort as part of the journey and see every change as an opportunity to grow in faith. Keep me focused on what truly matters — loving You and loving others. Let me walk with a spirit of trust and a heart that is open to whatever You have in store. Amen.”

Video Discussion: Preparing Your Heart and Mind

- Read Luke 10:1-20. What do you learn from Jesus in this passage?
- What fears or concerns do you have about the trip?
- What are you hoping God teaches you during this journey?
- How can you ensure you remain flexible and adaptable when plans change?
- What spiritual practices will help you stay grounded during the trip?
- How can you intentionally seek God's presence in unexpected moments?

PRAYER FOR IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION

“Lord, I pray not only for those I will serve but for my own heart as well. Let this mission be more than a trip — let it be a transformation. Use every moment to shape me into someone more like You. Open my eyes to see Your presence in unexpected places. Soften my heart to be moved by the stories and struggles of others. Help me to return home changed — more compassionate, humble and committed to living on mission every day. Let the impact of this trip extend far beyond my time there, and may Your love be what remains. Amen.”

Mission trips aren't about changing the world —

rather, they bring about **change** through the people, stories, and Spirit of God at work.

Step forward with **curiosity, humility and love**. You are ready.

Now go with open hands, open hearts and eyes that truly see.