

Short-term Mission Devotional Guide

Lesson 1: Our Missionary God



Using This Guide

We believe that serving cross-culturally on a short-term trip is fundamentally a spiritual calling. The grace that one needs to serve on a team is derived from our relationship and connection to God. Because of this truth, we believe that preparing our hearts to participate in this calling is more important than even the cultural, relational or financial preparation you'll also experience leading up to your trip.

To help with this preparation, LBC's Global Engagement team has provided this devotional study that hopefully will focus you spiritually for the journey ahead. This guide is designed for you to use privately during your personal devotional times. We encourage you to take adequate time and space to meditate on the provided Scripture using the questions provided for reflection.

Although this study is primarily for your personal use, themes and topics throughout these lessons will also be addressed during your team meeting discussions. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to work through this devotional completely to get the most out of your pre-trip preparation experience.

Introduction

1. What were some of the reasons you decided to go on a short-term trip? Describe some of the ways God used to confirm your decision to go.
2. What are some of the things you know about the ministry and/or people you're going to serve among? What excites you most of the work that they are doing?

Read & Discern: The Bible Story

The following passages are drawn from the entire breadth of the Bible story. You'll find selections from the Old and New Testaments, from the Law and the Prophets, the Gospels, and the Letters of Paul. As diverse as these passages are, you'll hopefully begin to see that there's a unifying theme that unites them all.

After reading each of the passages, make a few notes in the space provided about the primary message or focus of each. Then, take a few moments to reflect on the questions at the end of this section.

Genesis 3:5

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 18:18

1 Chronicles 16:24

Psalms 22:27

Psalms 96

Isaiah 12:4-6

Habakkuk 2:14

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 10:1-16

Acts 1:6-8

Acts 2:1-21

Romans 10:13-14

Revelation 5:9-10

1. God is often described as a missionary God. As you read through the passages above, would you agree or disagree with that description? Why?
2. What common threads do you observe between the passages you read? What characteristics or themes show up throughout?
3. Who are the “Nations”? What role do they play in the story of the Bible? What is God’s desire for these people?
4. What role do God’s people play in His mission?
5. Are there aspects or themes in these passages that surprised you? What did this selection teach you new about God’s purpose for the church and the world?

Read & Discern: Our Missionary God

READ John 20:19-23.

1. Describe the disciples in this moment. What were they doing? How would you describe their mental state?
2. Some call verse 21 “the Great Commission of John”. What similarities does this commissioning have with Matthew’s version (Matt. 28:19-20)? How are they different?

3. In what ways was Jesus sent? How did Jesus' life on earth reflect this calling?
4. Paul uses the image of an ambassador to illustrate being sent by God (see 2 Co. 5:20). Consider the job of an ambassador in our world – what is his/her function or role? What does that reveal to you about our role in God's mission?
5. Summarize in your own words what the Bible teaches about God's purpose in the world.

Reflect & Respond

1. What does Jesus' life and mission tell us about our calling as sent ones?
2. In what ways do you see yourself joining with God in His mission to the Nations?
3. How do you anticipate this missions trip challenging you to follow God more closely?