

Time Out

Group Bible Studies for Short-term Mission Trips

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Mandate for Mission | Genesis 12:1-3 Exodus 19:5-6
Psalm 67:1-2 Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 1:8
Revelation 7:9 |
| 2. | Sharing your testimony | Acts 26:1-32 |
| 3. | Staying spiritually fresh | Mark 1:35-37 Mark 6:30-32
Psalm 1:1-3 Jeremiah 17:5-8 |
| 4. | Culture and its importance | 1Corinthians 9:19-27 |
| 5. | The impact of worldview | Acts 14:8-20 |
| 6. | The greatest thing of all | 1Corinthians 13 |
| 7. | Relationships | ‘One another’ verses |
| 8. | Teamwork | Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 1Corinthians 12:12-26
Romans 12:3-8 Ephesians 4:16 |
| 9. | Incarnational ministry | John 20:21 and 1:14 1John 1:1 1Thess 2:8
Philippians 2:6-11 |
| 10. | Mission as caring | James 2:14-25 Matthew 25:31-46 |
| 11. | Mission as social justice | Micah 6:8 Amos 5:21-24
Isaiah 58:6-12 |
| 12. | Coping with pressure | 2Corinthians 1:3-11 |
| 13. | Mission as warfare | Ephesians 6:10-20 |
| 14. | Home Again (re-entry) | Acts 14:26-28 Acts 21:4-6 Psalm 121 |
| 15. | Living on Purpose | 1Corinthians 9:24-27 Jeremiah 29:11
Ephesians 2:10 Matthew 6:33 and 16:24-26
Matthew 28:16-20 |

How to use this material

1. These studies have been prepared for use by teams or individuals engaged in short-term mission, to help you make the most of the experience, to think about cultural issues, and to reflect on your time overseas.
2. There are 15 studies on various topics, so that for teams who go for about 3 weeks, there is enough material for one study each day. Groups going for longer periods can use the studies weekly; those going for shorter periods can use the studies that are most relevant. Although there is a progression behind the order of the studies, they do not have to be followed in the sequence given.
3. Groups that can meet together before the trip (for example, those from the same church or Christian Union), could begin the studies before they go, as part of their preparation and getting to know each other.
4. It is assumed that teams will want to include time for worship together as well as opportunity for prayer. Depending how long you have for your 'team time', you can complete the whole study or just selected sections. Depending on the amount of discussion they should take 30-45 minutes.
5. If there is time for people to look at the notes beforehand this will increase the benefit of the studies and the effectiveness of your time together. Group leaders should certainly make themselves familiar with the study before leading the group. Guide the discussion gently but firmly in the right direction, and aim to finish on time.
6. The studies are designed to be interactive and thought provoking, and so it is hoped that individuals will share their own thought and insights with the rest of the group. To enable this to happen easily, the more talkative members of the group might need to hold back from time-to-time to make sure they don't dominate the discussion.
7. The studies are based on the NIV, although any of the other main versions would be just as appropriate.
8. Any feedback on the studies will be welcomed, along with further ideas for relevant topics.

Have a great trip! Learn lots and be a blessing!

Tony Horsfall
<tonyhorsfall@compuserve.com>

Mandate for Mission

Mission is not an optional extra for a fanatical few within the church. Mission expresses the heartbeat of God, for God is a missionary God, and the Bible is a missionary book. The theme of God's saving grace for the nations pulsates on every page, and should find a resonance in the hearts of all who take His Word seriously.

Genesis 12: 1-3 All peoples blessed through Abram (Abraham)

The call of Abram is one of the key moments in the unfolding drama of redemption, as God's plan of salvation kicks into action.

What does God promise to Abram? How will this affect others? What do you think it means to say we are 'blessed to be a blessing'?

What did this call mean practically to Abram? How is his call a prototype of the way God works in our lives?

How did your own call to mission come about?

Exodus 19:5-6 Israel's calling

God's people share a similar call to make Him known throughout the world.

What does God say about His feeling for Israel? What two purposes does he have in mind for them? How do worship and witness go together?

Psalms 67:1-7 Harvest Blessing

This Psalm, sang at harvest time, was a constant reminder of Israel's privilege and responsibility. They often forgot their calling, but God always brought them back to their main purpose.

What did a good harvest signify? What did they pray (a) for themselves, and (b) what did they desire for the nations?

Matthew 28:19-20 The church's reason for existence

Long before 'mission statements' were the fashion, the church had one! Sometimes called the Great Commission, these final words of Jesus give us our mandate for action.

What are we called to do? What activities make this happen? What promise accompanies those who step out in obedience?

Acts 1:8 Power to get the job done

Whatever our theology of the Holy Spirit, we must know the reality of His power at work in our lives. Mission cannot be accomplished in our own strength or by human ability alone.

Why has God given us the Holy Spirit? Where are we to be witnesses?

Revelation 7:9-10 The vision set before us

It is good to keep in mind a vision of what God has in mind, to visualize the future, when the complete church of Jesus Christ will be finally gathered together.

What strikes you most about John's vision? How can it inspire us in the task of mission?