

Essential Preparation (Major Topics)

1. Spiritual Preparation

- Importance of prayer, personal devotion, and a servant's heart.
- Emphasize humility, gospel-centeredness, and flexibility.

Why It Matters:

Before we can minister to others, we must first be spiritually grounded ourselves. A mission trip is not just a physical journey; it's a spiritual assignment. If our hearts aren't aligned with God's purposes, we risk operating in our own strength, which leads to burnout, pride, or frustration.

- **John 15:5** "Apart from Me you can do nothing."
- **Psalm 51:10** "Create in me a clean heart, O God..."
- **Ephesians 6:10-11** "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."

What You Should Do Before the Trip:

- **Daily Prayer:** Begin praying now for the people of (the country/area you are going to), for your team, for spiritual strength, and for humility. Pray that we will receive what God would have for us.
- **Read Scripture:** Stay in the Word. Focus on the life of Jesus, the book of Acts, and the Psalms for strength, and clarity.
- **Fast** (if able): Consider fasting a meal once a week leading up to the trip to seek the Lord's direction and to intercede for the team.
- **Surrender Pride:** Missions is not about being impressive, it's about being available and obedient.

What It Looks Like on the Trip:

- Be quick to pray, both alone and with others.
- Look for how God is working around you and join in.
- Keep your heart soft, especially when you feel tired, annoyed, or ineffective.
- Remember: It's not your job to "save" anyone. Only the Holy Spirit does that. You are a servant and witness.

Reflection Questions (for team devotions or journaling):

1. Am I truly prepared to serve, or am I still clinging to comfort or control?
2. What distractions or sins do I need to confess before I go?
3. Do I see myself as a servant or a savior? What does Jesus call me to be?

2. Purpose of the Mission Trip

- Clarify the goal: glorifying God, sharing the gospel, serving the local church/community, and building relationships.
- Avoiding “savior mentality”. We go as learners and servants.

Why It Matters:

It’s easy to get caught up in the excitement of traveling, serving, and seeing a new culture, but the primary purpose of this mission is to glorify God by serving others, proclaiming the gospel, and strengthening the local church. We go to (the country/area you are going to) not to be noticed, but to make Jesus known.

- **Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”**
- **1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”**
- **2 Corinthians 5:20 “We are ambassadors for Christ...”**

Core Purposes:

1. To Serve, Not to Be Served

Our posture should be one of humility and love. We follow Jesus, who washed feet and laid down His life. **“Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...” Mark 10:45**

2. To Support the Local Church

We come to encourage, equip, and empower faithful believers in (the country/area you are going to).

3. To Share the Gospel Boldly

Whether in personal conversations or public ministry, our ultimate goal is that Christ would be proclaimed and souls would be drawn to Him.

4. To Learn and Grow Spiritually

A mission trip will stretch your faith and expose your weaknesses. This is a gift. Be teachable, open, and dependent on God.

What This Means for You:

- Say no to the hero mindset. We’re going to disciple, serve, and be a witness.
- This is about being faithful to what God has asked you to do.
- Stay flexible. Sometimes the most powerful ministry moments happen in unexpected places and quiet conversations.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why am I really going on this trip? Is it for God’s glory or my own?

2. Am I prepared to take a back seat if that's what service looks like?
3. How can I honor and support the mission I'm part of?