

Leader Handbook

“Serving” Mission Trip



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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for partnering with LoveServes International by agreeing to lead a serving team on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic (D.R.). Your selection as a Team Leader means that you will be serving as an important ambassador for our ministry work. Hopefully, this handbook will be helpful whether you have led previous teams or are brand new at leading a team.

Prior to your selection as team leader, LoveServes has worked with our ministry partner, Re-Vision to determine the trip dates, church location, and project for your team. LoveServes will provide you with a Trip Profile of the church, local pastor, and the project. Re-Vision will provide you with additional project details and an agenda for the week later in the pre-trip planning process.

LoveServes teams are drawn together in various ways. In some cases, the majority of team members come from one church and in that case, you will find it easy to bring the team together and develop a bond. Other teams are members of various churches in the same area or from various parts of the country. That will require intentional coordination to develop a team spirit.

Your role as a Team Leader

As ambassadors of LoveServes, we rely on our teams to play a part in maintaining a healthy relationship with our ministry partners!

Prerequisites

Each LoveServes team is led by a Team Leader—a valued, experienced volunteer who represents LoveServes. To serve in this important role, Team Leaders must first meet the following prerequisites:

1. Participate in a LoveServes serving team and express an interest in leading a future team.

2. Meet with a LoveServes staff member about becoming an Apprentice Leader.
3. Serve as an Apprentice Leader alongside an experienced Team Leader on a LoveServes trip.
4. Participate in the annual Team Leader training.
5. Complete the Leadership Covenant and engage in a leadership interview with a LoveServes staff person.
6. Be approved as a Team Leader by a LoveServes staff person.

Leadership Expectations

Great Team Leaders generally have spiritual gifts of leadership, shepherding, and/or discernment. As a team leader you will be expected to:

- Represent the love of Christ in all interactions with team participants, other volunteers in the ministry, and our partners. Show the love of Christ by imitating His leadership style: Servant Leadership.
- Be a role model in demonstrating cultural sensitivity and flexibility.
- Commit to your own spiritual growth.
- Take on the role of discipling as you lead teams and other people on the trip—before, during, and after. Help each member of the team grow spiritually in his/her relationship to Christ.
- Be dependable.
- Use discernment in every situation.
- Commit to attending all required Team Leader meetings and trainings.
- Promote events through your spheres of influence to advocate for ongoing LoveServes engagement.

Pre-trip Expectations

Your responsibilities will vary during the trip-planning process, depending on the needs of your specific trip. But here are general expectations that apply to most or all trips:

- Understand the purpose of your trip and envision the team members you would like to recruit.
- Work with staff to recruit your team.
- Clearly convey expectations to each potential team member during the recruiting process.
- Carefully review team member applications and communicate to the LOVESERVES staff member your recommendations/concerns or potential apprentices for the upcoming serving trip.

- Lead at least four pre-trip team meetings to cover the material outlined in the LoveServes Team Member Handbook
- Continually evaluate each team member's physical, emotional, and spiritual readiness for your trip, and communicate any hesitations to a staff person immediately.
- Ensure that all team members (including yourself) have paid their trip fees in full no later than two months prior to your departure date.

In-Country Expectations

- You will receive a master team list of all mission trip registrants which includes allergies, emergency contact info and passport etc.
- You will receive a travel advance (petty cash) to cover specific ministry-related emergency expenses while you are in-country. A description of qualifying expenses will accompany the travel advance. Maintain receipts for any qualifying emergency expenses.
- Lead devotional time and team debriefs daily.
- Uphold LoveServes' giving policy as it relates to gifts to our ministry partners (see member Handbook)
- Uphold LoveServes' social media and communication guidelines (see Member Handbook).

Post-trip Expectations

- Debrief your trip with a LoveServes staff person within 10 days of return from the trip
- Return any unused portion of the travel "emergency" advance and associated emergency travel expense receipts to a LOVESERVES staff person within 10 days of return from your trip.
- Lead a post-trip team meeting (aka the "team reunion").
- Provide post-trip opportunities for team members to engage in Bible studies or other small group studies to continue their spiritual growth after the serving trip. (LoveServes will provide resources suggestions)

What's an Apprentice Leader?

An Apprentice Leader is someone who has participated in a previous trip and expressed an interest in leading future serving teams. An Apprentice Leader has committed to the development process of becoming a team leader and embodies the characteristics of a good team leader.

An apprentice leader is different from a co-leader. Co-leaders have already met all prerequisites for leading their own LoveServes teams but have chosen to lead a team in conjunction with someone else.

A LoveServes team may have an apprentice leader join their team if:

- The Team Leader or the staff have identified someone to apprentice before the recruiting process for the trip takes place.
- The Team Leader has led at least one prior LoveServes team.
- The Apprentice Leader has completed a pre-interview with a LoveServes staff person.
- The Apprentice Leader is committed to the training and development expectations of becoming a team leader.
- The Team Leader and Apprentice Leader agree on each person's role, responsibilities, and expectations prior to recruiting team members.

Helpful Hints Encourage your Apprentice to help lead some of the devotional and team debrief times during the trip. Consider asking your Apprentice Leader to serve as the social director of the team by planning some pre-trip social events or local serving.

Ultimately, the Apprentice Leader must gain an accurate understanding of what it takes to lead a LoveServes team. Therefore, Apprentice Leaders should shadow and solicit feedback from Team Leaders during all stages of planning, in-country team leading, and post-trip follow-through.

After the trip is over, the Team Leader is expected to provide feedback in two ways:

- Give candid feedback to the Apprentice Leader, including what went well and where growth is needed.
- Give candid feedback to LoveServes staff, including an assessment of the Apprentice Leader's readiness to lead future LoveServes teams.

TOOLS

URL for Mission Trip Leader Toolbox

<http://loveserves.org/mission-trip-leader-toolbox/>

LoveServes Contact Information

LoveServes International
3310 US Hwy. 301 North
Ellenton, FL 34222
LoveServes.org
New Toll Free Number 844-352-3376

Our new LoveServes App

text” LoveServes app to: **(833) 700-9991** to download

The direct link for mission trip payments is <https://ppay.co/MKSkDvMyNVk>

LoveServes International EIN: 65-0406418

LoveServes International’s Vision

To develop Healthy Churches in all nations, equipping God’s people to make disciples, who then make disciples. (Matthew 28:19a ...make disciples of all nations)

LoveServes Mission Statement

Our mission is to walk alongside Pastors, mentoring and coaching them to develop a healthy Church that equips its members to love God and love their neighbor.

(Ephesians 4:12 “Equipping God’s people for works of service for the building up of the kingdom of Christ...”)

PLANNING A LOVESERVES TRIP

6 -9 MONTHS PRIOR

Team Leader and LoveServes staff discuss new trip date.

Team Leader identifies trip date, any particular team demographics or specialties.

Team Leader and LoveServes staff identify whether the trip will have an apprentice leader.

LoveServes staff works directly with the ministry partner to identify the project for the trip.

Team Leader begins recruiting.

3 – 5 MONTHS PRIOR

- Team Leader is recruiting and reviewing applications for potential team members.
- Team Leader confirms participation of each team member and team members pay the non-refundable deposit.
- Team Leader hosts an orientation meeting.

12 WEEKS PRIOR

- The team roster should be final.
- Team Leader begins hosting pre-trip team meetings.
- Once team members submit their \$250 deposits, they may begin fundraising.

8 WEEKS PRIOR

- LoveServes staff receiving all required documentation from team members.
- Team members purchase their airfare.

3 WEEKS PRIOR

- LoveServes staff sends the team leader the approved in-country Agenda for the trip.

1 WEEK PRIOR

- Team Leader and LoveServes staff meet for a pre-departure meeting.
- Have an incredible trip!
- Participants begin using their Journal

24 HOURS AFTER

- Team Leader connects with LoveServes staff regarding any issues that arose on the trip.
- Team Leader encourages team members to complete a post-trip survey.

1 WEEK AFTER

- Team Leader and staff schedule a time to debrief the trip.
- Team Leader returns the travel folder and reconciled travel advance to staff.

WITHIN 1 MONTH AFTER

- Team Leader facilitates a post-trip team meeting.

- ❑ Team Leader and LoveServes staff provide follow-up information to those looking for further LoveServes or local serving opportunities.

Recruiting Your team

Team Leaders are responsible for recruiting their LoveServes teams. Team leaders should vision

HELPFUL HINT

Use this timeline to help frame your understanding of the planning process and build in time for spiritual and emotional preparation of your team members. Consider giving them their own planning calendars filled with Scripture, things to pray for, pre-trip team meeting dates, and fundraising checkpoints.

cast the trip's purpose, project details, and relationship goals in a way that is honoring to the ministry partner and aligned with the mission of LoveServes.

Team Leaders should set a goal for their team's size based on conversation with the LoveServes staff member.

All potential team members are required to fill out a trip application to be considered for a LoveServes team. Within the application, potential team members are asked to communicate their desires and expectations for the trip, and they will each need to provide two-character references.

If a minor child desires to participate in a LoveServes team, he or she must be accompanied by a parent and the parental consent form must be completed and taken with them on the trip.

If a non-believer has expressed an interest in your team, please contact the LoveServes staff before confirming that person's acceptance to the team. In some cases, a LoveServes team may not be designed for this situation.

Remember: *Filling out an application does not guarantee acceptance to the team.* Everyone's application must go through a review by you as the Team Leader to assess each person's commitment to the guidelines and expectations of a team member. Every applicant's participation on the team is subject to final approval by the LoveServes staff.

After potential team members have completed their application and have been confirmed to the team, they must pay the non-refundable deposit. Deposits are due by March 1st for summer teams and by May 1st for fall teams.

After team members complete the registration process, they need to submit a copy of their passport; this must be done by the time they submit the balance of their participant fee. All

passports must be valid 6 months after the trip return date. If a team member needs to obtain a passport or renew their passport, they must notify the LoveServes staff member of that information.

Parental consent forms are required for any minors traveling with only one of their parents. The form must be notarized and the parent traveling with the minor must have the original notarized document with them when they travel. A LoveServes staff person must receive a copy of parental consent form at least two weeks prior to trip departure.

Note: If team members cannot fulfill the above requirements by their due dates, they may be removed from the team.

Fundraising

In most cases, the costs to participate in LoveServes teams are tax deductible. The trip cost includes lodging, in-country food and transportation, medical insurance outside of the U.S., and any applicable visa fees. The trip cost does not cover airfare, any required or recommended immunizations or medications for travel, passport application/renewal fees, souvenirs, food in the airport (unless a layover or flight delay was four hours or longer), or transportation to/from the airport.

All team members are required to have their trip paid in full two months before the trip departure.

Team members may fundraise for the trip cost as soon as:

1. They are formally accepted onto the team.
2. They complete their trip application and paid the \$250.00

If your team would like to do a group fundraiser it must be pre-approved by a LoveServes staff person.

According to IRS guidelines, gifts cannot be designated to a specific individual; however, team members' effectiveness in raising support will be tracked internally. Should a team member raise funds in excess of their trip cost, the overage will be applied toward the trip project unless otherwise noted by the donor. If all project cost requirements have already been met, excess funds will be applied to support the LoveServes mission.

Per IRS guidelines, donations to LoveServes, including payments for trip costs, are non-refundable, even if a team member must cancel or be removed from a team for any reason.

BONUS INFORMATION, JUST FOR TEAM LEADERS

HELPFUL HINTS

Potential team members are asked on their application how they plan to pay for their trip. Once they're accepted onto your team, we ask you to follow up with them and make sure they are on track to raise the necessary funds.

Fundraising is a growth opportunity for team members.

Even those who can easily afford to pay for the trip themselves can still benefit from fundraising and asking for the prayerful support of others.

Sometimes growth occurs when those who cannot easily afford the trip decide to take on the responsibility of paying for the trip themselves (with minimal or no financial support). As the Team Leader, use your discernment to provide these growth opportunities for your team members.

Encourage your team members to send thank-you notes to their donors. Each note should include an update on the outcome of the trip they invested in—and an invitation to hear more about the team member's experience.

HOSTING TEAM MEETING AND YOUR PRE-TRIP TRAINING MEETINGS

LoveServes requires a comprehensive orientation for all LoveServes teams.

The training takes place during at least 3 pre-trip team meetings, led by the Team Leader. All team members are required to attend and participate in all pre-trip team meetings.

The pre-trip training meetings are designed to walk the team through the *Team Member Handbook*, so that all members are culturally, emotionally, and spiritually prepared for the trip. Training meetings also give the team leader regular checkpoints to evaluate team members' readiness to participate on the trip.

If a LoveServes team would like to explore an additional resource or training material to supplement their pre-trip training meetings, it must be approved by LoveServes staff.

The next few pages guide team leaders in how to plan and host their pre-trip training meetings.

HELPFUL HINTS

Choose the dates for all pre-trip meetings and announce them before they commit to be part of the team so you can set an expectation.

If you become concerned about a team member's commitment to the team because of lack of attendance or participation, notify the LoveServes staff as soon as possible

Videos and other documents are in the leader toolbox- <https://loveserves.org/mission-trip-leader-toolbox/>

Introduction of the LoveServes ministry in the Dominican Republic (*aka Interest Meeting*)

- Anticipated financial cost- Project Costs and Raising Funds: Each serving team will have an assigned project to work on while in the Dominican Republic. In selecting a church for a team visit and serve, LoveServes selects a church that has started a ministry to reach their community with the gospel and has been self-sustaining it for three years or more. The serving team will work on a project that is associated with the growth of that ministry. During the week, the team will spend part of their day helping church members work on the project.
- Re-Vision staff will assess material costs for the project in advance and each team is expected to raise the funds to cover the materials needed for the week.
- When recruiting individuals to serve on a serving team, be sure to give them a rough estimate of the overall trip costs. The LoveServes staff will help you determine the various cost components, including an \$910 participant fee plus projects costs, and airfare. The participant fee of \$910 will cover housing, food, and transportation. Project costs will vary as will the airfare.
- In some cases, churches will help with project costs for team participants from their church. Talk to the team early on about working together to raise money for the project. Also, provide them with a 'fundraising' form letter (See Appendix B) that they can send to friends and family requesting donations for the trip. Additional information is provided in the Member Handbook.

- **Letters Requesting Support:** There are two form letters, one for seeking funding from churches and one that can be used for friends and family. A template letter is provided in the Member Handbook as an example.
- **Pre-Trip Training Schedule:** Date/Time and Location
- **Travel Arrangements:** Teams members are responsible for their own roundtrip travel arrangements. HOWEVER, arrival/departure airport and timeframe must be the same for all team participants; details will be confirmed by LoveServes staff prior to March 1st. Team participants should not purchase airfare until their application is approved and they confirm these details with their trip leader.
- Question-and-answer period.

Homework for Meeting#1

- Watch Video #4 More than Meets the Eye (17:51 min) of Helping without Hurting in Short term missions

PRE-TRIP TRAINING MEETING #1

Resources needed for this meeting:

- Determine host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Make sure you get attendance confirmation from each team member (Meetings are mandatory)
- Review notes including Learn-Servant-Storyteller, print out enough copies of Learner, Servant, Storyteller for each person. Appendix A
- Gather supplies for activity – Pens, Post it notes and strips of yarn cut enough for each person (1 strip of yarn approx. 2 feet long and 6-8 post-its per person)

Icebreaker question – Quickly go around the circle and ask everyone to answer this question: What was your favorite pet and why?

Prayer in groups – discuss briefly biggest fear/obstacle about this trip (partners or groups of 3-4)

Vision and Mission – Have you ever been a part of something really significant? You know that feeling when you're a part of something genuinely important...there is just nothing like it! God has called us to be part of something really big, but so many are missing it. There are churches all over the world that are on the sidelines and are not involved in the most critical things that God commanded for us to do. Jesus said to go make disciples, He said to love people and meet the needs of the least of these. We at LoveServes want to see healthy churches in every nation equipping God's people to make disciples who make disciples. God has used LoveServes to mentor over 2,822 churches in the Dominican Republic to take ownership of the needs in their communities. We are ecstatic about the transformation that is taking place in this nation. God

is reviving His Church! The once ineffective churches have become powerful agents of change in communities all across the island. We have the privilege to share with you that God has used His local church to lead over 133,377 adults to Christ! Now that's being a part of something BIG!

SHARE BACKGROUND ABOUT LOVESERVES

LoveServes International (aka AVI) in 1982; the original ministry provided pure water with hopes that clean water and health education would improve the overall health and wellness of the people. LoveServes connected with the local church with a desire to provide both drinking water and the "living water" (John 4:10) After many years and many water projects, LoveServes noted the Dominican people were receiving clean water, but NOT the spiritual fruit that they had been striving for; they discovered their partnership with the local Dominican churches was broken...the churches lacked the outward vision to "love their neighbors" and hearts to share the "living water". In 2005, the Executive Director proposed a paradigm shift in vision and mission of LoveServes. Now, the mission of LOVESERVES is to work directly with the pastors and their churches to meet the needs of their communities. LOVESERVES's training model shares Biblical principles to cast a vision for a healthy church and then provides coaching and mentoring to the pastor and lay leaders as they learn to equip church members to minister to one another's needs within the community ("love their neighbor") and to be disciple makers. The mission of LoveServes is to walk alongside pastors, mentoring and coaching them to develop a healthy Church that equips its members to love God and love their neighbor (Eph. 4:12).

LoveServes has 11 coaches in the D.R., Guatemala and the U.S. that work directly with the pastors. Over the past 15 years, LoveServes has trained over 3,072 pastors in healthy Church Process through a strategic system of training, pastor network groups, 1 to 1 coaching, and peer modeling (being mentored by other pastors who are living out what they learned through our program). Coaches teach what it looks like to "love your neighbor" in practical ways and equips pastors to train their congregation to actually do it; then God produces supernatural results! Through God's blessing, these pastors and their healthy churches now span across the majority of the provinces in the D.R., and have launched in several regions of Guatemala and the U.S. These churches are effectively becoming the church of their community, not just their congregation.

Where do Serving Trips come in? Recognizing that God's Church is global, it is inspiring to experience what God is doing in another part of the world. It is a life-transforming opportunity for mutual growth and encouragement between American and Dominican churches. We both have a lot to gain by what God will do when we work together!

3 "E's" or Key reasons for Short-term serving trips:

1. To **Experience** what God is doing in another nation through His Church. It is truly a revival of the Church and it is inspiring for American Believers to see and experience the life change that is happening in DR. It is also notable for Americans to realize their own poverty when they experience the WEALTH of meaningful relationship. Despite the physical poverty that many Dominicans live in, the Christians have true wealth in community.
2. To **Encourage** the Dominican Church by demonstrating love and support for their faithful work. Even though their resolve is strong, the work of the ministry outside the four walls of the church can be exhausting. We have learned from the Dominican believers that when teams come to partner with them, they feel infused with energy and feel affirmed in the important work God has called them to.
3. We desire for trip attendees to **Embrace** the responsibility to invest the whole of their lives in fulfilling the Great Commission. Jesus called us ALL to go make disciples, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to care for orphans and widows and be the heart and hands of Him who set the example for us. We hope that while experiencing serving with love in the D.R. that Christians will return to their own churches and communities and be a catalyst in getting others outside the four walls of the church to love and serve those who are all around them.

Bottom Line: serving trips can be used by God to change what you care about (from an American mindset that poverty is a problem to be solved, to a mindset of relationship building which can lead to healing for both groups)

ABOUT REVISION OUR MINISTRY PARTNER

- LoveServes works with an in-country ministry partner, ReVision, who will serve as the coordinating host of your serving trip team in the Dominican Republic.
- Re-Vision is based in the Dominican Republic, and will coordinate housing, meals, transportation, and translators for the serving teams.
- Re-Vision is “a faith-based organization that focuses on establishing and directing long-term partnerships for ministry . . . in the Dominican Republic.” They provide resources for economic, educational, medical and spiritual development in local communities.
- Re-Vision will communicate directly with the pastor of the church where the team will be serving to determine what is needed from the team, the construction and/or community project, materials needed, and any other arrangements that need to be made through the church.
- Re-Vision will put together a tentative daily schedule of activities and requested ministries.
- Re-Vision plans a “day off” where the team can refresh through leisure activities; the activity will be coordinated in advance of the trip. Some of the activities will require

paying a fee. The Team Leader and LoveServes staff will discuss the options and cost with Melanie, and the Team Leader will relay the information to the team.

Logistics

- Airfare
- Ministry – Focus on Relationships not tasks
- Begin assigning members for various roles See Appendix F
 - a. Construction Project
 - b. Children’s Outreach
 - c. Women’s ministry (women only)
 - d. Sunday night service – testimonies/songs
 - e. Possible other evening service
 - f. Home Visits
 - g. Special ministry opportunity based on Dominican Church request

- Lodging
- Food – it is important to let us know if you have special food allergies
- Packing list – important – please use it.

Cultural training

- Questions and review of Video #4 – More than Meets the Eye **(17:15)**
- Learner – Servant – Storyteller (extra hand-out)
- Timeline – Learn to share your story in 2-4 minutes (post it notes, pens and yarn)
- Experiential Learning Cycle
 1. **Reflection** – what has just been experienced? What did you observe, think, feel?
 2. **Insight** – what is being learned?
 3. **Application** – what this could mean for our mission project?

LoveServes Mission Statement

Our mission is to walk alongside Pastors, mentoring and coaching them to develop a healthy Church that equips its members to love God and love their neighbor. (Ephesians 4:12 “Equipping God’s people for works of service for the building up of the kingdom of Christ...”)

These three bullet points will be reiterated throughout the entire book and serving trip experience.

The purpose of LoveServes serving teams is to:

- Witness God’s work
- Grow in our faith

- Serve alongside local churches in the Dominican

You may have some Team Members that thought they were going to “do something to make an impact” or “care for those less fortunate.” Use this time to kindly share what the purpose of this serving trip is.

Homework before the second pre-trip meeting:

- Follow-up on any missing or incomplete documentation requirements
- Pray daily for the trip.
- Announce next meeting date
- Confirm host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Watch Video 5 “A Cautionary Tale” (10:12)

PRE-TRIP TRAINING MEETING #2

How to prepare for the meeting:

- Determine host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Make sure you get attendance confirmation from each team member (Meetings are mandatory)
- Review notes including The Cultural Entry Model, print for each person. Appendix C
- Review the Four Cultural Game Instructions (see toolbox)
- Gather supplies for activity – Pens, Four Culture Instruction page, Diagram of Cultural Entry Model.
- Questions from video #5

Icebreaker question – What is a tradition your family has?

1. **Prayer** – get in groups of 3-4 and pray for one another about your greatest hope to learn from this trip.

While still in the small group of 3-4 have each person **share their story/testimony** (from Pre-trip Training Meeting #1) to the group

Logistics

- Flights/Carpools/ -- You should purchase your flight 8 weeks before your departure, prices only continue to rise at this point. Most of us are flying out of _____ on _____ at _____ and returning on the _____ flight. Please send your flight itinerary to Patricia@loveserves.org and copy me at _____ so we can work out carpool at our next meeting.
- Luggage/packing list -- Remember to check the luggage requirements. Balance is due _____ at team meeting (\$635 per person)
- **Next meetings** – _____

- **Project funding** - \$ _____ needed. Per person approx. \$ _____
- Daily team devotions – need 7 volunteers

- Construction Leader – _____
- Home visit Leader – _____
- Women’s ministry/craft Leader – _____
- Worship Leader – _____ Other Musicians – _____
- Storytellers – 1) _____ 2) _____
- Kids program (approx. _____ Kids) – 3 parts (Bible Lesson/songs; Games; Kid Craft – NO gluing)
 - Leader roles: Bible Lessons - _____
 - Kid Craft _____
 - Games - _____

Team Exercise - The Four Cultures Game

Group is divided into 4 different “cultures” and each take on a particular personality. The 4 teams take turns “visiting” and “hosting” other groups. They role play according to their groups “culture”. Then discuss the experience and how it made us feel. The purpose was to simulate what it is like to enter another culture and learn how to process the awkward, confusing, frustrating feelings that sometimes come into play when there is a “culture clash”. We asked each member to answer the following three questions...

Reflection – what has just been experienced?

Insight – what is being learned?

Application – what this could mean to our mission project?

Review Video 5 “A Cautionary Tale” (10:12)

A funny illustration of cultural differences from Helping without hurting.
Ask the team if they could identify the main point of the clip.

Main point – We are different and that’s ok, don’t enter a culture with the attitude that we are superior. Remember to ask a lot of questions! Then really listen!

The Cultural Entry Model (Use handout of diagram- Appendix C)

A. The Facts of Life (The Inevitable)

- In a cross-cultural setting there will inevitably be frustration, confusion, tension and embarrassment.

- These are inescapable experiences of living, working and ministering cross-culturally. They are part of life. It is simply not true that if you are more spiritual, you will escape these emotions. They are inevitable.
- B. The Approach you choose - The entry posture you choose can greatly help you in positively coping with cultural differences.
- Normally we enter a new or different culture with **fear, prejudice, or suspicion**. This will happen and it is important that we are aware of it.
 - Our choice, however, is to enter with a positive approach of **openness, acceptance** and **trust**.
- C. Coping Strategies (responses) and Results
- No matter how you enter the inevitable frustrations of a different culture, your response is not inevitable. *It's crucial to realize that you have a choice.* You can choose how you'll react to cultural differences.
- Because of the differences from your own culture, the temptation is to react to your frustrations, confusion, embarrassment, or tension with **criticism, rationalization, and/or withdrawal**.
Results - When you do this, you face the risk of **alienation** and **isolation** from the very people you came to get to know and serve (Dominicans) and serve with (team members)
 - A better choice is to react to your frustrations, confusion, embarrassment, or tension by **observing** and **listening** to the new culture, and by inquiring about their differences. For example, when misunderstanding occurs, you need not rationalize your behavior or criticize your host. You can inquire where the breakdown occurred, where your different backgrounds clashed. You can learn to observe with more insight, to listen at a deeper level. This way, you can clarify the issues and apologize for your lack of insight if necessary.
Results - When you do this you greatly enhance the possibility of establishing a connection and **understanding**, which leads to relationship

Homework before the third pre-trip meeting:

- Pray daily for the trip.
- Re-Confirm that date of next mandatory meeting.
- Confirm host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.

- Watch Video 6 “Who are the poor” (5:08) of Helping without Hurting in Short term missions

PRE-TRIP TRAINING MEETING #3

How to prepare for the meeting:

- Determine host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Make sure you get attendance confirmation from each team member (Meetings are mandatory)
- Review notes and print out enough copies for each person.
- Invite a veteran tripper to share their testimony about Cross-cultural communication.
- Gather supplies for activity – Missions Journals, T-shirts, Pens, and questions from video.

YOU WILL RECEIVE MISSION JOURNALS TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM MEMBERS. IF A TEAM MEMBER IS NOT LOCAL, WE WILL MAIL DIRECTLY TO THEM. THE JOURNALS BEGIN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Icebreaker Question – Think of a time you had a funny (or serious) miscommunication

Prayer in Groups

Logistics/ Q & A

1. **Flights** – Finalize transportation to airport. Carpool?
2. **Packing highlights**
 - o PASSPORT
 - o 2 pairs of work gloves are recommended
 - o 2 Towels each and washcloths for shower
 - o Twin sheets & pillowcase AND PILLOW for bunk beds (“single” guys and girls will be on bunk beds with only a mattress)
 - o Mosquito Net (our DR staff will have nets for rent)
 - o Insect repellent with DEET is more effective if you are not allergic.
 - o Refillable Water bottle! Insulated are best. Put your name on it.
 - o For traveling in airport: All laptops, and cell phones have the battery charged. Reminder about cell charges/international plans.
3. Ministry and daily schedule – Put on your Mission H.A.T. (Humble Adaptable Teachable) **Motivation for Helping (Attitude is Everything)**
 - What is my motivation for helping?

- Do I consider myself superior in some way to the people in the Dominican Republic?
- How will my attitude affect how I would help someone in poverty and/or minister to the lost?

The Right Attitude Must be Humility

The Right Motivation Must be Love

The Right Application Must be Partnership

Be Humble, Adaptable and Teachable (H.A.T.)

So, put your H.A.T. on and let's go!

4. Go over "week at a glance." Discuss special events and day off as well.
 - Construction -
 - Women's Ministry/Craft -
 - Kids Outreach
 - Bible Lesson –
 - Kid Craft –
 - Games –
 - Home Visits -
 - Services -
 - Team Devotions: Sunday – _____ Mon – _____
 Tues – _____ Wed – _____ Thur – _____
 Fri - _____ Sat - _____
5. Mission Journals & T-shirts – you'll get your Journal and LoveServes shirt at last meeting _____ . **We require team member's to Pack t-shirt and not wear on plane.**

Culturally Sensitive Giving

Questions and Review Video 6 "Who are the poor" (5:08)

You are surrounded by great need ... what do you do? How do you respond? Anyone who has been on a short-term mission trip has struggled with these pressing questions. The tension is good. You are out in the field facing awesome need but you also know this place is different. The rules you have been used to at home may not apply here. The awful truth is that giving some money today to the little child holding out his hand or to the pastor for his special project may do more harm than good. Our giving must be culturally sensitive. We must come to the needs of this culture as a learner asking some critical questions.

1. **What have I come here to do?** You have come to meet very specific needs that are within your ability to meet. You will build a church, school, home or clinic. You will leave behind a vital structure that will affect the lives of these people for years to come. You will share the love and message of Christ to children and their families and model for them the compassion of a servant of God. Through this you will make an impact ... and YOU will be changed! What you will not do is change the economic situation of the community or alter the reality of poverty for these people. You are helping in a significant way, but you cannot do it all. The message is ... concentrate on what you CAN do, not what you cannot.
2. **How can it be harmful to give a gift to meet such an obvious need?** It may feel good to give your hat to a child you have come to know or some money to a parent, but that simple act of giving can lead to ill feelings between neighbors, an unnatural sense of dependency, or even a riot as the community comes out to receive their share of the gifts. The next mission group that comes in will face a community that expects to receive gifts, and grave complications can result. A general rule is to not give gifts of money or things to individuals. Realize the power of your gifts both positively and negatively. Many a pastor has been unnaturally tempted by the availability of money from well-meaning Christian visitors. We must resist our desire to meet an immediate need for one person to the detriment of meeting long-term needs for many.
3. **So ... how should I give?** It is always best to channel your giving of clothes, tools, money, etc. through an organization that knows the country, culture and local leadership. Instead of risking the problems that can come from giving to individuals, focus your giving on a specific project that will have broader effect.
4. **Personal testimony from veteran Mission Tripper**
5. **Relationships through Languages**

Verbal communication

- Your group's effort in language-learning communicates to another culture that you care about them. It is a bridge-builder.
- In learning another language, the key word is 'relax!' The goal here is not to become an expert in the language, but to acquire enough of the language to allow you to build relationships.
- In most cases, you will have a translator with you.

Keep in mind that the ultimate goal is not language learning, but rather getting to know, love, and serve people cross-culturally."

Some Spanish tips

Hola	Hello
Me llamo...	My name is...
¿Como se llama usted?	What is your name?
Estoy aprendiendo Español	I am learning Spanish.
¿Como se llama esto?	What is this called?
Gracias por su ayuda	Thank you for your help.
Adios. Hasta luego.....	Good-bye. See you later.

Homework before the 4th pre-trip Training meeting:

- Pray daily for the trip.
- Re-Confirm that date of next mandatory meeting.
- Re- Confirm host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Consider inviting family members.
- Continue practicing sharing your story/testimony.
- Bring supplies to pack. (optional)

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP TRAINING MEETING #4

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A 4TH MEETING COVER IN 3RD MEETING.

Resources needed for this meeting:

- Emergency contact information
- Bring all your supplies for packing! (Optional)

The fourth Pre-Trip Training meeting gives team members, family, and friends an opportunity to join in prayer for the trip.

Logistics

- Go over any last-minute logistical items.
 - Communicate any changes in the Agenda.
 - Remind everyone when and where to meet at the departure airport.
 - Remind everyone about their packing lists.

Emergency Contact numbers

- Distribute emergency contact information to team members and their loved ones.

Last Minute Q & A

- Invite family and friends to ask any last-minute questions. Sometimes the team members' relatives or friends exhibit worry or concern about traveling abroad. It's not always possible to totally alleviate these concerns but attempting to do so before the trip is easier than trying to reassure them during the trip.

Prayer time

- Use the remaining time to gather in prayer. Open the floor to anyone who wants to pray for the trip. As team leader, close in prayer.

PRE-DEPARTURE LOGISTICS

One week before departure, the team leader and LoveServes staff will meet to go through pre-departure logistics. This meeting will cover:

A time of prayer

An overview of the finalized In-Country Agenda

A reminder of emergency procedures

An overview of the Team Leader Packet (should be compiled by the Team Leader)*

*Your **Team Leader Packet** should include the following information:

- Master Team Leader List with emergency contact information, team member allergies, etc.; must be carried with the Team Leader at all times in-country. Melanie will have all this info too
- In-country agenda/schedule.
- Emergency contact information for the U.S. and ministry partner offices
- Emergency procedures
- Champion Invitation Script and Response Cards

During the trip, the ministry partner host (ReVision) pays for all lodging, transportation, and food. Team leaders receive a Travel Advance for potential emergency expenses -*Please see Mission Trip Emergency Guidelines*

The Travel Advance **does not pay** for any of the following expenses:

- International phone expenses related to personal matters or for team members
- Food in the airport during layovers or flight delays less than four hours
- Food or special activity fees for the team in-country
- Souvenirs or gifts
- Supplies or meals for team members for Pre-Trip Training meetings
- Personal expenses
- Tips for airports, hotels, or drivers (The ministry partner host covers these expenses)

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Your LoveServes Trip Experience

Team Leaders are expected to lead—not just through the day-to-day logistics of the trip, but through the spiritual and emotional processing of their team members as well.

Every day should include devotion time in the morning and team debrief time at night. The team leader may choose how those times are led and organized, but they must be prioritized. ***It is important that during each debriefing session, the Team Leader makes a connection about the work the church is doing in the community is a result of a holistic vision they learned and developed through the coaching and mentoring of LoveServes.*** The church your team is serving alongside is not the same church it was 15 years ago (aka before the LoveServes training).

Some ideas for team devotion time:

- Consider using the *Helping Without Hurting* devotion plan in the YouVersion Bible App
- Have a team member share some scripture that is meaningful to them.
- Spend some time in worship together.



Some ideas for how you may lead team debrief time:

- Consider using some of the journal questions.
- Recall the devotion time from that day and ask the team to share how it influenced their day.
- Revisit the culture shock cycle and share what you may be experiencing.
- On the last day, consider sharing prayer requests for returning home, then revisit these in your post-trip team meeting.
- On the last day, the Team Leader will invite the team members to engage in the mission of LoveServes to help other churches become a “church of the community” like the one they just served all week. The Team Leader will utilize the “Champion Invitation Script” and Response Cards provided during the Pre-Trip Logistics Meeting.

Team Leaders should encourage their team members to journal to engage in effective, personal debrief time.

The entire team must always stay together. Team members are not allowed to leave the team, whether individually or in small groups, for any reason, including:

- To exercise in the neighborhood.
- To visit with personal contacts.
- To participate in other social engagements.

Team Leaders and team members are not allowed to smoke (this includes vaping and e-cigarettes), drink alcohol, or participate in any illicit behavior during any portion of the trip—including flights and free-day activities. All teams are expected to act in a way that represents LoveServes well and honors God.

Team Leaders and team members should never commit to—or promise the ministry partner—future trips or financial resources. LoveServes staff should always be the first point of contact for these topics.

ARRIVING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Load the bus/vehicle at the airport (make sure everyone has used the bathroom and has all their luggage)

- Welcome to Dominican Republic!
- Dios te Bendiga (God Bless you)! Amen! (let group know this is one of the phrases they will learn while in DR)
- Thank them for giving their time, talent and treasure to be on this trip this week! God will take your investment and multiply it... just wait and see! [Lots of excitement]
- Tell them to look out the window on the drive and look for things that are different than back home.
- Any questions?
- Let them know they will have a formal orientation once we are settled in at the camp. In the meanwhile, sit back relax and enjoy the ride which will be approximately _____ long.

Upon arrival at camp

(Before unloading remind group there will be a more formal orientation with details but here are a few important things while they are getting settled.)

- Never drink any water that isn't bottled or from our team Water coolers – try to use your refillable water bottle instead of plastic cups. Also, use bottled water for brushing your teeth.
- Never throw toilet paper in the commode, the plumbing system in DR can't handle TP. Always fold up and place in the small trash can next to the toilet. (please let us know if there isn't TP or a trash)
- Don't go anywhere alone. Also, explain that for now don't wander off the property until we've established what is safe.
- Remember to put your Mission H.A.T. on and get ready to serve one another.
- Dinner will be at _____ time.
- Orientation will follow dinner

In Country Orientation (typically following dinner)

- Ask if everyone is settled in and if anyone has any questions
- Introductions/ Give time for Melanie to introduce her staff and share about Re-Vision
- Money Exchange (OPTIONAL) – one of Melanie’s team members will exchange up to \$5 pp from U.S. dollars to Dominican pesos for serving team members interested in having money to give as an offering at Sunday’s church service. ***If a team member desires to make an offering it should be pesos (not in USD) \$0.50 to \$1.00 max is an appropriate optional amount. Please communicate this suggested offering amount with your team in advance. We want to humbly be sensitive in this setting; we do not want our “American offering” to draw attention in the offering plate and be a distraction, or adversely overwhelm a church member(s) who may be sacrificing to tithe.***
- Icebreaker/Get to know you
 - This or That (Two words given and group shifts to “this” side or “that” side based on which they identify with more, for example (Beach or Mountains)
 - Double Circle (half team is inner circle and faces out, other half faces in. Share one interesting thing most people don’t know about you, then inner circle shifts one place left every 60-90 seconds.)

Key Goals

- Ask yourself, what does God want? We may have come on this trip for one reason or another, but the reality is God wants to do something in you and through you while you are out of your normal everyday life. So what does God want?
 - He wants you to see the Great Commission expressed this week (Matt. 28:19-20)
 - He wants you to experience and express “love to the least of these” (Matt. 25:35)
 - Also to see how the Church is equipped for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12)

Group Feedback (initial impressions)

- What do you see that is different than back home?
- What did you feel?
- Did you happen to learn something?

Other Info: The Cooks, Showers, taking photos

- Love on the cooks – they thrive on words of affirmation and lots of smiles! Say “Gracias” after every meal. Learn their names!
- Remember that the schedule may change. However, if the leader has asked you to be prepared or show up at a certain time, please do your best to be punctual. But recognize that Dominicans may not start at the scheduled time. Be patient and just relax.

- Showers – they are likely cold water. Again, don't drink the water from the shower. Be respectful of others that may need to use the bathrooms.
- Currency Exchange: the team will have an opportunity to exchange US dollars for the Dominican Peso when we arrive at the destination - this will be done through our ministry partner, ReVision – do NOT exchange money at the airport.
- Sunday night you are attending church. If a team member desires to make an offering it should be pesos (not in USD) \$0.50 to \$1.00 max is an appropriate optional amount.
- Camera! Please when walking down the street with people and homes, don't snap pics like you're at the zoo. Think how you would feel if people were taking pics of you or your house? During ministry times, on jobsite, or if you invite someone you've met to take a photo with you, that would be fine.
- Never give to individuals. If you have items to donate or leave behind, we will collect those things at the end of the trip and the Re-Vision team will get them to the Church so they can use them or give them to people they know need it.
- Never go alone, never.***
- Testimonies – Everyone should be ready to share in 3-5 minutes what God has and is doing in his or her life. Try to include your favorite scripture verse and why/how it has impacted your life.
- Use the translators - “use don't abuse”. They are here to serve, they have a gift that you don't and they are happy to help, but remember to be kind and patient through the process. Speak clearly and slowly in short phrases and give time for translator to speak.
- Construction – be safe! Focus on relationships and not task. Get to know who you're working with from the church or community. Drink lots of water/take breaks
- Special roles?

Basic outline for first day meeting- In country

Agenda tomorrow (Give basic outline of what will happen the next day)

- Breakfast (announce time)
- Team Devos (remind the person who is leading devotions in the morning)
- Break (20-30 minutes)
- Group team builder/Ministry prep
- Lunch (announce time?)
- Leave for community (announce time)
- Listen to Vision from Dominican Pastor (introduce him – give background if necessary)
- Community walk
- Dinner (announce time)
- Service (announce time)

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Traveling internationally comes with an inherent risk of sickness, injury, accidents, natural disasters, etc. The Team Leader, with the assistance of the ministry partner host, is responsible for the care of the team in every emergency event. A staff person is on-call and available to you 24/7 while LoveServes teams are in the field.

Team Leaders can prepare for handling an emergency by:

- Carrying the travel folder and travel advance at all times.
- Obtaining an international phone plan for their cell phones.
- Carrying emergency contact information at all times, including LoveServes' on-call staff person's phone number.
- Asking the ministry partner host for a secure place to store the team's passports.
- Identifying a trusted team member (or apprentice leader) and discussing possible contingency plans.
- Download the International SOS (ISOS) Assistance App to your phone before leaving the U.S.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

In emergency situations, communication with the ministry partner host and on-call staff person is critical for the security of your team. For all emergency situations, including sickness, injury, accidents, separated/lost team members, theft, or evacuation,

Team Leaders *must* follow the protocol below:

1. Communicate the situation to the ministry partner host immediately.
2. Contact the on-call staff person immediately.
3. In most cases, contact ISOS (medical and travel security assistance program) 24 Hour Consular Emergency Line: U.S. 1.888.407.4747 Outside the U.S. 1.202.501.4444
4. Update the ministry partner host and the on-call staff person about the plan ISOS provided.
5. Utilize the relevant documents in your travel folder, including team members' emergency contact information.
6. Do not leave any one team member by themselves. If the team must be separated, the ministry partner host must approve the security of the situation and the group separated from the team must be at least a group of two or three people, being mindful not to violate LoveServes' Protection Policy's "Two-Adult Rule" as it relates to minors.
7. The on-call staff person will communicate any necessary emergencies to the team members' emergency contacts.
8. Complete an Incident Report.

Emergency Contact Information

Revision Melanie Spencer 809.299.2565
(In Country rep)

Revision Doug Campbell 615.848.3834

AAVI (DR Office) Daniel Rodriguez
829.452.6601 (In Country Staff)

LoveServes Stephanie Smith
727.480.6172 (On Call)

LoveServes Peter Swanson 941.376.0799

LoveServes Patricia Vazquez
303.775.8444 (On Call)

LoveServes Martin Newby 941.400.8001

US Embassy Santo Domingo
809.567.7775

MTA Insurance 813.797.3700 (for
emergency assistance)

LOVESERVES MISSION TRIP EMERGENCY GUIDELINES

TEAM LEADER EMERGENCY TRAVEL ADVANCE GUIDELINES (a/o 5/1/19)

Below are the guidelines for the Emergency Travel Advance that we will send you as the Team Leader; you should receive the travel advance check approximately 10 days from the departure date of your trip.

As a reminder, the ministry partner, will pay for all lodging, transportation, food, and other incidentals in country.

Your travel advance should only be used for the following pre-approved expenses:

- Airport entry/exit taxes or visas, if applicable
- International phone coverage for the team leader, to be used for trip purposes only (reimbursed at \$10/day usage)
- Food in the airport, only for layovers or flight delays exceeding 4 hours
- 1 checked bag of personal items per team member, if not already included with the flight ticket
- Emergencies that cannot be covered by the ministry partner host
- Your travel advance should not be used for:
 - International phone expenses related to personal matters or for team members
 - Food in the airport during layovers or flight delays less than 4 hours
 - Souvenirs or gifts (this includes offering gifts for the church partner)
 - Supplies or meals for team members for pre-trip team meetings
 - Personal expenses
 - Tips for airports, hotels, or drivers (the ministry partner host covers these expenses)
 - Any additional expenses or supplies related to the trip project (this needs to be communicated directly to the LOVESERVES Staff from the ministry partner)

Also, please remember, do NOT bring back any foreign currency. Exchange it back to USD before you leave the country!

Within 7 days of your return, please send your receipts for the pre-approved expenses and a check for the remaining balance of the travel funds to:

LoveServes International

3310 US Hwy 301 N, Ellenton, FL 34222

Write in memo: Mission trip emergency fund

Questions: Call Patricia 303-775-8444 or Stephanie 727-480-6172 or email

Patricia@loveserves.org or Stephanie@loveserves.org

RE-ENTRY INTO THE U.S.

Guidelines for Your Return Home

US Customs and Border Control

- On your return to the US, you will go through customs at the airport. You will need your passport and a filled-out declaration form that will be handed to you by a flight attendant prior to landing or you may pick one up at a kiosk in the customs area.
- The declaration form requires you to declare souvenirs and other items you purchased in the Dominican Republic, including the value of each item. You are eligible for a duty-free exemption of \$800. They will not let you take a “weapon looking” souvenir as a carry on.
- Question 11 (d) on the form asks if you have been on a farm, ranch, or pasture at any time during your stay. If you have, you may be questioned, and the bottoms of your shoes examined and disinfected.

What Do I Do When I Get Home?

Believe it or not, one of the toughest things about a mission trip is going back home! When you think about the truly mind blowing-things you’ve experienced in the last 7 days, it is nothing short of a miracle what GOD has done in your life!

Obviously, you’ve thought about home, family members, friends, and even work or school . . . you’ve probably thought about all the people who are praying for you on this trip . . . all those who didn’t come on the trip but, perhaps, supported you.

Here is where the rubber meets the road (as they say). You’re excited to share your experience with others—to tell them all the amazing things God did. You’re aching to show the people you love all your photos and videos of the experience that has captured your heart . . . but . . . many of them will give you a few minutes of interest, but then it will be “business as usual.” It’s NOT that they don’t care about you; they just did NOT experience what you did and cannot possibly understand. Most people you try to share your stories with will disengage much sooner than you want them to.

(Ask a few veterans to share with the group what happened when they returned home from their last mission trip)

Here are four tips to help with Re-Entry:

- Recognize God's work in your life was truly real and important, regardless of what others reactions are.
- Pray for God's wisdom and contentment.
- Think of ONE highlight from your experience and focus on how it impacted you personally. Then think of a SINGLE word that will serve as your trigger word and a HOOK word for the people you want to share your story with. Don't make the word too "obvious," but a more obscure word that will cause your listener to mentally stop and ask you what you mean by that word. (Ex., When someone asks, "How was your trip?" Instead of saying, "It was so good . . . blah, blah, blah . . ."; say, "Handcuffs" (or some such word). Trust me, they will stop and say, "Wait, what?" Then, proceed to tell them the ONE story associated with that word and keep it short. (2-3 minutes)
- Now practice with someone in your group.

Reverse Culture Shock

Just as visiting a third-world country can be a culture shock, returning to one's own country can produce a reverse culture shock. After returning home, many who visit abroad begin re-examining their priorities, their values, and what they think of themselves and the United States. You may experience feelings of frustration, anger, guilt or loneliness and not understand exactly why. You may have a heightened sensitivity when others complain, and you could find yourself complaining a lot less. You have experienced what is critical for survival in the D.R. and how it is both a blessing and a distraction in our American culture to have so much more than we need.

You might feel Americans are too focused on themselves and unaware of what is going on in third-world countries. You will be more aware of how much we waste. You may feel guilty about your home, clothes, and all the nice things you take for granted. As a result, you may develop new attitudes, beliefs, and habits. Take time to be thankful for what you have and be more generous with what God has given you.

How You Can Impact Your Home Church

You can have an impact on the mission's program in your home church! Here are some ideas:

- Either as an individual or as a group make an appointment with your pastor to give him a briefing on what you experienced and how it changed you.
- Ask if he would be willing to give you a short segment in a service to show pictures and give a couple of testimonies (Be sure and prepare so that you stay within the allotted time).
- As an alternative, ask him if he would rather interview a member of the team during the service. That way, he could control the timeframe.
- Focus on the life-changing experience and what God did in your life and the lives of the team as a result of going to the D.R.
- Within 24 hours of returning to the U.S., the team leader and staff must connect on any issues that need to be handled immediately.

- Within one week of returning, the team leader and staff must schedule a meeting to debrief the trip. The team leader should bring the travel folder and any unused portion of the travel advance to this meeting.

The debrief meeting covers:

- Discussing the highs and lows from the trip.
- Celebrating how God worked in the team.
- Communicating any conflicts or red flags regarding team members.
- Evaluating the leadership potential of team members.
- Discussing any ministry partner host concerns or things to celebrate.
- Suggesting any logistical changes for a future trip.
- Projecting possible future plans for the team leader.

Within one month of returning, the Team Leader must host a post-trip team meeting. Team leaders should remind team members to prepare for the post-trip meeting.

Remember, as the team leader, you are taking on the role of a shepherd/pastor as you lead teams and other people on the trip—before, during, and after. How are you going to engage your team after the trip is over? How are you going to set team members up well to effectively debrief their experience?

POST-TRIP TEAM MEETING

Suggested Topics

Cover the following topics in your post-trip team meeting:

Ask team members to share about their re-entry experience at home.

1. Who have they been able to talk to? Do most people want the quick, five-minute story—or the full details? Who is willing to sit down for an hour and hear all they are processing?
2. What has God been teaching them?
3. What do they miss most?

Watch Helping without Hurting video 7 , “Making It Count”

Discuss the video questions as a group. This is the time to challenge your team members to recall things they journaled about in-country and to take action steps that will help them continue their growth journey.

4. How can you make the most out of your trip experience?
5. Encourage your team to write their plan for next steps
6. Who will they share this with for accountability?

Post-trip survey

Solicit constructive feedback and input from the group. Ask team members to complete the post-trip survey, if they have not done so already.

7. How prepared did everyone feel going into the trip?
8. How did the *LoveServes Team Member Handbook* and Pre-Trip Training meetings help everyone's ability to experience and process the trip?

POST TRIP- NEXT STEPS

The last devotion from the Mission Journal that you did in the D.R. with your team focused on the theme of what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus. It was intended to help the team members begin to reflect on their in-country serving trip experience in a way that challenges them to ask themselves how they will respond. The personal homework prompts them to commit a promise to God as a result of the experience they had on the mission trip. Ultimately, that is our goal, to help your team members grow in the maturity of their faith, to respond actively to what they sense God was working out in them on the trip, and for them to participate in helping your church build/strengthen its missional culture.

This email includes some suggested next steps for your team. LoveServes would like to encourage you to

1. Review the resources listed below
2. Consider facilitating a monthly/bi-weekly small group meeting with your team,
3. or share these resources with the Missions Director at your church and see if they might want to offer a small group study and have someone else lead it.

These small group studies are found on RightNow Media, or on the website address provided:

- *When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience* - by Brian Fikkert and the Chalmers Center (<https://chalmers.org/resources/the-small-group-experience/>)
- *Radical* - by David Platt
- *No Plan B* - by Todd Phillips
- *Gospel Shaped Outreach* - by Erik Raymond
- *Faith Works: Living What We Claim to Believe* - by David Platt
- *Eyes to See* - by Shaun Groves

Please let us know once you set the date of your mission team's "Reunion" meeting.
Email Stephanie@loveserves.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What if I have already accepted a team member onto my LoveServes team, but now I'm feeling unsure about their commitment or readiness to travel?

Contact a staff person as soon as possible for counsel on the situation. Part of your role as the team leader is to evaluate everyone's physical, emotional, and spiritual preparation for the trip. If something has gotten in the way of that, it is your job to address it with truth and grace. Nobody is ever owed a place on a team, and someone who isn't prepared can wreak havoc for the whole team.

2. What if a team member needs to back out of the trip? Will they get their money refunded?

If a team member must cancel, notify the staff right away. Due to IRS regulations, donations (including payment for LoveServes teams), are never refundable. However, depending on the timing of their cancellation, they may not be held liable for the entire trip cost.

3. What if I'm getting the sense that a team member won't be able to pay for their trip cost before the deadline?

Notify the LoveServes staff as soon as possible. Failure to pay for the trip could result in removal from the team or the inability to participate on future teams. The circumstances vary depending on when the issue is communicated and whether a plan to solve the problem is in place.

4. What if I want to go back next year?

Great! Some trips are repeated. But **don't make any commitments** about a return trip to the ministry partner. These decisions are made by the staff. If you'd like to make a return trip, notify the LoveServes Teams Manager during your post-trip debrief.

LOVESERVES TEAM LEADER POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please initial each box, which acknowledges that you understand and agree to the policies and guidelines outlined in the LoveServes Team Leader Handbook as a core volunteer of the LoveServes International.

- I commit to reflecting Jesus Christ in all situations and will uphold LoveServes International's Code of Conduct.
- I commit to the mission and vision of LoveServes, including respecting any policies related to direct giving or communication with LoveServes partners. (*LoveServes' giving policy*: Donations & gifts cannot be given directly to any partner or individual on the field. All donations & gifts must be made to LoveServes International for distribution to all partners in accordance with LOVESERVES guidelines and oversight). This includes the Social Media guidelines outlined in the handbook.
- I commit to attending all required Team Leader meetings and commit to staying up to date on current information regarding LoveServes.
- I commit to prayerfully discern through team member selection. I commit to a Christ-like attitude in all crucial conversations.
- I commit to follow the Biblical principles outlined in Matthew 18 in all situations of conflict.
- I commit to the spiritual and cultural preparation of all team members, including myself, through Pre-Trip Training meetings and devotionals. I further commit to provide spiritual and cultural discipleship during and after the trip.
- I commit to providing accountability for all team members in terms of their financial responsibility and fundraising guidelines as outlined in the Team Member and Team Leader Handbooks.
- I commit to open and immediate communication with the LoveServes staff and compliance with the procedures outlined in all emergency situations.
- I commit to not permit drinking alcohol, vaping, or smoking on serving trips, for all team members including myself.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Appendix A- Learner-Servant-Storyteller

LEARNER

(1) Learner vs. Teacher

- As we enter another or different culture, we may come across (unintentionally) to the new culture as superior or as a conqueror. Another culture other than your own is neither right nor wrong; it's different. Therefore, it is imperative that we come to this different culture as a LEARNER.
- We must be willing to enter a different culture as a LEARNER rather than a TEACHER. The temptation is to think we "know it all," that we have the solutions to their problems. We are tempted to fix them. We are not there to tell people what to do, but to come alongside to partner with them to accomplish their goals.
- Jesus spent thirty years as a learner before entering ministry.
- Like Jesus, we must observe others and learn who they are and what their culture is like in order to establish relationship (good examples are the woman at the well or the woman caught in adultery).

SERVANT

(2) Servant vs. Leader

- Jesus humbled Himself to enter this world in order to build a relationship with us. Listen to how this is described in Phil. 2:5-8:
"The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like man and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross."
- We too must be willing to enter this different culture with a servant attitude. One that says, "How can I come alongside you and assist you with your needs and not impose my goals or agenda on you?"

- We, from the U.S., are seen as rich and powerful; therefore, it is imperative we have servant hearts. This attitude will be the gateway to building relationships and opening the door to people's hearts.

STORYTELLER

(3) Be a Storyteller

- When strangers enter a different culture, sometimes it is hard for people to accept preaching that is to correct and inform. To preach, you need to know the context of the culture. When invited to preach in a church service this is acceptable, but in other contexts it is more effective to tell your story.
- Everyone has a story of faith. One is not better than another. It is uniquely yours. Your story is personal, and when you tell it others will want to share theirs.

Practice telling your story of faith to someone this week. Then ask yourself these following questions:

Experiential Learning Cycle

Section One: Reflection – what has just been experienced

- What did you do in this experience?
- What happened?
- What did you observe?
- What feelings did you have participating in this experience?

Section Two: Insight – what is being learned

- What are the implications of what we have just reflected on?
- What could be learned from this experience?
- Identify some possible learnings.

Section Three: Application – what this could mean to our serving trip

- How might this learning apply to our upcoming mission experience?
- Do people's attitudes affect us? In what ways?
- How does my attitude affect other people?
- What impact can one person have with a group?

Biblical Reflection: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We

looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

Partnering with the local church to reach its community!

We join a DR church leader on a visitation to pray, fellowship, share stories, and ultimately share the Gospel.

- a. Determine who will translate, and what invitation will be extended. I.e., church, Women's ministry etc.
- b. A local church member will oversee evangelizing because they are the one to disciple them.
- c. Have conversation in-country to ask how we can support the home visit with the church member.

Appendix B- Outreach- Women's Ministry

Group preparation

Before you come, as a group you will need to set aside a specific time for preparation. You will also need to determine how you will gather the supplies needed for the craft.

Below, you will find specific areas that need to be discussed and prepared.

Storytelling: Before you come, each team member should prepare to share her story with the community. Keep in mind, the time you take to be prepared directly relates to the effectiveness of your ministry to the women. Although everyone should come prepared, no one will be forced to do anything they don't feel comfortable doing.

Craft ideas

Make something difficult, a skill that can be developed by the women who get interested.

Perhaps, crocheting, cross- stitch, knitting, macramé, or sewing

Make something useful, the women we are working with generally have household items that are practical and useful. Seldom do they splurge and purchase something because it is pretty.

Making practical things is best... linens, purses or bags, containers, jewelry etc.

Make something that takes time- a project that takes two to three days to learn is perfect. It

forces the women to come back each day to perfect the talent or finish the project.

Some Ideas- Things that have worked well in the past include crocheting purses out of plastic bags, knitting dishcloths, and cross-stitching kitchen or bath towels, Embroidering a table cloth, hand sewing or embroidering cell phone holders

Helpful Hints

Please NEVER attempt to teach a craft that you yourself have not made from start to finish at home.

Have several "samples" for the women to look at. You will want the women to explore their creative potential, but it's still okay to copy the example!

It is worth your time and effort to package all needed materials into "kits."
Always have extras for kits with "missing" parts.
Don't forget to pack an abundance of clean-up materials, wash cloths, etc.

Our ministry to Women

“...And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? ...” Romans 10:14 The Message

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to share God’s love with hearts that are open to God’s Word. The fruit of even the smallest investment can appear many years later.

As you prepare for your short-term mission trip, ask the Lord to give you His heart for those you will be sharing your life with. The outlined material is only intended to provide the framework; one that enables you to share God’s Word and gives you the opportunity to have one-on-one contact with women.

Hug them, love them, and interact with them. Women need to know God’s love in a tangible way. Love them as Jesus would love them. Sit close and show them how to do the craft.

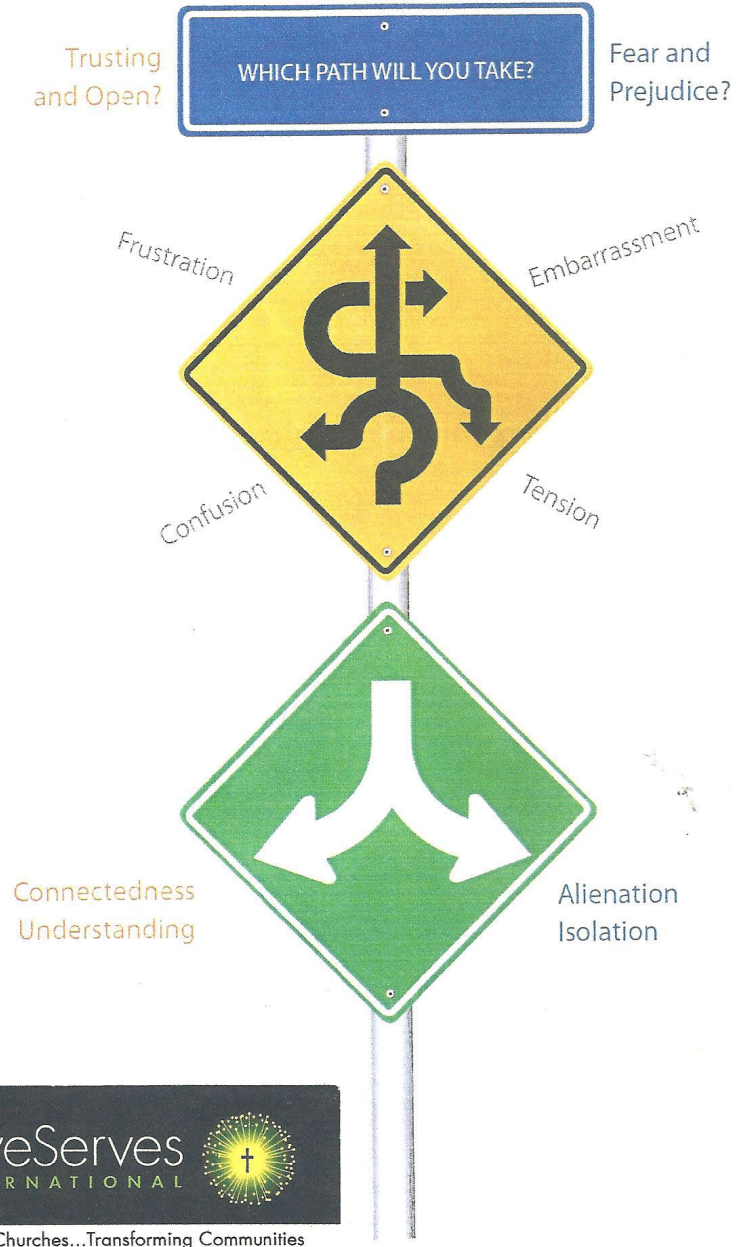
It’s the time, attention and contact you make with the women and others that will leave the greatest imprint. Both for yourself and those you are able to touch.

May God use you in significant ways! May your life be the tangible touch of God’s love to the women and others you meet this year on your short-term mission .

Other: Construction, Sports, Medical

To be determined

Cultural Entry



Appendix D- Assigning roles

Assigning Travel Team Roles

The team roles are described in the Mission Team Training and Orientation Manual. While you may wish to ask for volunteers in some of the roles, others require someone with experience and the right heart. After reviewing the applications that include skills and talents and observing team members during the first couple of meetings, you can probably make informed choices. Critical roles include the Devotions Coordinator, Women's Ministry, Children's Program Leader, and Construction Leader. Two other roles that are needed are: Team Recorder and Team Storyteller for photos and video. You may ask for volunteers for these two roles.

- The Devotions Coordinator will select team members to do devotionals each morning using the book devotional as a guide. (Remind the Devotions Coordinator that women can lead devotionals as effectively as men).
- The Children's Program Leader will need to identify two or three helpers to help prepare materials for the program. The leader will need to know in advance what the D.R. church wants the team to do and what the team's role will be. The leader can then plan activities, lessons, and obtain materials as needed.
- The Construction Leader will need a description of the project and any plans that are available. Re-vision will purchase materials and have the tools available. However, depending on the project, team members may bring some of their own tools.
- The Team Recorder is responsible for keeping a written record of the team's activities, as well as insights and feedback for the LOVESERVES leaders. Each day during the trip, the Team Leader should gather the team for a time of reflection and debriefing. The Team Recorder is responsible for capturing important notes, decisions, key things learned, and suggestions for future trips. This information should be shared at a debriefing meeting with LOVESERVES leaders after the team returns.
- Storytellers- We would like to invite two people to volunteer to be LoveServes Storytellers for our upcoming serving trip. The task is simple, yet important. Actually, the task is something many of you would be doing anyway - taking photos and video snippets during the trip. The only difference is that LoveServes is asking the Storytellers to be purposeful in capturing a few specific moments. We suggest you identify a trip member before you leave. Please use Appendix E - PARTICIPANT'S RELEASE

Appendix E- Release form

LoveServes International PARTICIPANT’S RELEASE

I, either personally or through my designee, hereby give LoveServes International (LoveServes), its representatives and those acting under its authority, the absolute right and permission to use **any media** in which I am a participant, in whole or in part, which may be made or recorded for use by LoveServes. The media shall be used at the sole discretion of LoveServes, and I waive any and all rights I may have to the media in connection with its use by LoveServes, or the work in which it may be used. In the event such waiver should be ineffective for any reason, I hereby assign such rights to LoveServes International.

I release, discharge and agree to LoveServes harmless from and against any and all liability in connection with the use of such media. If signed below by my designee, such designee is acting at my request and LoveServes shall rely on such designee’s signature as if it were my own.

LoveServes International

PARTICIPANT or DESIGNEE

Signature

Signature

Name (please print)

Name (please print)

Title

Title (if applicable)

Address

Date: _____

Telephone

Note (if signed by Participant’s Designee)

Email

Date:

Appendix F- Games, Ice-Breakers, Ideas

A great way to help people open up is to ask them fun questions that allow them to express their personality or interesting things about them. Here is a list of 20 safe, useful icebreaker questions to help break the ice:

1. If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?
2. What is one goal you'd like to accomplish during your lifetime?
3. When you were little, who was your favorite superhero and why?
4. Who is your hero? (a parent, a celebrity, an influential person in one's life)
5. What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?
6. If they made a movie of your life, what would it be about, and which actor would you want to play you?
7. If you were an ice cream flavor, which one would you be and why?
8. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go and why?
9. What's the ideal dream job for you?
10. Are you a morning or night person?
11. What are your favorite hobbies?
12. What are your pet peeves or interesting things about you that you dislike?
13. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
14. Name one of your favorite things about someone in your family.
15. If you had to give up a favorite food, which would be the most difficult to give up?
16. If you won a lottery ticket and had a million dollars, what would you do with it?
17. If you could transport yourself anywhere instantly, where would you go and why?
18. In your opinion, which animal is the best (or most beautiful) and why?
19. What is one item you really should throw away, but probably never will?
20. Growing up, what were your favorite toys to play with as a child?

“This or That” Exercise

Dog or Cat? Netflix or YouTube? Phone Call or Text? Toast or Eggs? Cardio or Weights? Facebook or Twitter? Ice Cream Cone or Snow Cone? Mobile Games or Console Games? While walking: Music or Podcasts? iOS or Android? Pop or Indie? Cake or Pie? Swimming or Sunbathing? High-tech or Low-tech? Big Party or Small Gathering? Receive: Email or Letter?	New Clothes or New Phone? Rich Friend or Loyal Friend? Football or Basketball? Work Hard or Play Hard? Nice Car or Nice Home Interior? What’s worse: Laundry or Dishes? Bath or Shower? Sneakers or Sandals? Watch or Play sports Sweet or Salty Money or Fame Pasta or Pizza Comedy or Drama Piercings or Tattoos Puzzles or Board Games Steak or Chicken
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“Double Circle” Exercise

Half of the team in an inner circle facing out and the other half is in the outer circle facing in. Share one interesting thing most people don’t know about you, then the inner circle shifts one place left and repeats. Each shift lasts approximately 90 seconds and then you have them shift again until the inner circle has gone completely around.

Picture Pieces Game

Time Required: 30 minutes

This problem-solving activity requires that the leader choose a well-known picture or cartoon that is full of detail. The picture needs to be cut into as many equal squares as there are participants in the activity. Each participant should be given a piece of the “puzzle” and instructed to create an exact copy of their piece of the puzzle five times bigger than its original size. They are posed with the problem of not knowing why or how their own work affects the larger picture. The leader can pass out pencils, markers, paper, and rulers to make the process simpler and run more smoothly. When all the participants have completed their enlargements, ask them to assemble their pieces into a giant copy of the original picture on a table. **This problem-solving activity will teach participants how to work in a team and it demonstrates how each person working on their own part contributes to an overall group result.**

Blind Drawing Game

Time Required: 10 - 15 minutes

Rules: Divide everyone into groups of two. Have the two individuals sitting back-to-back. Give one person a pen and paper and the other person a picture. The person with the picture describes the picture to their teammate without saying what it is. For example, if the image is a worm in an apple, do not say, "Draw an apple with a worm in it." The person with the pen and paper draws what they think the picture depicts, based on the verbal description. Set a time limit for 10 - 15 minutes.

This is an activity that focuses on interpretation and communication. Once the drawing is finished, it's always interesting to see how the drawer interprets their partner's description.

Sneak-a-Peek Game

Time Required: 10 or more minutes

This problem-solving activity requires a basic Lego pieces. The instructor will build a small sculpture with some of the Lego pieces and hide it from the group. The participants should then be divided into small teams of four. Each team should be given enough Lego pieces to duplicate the structure you've already created. The instructor should then place their sculpture in an area that is an equal distance from all the groups. One member from each team can come up at the same time to look at the sculpture for ten seconds and try to memorize it before returning to their team. After they return to their teams, they have twenty-five seconds to instruct their teams about how to build an exact replica of the instructor's sculpture. After one minute of trying to recreate the sculpture, another member from each team can come up for a "sneak a peek" before returning to their team and trying to recreate the sculpture. The game should be continued in this pattern until one of the team's successfully duplicates the original sculpture. **This game will teach participants how to problem solve in a group and communicate effectively.**

Games Youngest Group (3-6ys)

Duck, Duck, Goose

Kids sit down in a circle facing each other. One person is "it" and walks around the circle. As they walk around, they tap people's heads and say whether they are a "duck" or a "goose". Once someone is the "goose" they get up and try to chase "it" around the

circle. The goal is to tap that person before they are able to sit down in the "goose's" spot. If the goose is not able to do this, they become "it" for the next round and play continues. If they do tap the "it" person, the person tagged has to sit in the center of the circle. Then the goose become it for the next round. The person in the middle can't leave until another person is tagged and they are replaced.

Simon Says

One person is chosen to be "Simon" the others stand in a straight line. The Simon then calls out an action for the children to follow. It can be anything like.... Make a cross with your arms, put your hands in prayer, touch your toes jump 10 times on 1 foot..... The Simon when giving an action can simply state the action by it self..."touch your ears" and whoever does it is out and has to sit down. Or the Simon can say "Simon says, touch your ears" and them everyone must follow the instruction. You can vary the actions according to the age group of children you are playing with. The last person who is standing can then be "Simon"!

One person is "it", but when they touch someone, that person is "frozen" in place. They cannot move. The only way they can become unfrozen is if a person a person touches them Play continues until all the players are frozen. Then the last person to be frozen is "it" for the next game.

Red Light Green Light

In this game, one person plays the "stop light" and the rest try to touch him/her.

At the start, all the children form a line about 15 feet away from the stop light.

The stop light faces away from the line of kids and says "green light". At this point the kids are allowed to move towards the stoplight.

At any point, the stop light may say "red light!" and turn around. If any of the kids are caught moving after this has occurred, they are out.

Play resumes when the stop light turns back around and says "green light".

The stop light wins if all the kids are out before anyone is able to touch him/her.

Otherwise, the first player to touch the stop light wins the game and earns the right to be "stop light" for the next game

Grapevine (use a bible verse)

This game is intended for a large group. The more the better. The group sit in a large circle. The kids should be spaced about arms length apart. The way we did it was to hold hands in a circle and gradually spread out until our arms were stretched. Now everyone takes a seat. The "originator", usually the one who organized the game, or the bossiest, starts a message. The originator whispers a short message into the ear of the person sitting to the right of them. The message is whispered once. The new messenger then whispers the message into the ear to the one to their right, and so on and so on. When the message reaches the person sitting to the left of the originator the message is announced out loud. Seldom does the message arrive in its original form. The person to the right gets to be the next originator.

Musical Chairs (use bible story music – creation) (use paper instead of chairs)

requires

Chairs, (paper) one fewer than the number of people playing

A music player (phone)

game play

Arrange a circle of chairs (paper) numbering one less than the number of players participating in the game. Players line up outside the ring of chairs while one non-player is in charge of playing music — recorded music is easier, but if there are any musicians in the group, have them play their instruments. When the music begins, the players move, shake, and shimmy in a circle around the chairs, but as soon as the music stops, the players must immediately find a chair. One player will not find a seat and is thus eliminated, and one chair is removed from the circle for the next round. The game continues until one player remains.

Creation Game –

IDEA: Create pictures that represent the 7 days of creation. Have kids match the picture to a master set of pictures of creation.

Patty Cake – to creation song (Tune of "Are You Sleeping Brother John") (Spanish version?)

God created: God created

Night and Day: Night and Day

That was on the first day: That was on the first day,

It was good: It was good.

God created: God created,

Sky and Clouds: Sky and Clouds

That was on the second day: That was on the second day

It was good: It was good.

God created: God created,

Land and Plants: Land and Plants

That was on the third day: That was on the third day,

It was good: It was good.

God created: God created,

Sun, Moon, and Stars: Sun, Moon, and Stars

That was on the fourth day: That was on the fourth day

It was good: It was good.

God created: God created,

Birds and Fish: Birds and Fish

That was on the fifth day: That was on the fifth day

It was good: It was good.

God created: God created,
Creatures on Land: Creatures on Land
People too! People too!
That was on the sixth day: That was on the sixth
day
It was good: It was good.

Then God rested: Then God rested
From His work: From His work.
That was on the seventh day: That was on the
seventh day
All was good: All was good.

Let's sing praises: Let's sing praises
To our God: To our God
He is everywhere, giving love and care
God is good: God is good
God is Good.

Children's Games (7-10 year olds and 11-14 year
olds)

Musical Chairs (use bible story music – creation)

Chairs, (or a piece of paper) one fewer than the number of people playing
A music player
Game play:

Arrange a circle of chairs (paper) numbering one less than the number of players participating in the game. Players line up outside the ring of chairs while one non-player is in charge of playing music — recorded music is easier, but if there are any musicians in the group, have them play their instruments. When the music begins, the players move, shake, and shimmy in a circle around the chairs, but as soon as the music stops, the players must immediately find a chair. One player will not find a seat and is thus eliminated, and one chair is removed from the circle for the next round. The game continues until one player remains.

Creation

IDEA: Have the days of creation written on a piece of paper (words or symbols). Each player gets a piece of paper. Children have to find 6 other people that belong in your group to make up all 7 days. Are players allowed to talk? Or have to act it out?

Mount Knight Carry

Have the kids pair up.

The partners split off to opposite sides of the playing area. One side forms a circle, then their partners stand behind them in an outer circle.

The inner circle rotates clockwise, and the outer circle rotates counterclockwise. The leader yells out either "knight," "horse," or "cavalier."

"Knight" means that one partner gets down on one knee and the other partner sits on his/her exposed knee. "Horse" means that one partner gets down on all fours and the other partner sits on his/her back. "Cavalier" means that one partner picks the other partner up in the style of a groom carrying the bride over the threshold.

When one of these positions is called out, the kids have to scramble to find their partners and assume said position. The last pair to do so is out, and so it goes until there is a winning team. It's fun to make the kids jump and spin while they are rotating in their circles to make it harder for them to keep track of their partners.

Balloon relay

Kids get into 2 teams and pair up with another player on their team. Pair places a balloon between their foreheads and runs to point A and back to hand off balloon to the next pair. Repeat. First team to complete wins.

Ladder Game

Can have 20+ kids in each group. Divide the group into pairs of two. Have the pairs sit across from each other and in line with the rest of the pairs. Partners should sit with their legs extended and touching their partners' feet creating a human ladder on the floor. The group is then divided into two teams, one side of the ladder versus the other. Each pair will get a number (one person on each team). The leader will call out numbers to indicate it is that pair's turn to stand up, run through the remainder of the ladder, run around to the other side of the ladder, come back up through the other side of the ladder and find their seats. The first person to reach their position and sit down wins a point for his/her team. First team to get to 10 points wins.

Re-Entry: “What Do I Do When I Get Home” Outline

Believe it or not, one of the toughest things about a mission trip is going back home.

When you think about the truly mind-blowing things you’ve experienced in the last 7 days, it is nothing short of a miracle what GOD has done in your life.

Obviously, you’ve thought about home, family members, friends and even work or school... you’ve probably thought about all the people who are praying for you on this trip... all those who didn’t come on the trip, but perhaps supported you.

Here is where the rubber (as they say) meets the road. You’re excited to share your experience with others, to tell them all the amazing things God did. You’re aching to show the people you love all your photos and videos of the experience that has captured your heart...but...

Many of them will give you a few minutes of interest, but then it will be “business as usual”. It’s NOT that they don’t care about you, they just did NOT experience what you did and cannot possibly understand. Most people you try to share your stories with will disengage much sooner than you want them to.

(Ask a few veterans to share with the group what happened when they returned home last trip)

Here are four tips to help with Re-Entry.

1. Recognize God’s work in your life was truly real and important, regardless of what others reactions are.
2. Pray for God’s wisdom and contentment
3. Think of ONE highlight from your experience and focus on how it impacted you personally.

Then think of a SINGLE word that will serve as your trigger word and a HOOK word for the people you want to share your story with. Don’t make the word too “obvious”, but a more obscure word that will cause your listener to mentally stop and ask you what you mean by that word. (Ex. When someone asks, “How was your trip?” Instead of saying, “It was so good...blah, blah, blah.” Say, “Handcuffs” ... trust me they will stop and say, “Wait, what?” Then proceed to tell them the ONE story associated with that word and keep it short.

4. Now practice with someone in your group.

Questionnaire for when we return

1. What part of the experience impacted your heart the most?

Reflection on the week and preparation for going home

Set Up

Make sure the meeting space is set up for the group. Have enough chairs available and set up and have materials for the night's session ready.

I. Reflection on the Week (5 min.)

Ask questions about what has been experienced on this mission experience. Spend a minimum of five minutes and remember to expect 10 for 20 seconds of silence after each question.

1. What did you do this week that you've never done before?
2. What was the interaction with people in the community like for you?
3. What new things did you notice about your group?
4. Did you notice people's needs what did you do about them?
5. Any other reflections on the week you would like to share?

II. Insights learn from the week (5 min.)

Ask questions about what has been learned from this week together. Spend a minimum of 3 minutes

1. What have you learned about yourself this week?
2. What have you experienced about God's love this week
3. What did you learn about your ability to love this week?
4. Did anyone help you by talking things through with you during your short-term mission experience?

III. Applying your learnings back home (5 min)

Discuss how we can practice these learnings when we go back home spend a minimum of two minutes

1. How did you decide to act towards others each day? How did you express love?
2. When you think about life in terms of eternity, our whole life is a short-term missions. Why don't
3. we live back home as intentional as we do here?

4. If you want to get the most out of this experience, we suggest you try living life back home like you did this week. What are some things you can do to make your daily life more intentional?

Here are a few examples:

1. For one week, smile at everyone and see if it makes a difference.
2. Wave at everyone for a week and watch the reaction.
3. Have lunch with someone from work or school and talk about what your daily life
4. was like on mission trip discussion or desire to integrate that lifestyle here at home return.
5. Meet regularly with others from your trip and talk about things you're doing to live more
6. intentional.
7. Start each day with scripture and reflection.
8. Do something for someone in your life without expecting anything in return. (i.e., phone call, mow a lawn, empty trash, etc.)

IV. Coping with re-entry (10 min.)

Goal of this session: to help the groups identify the various mix of feelings and emotions that inevitably occur when they go home from their mission experience and possible ways to deal with those feelings.

Read the Caterpillar and butterfly cartoon. Briefly introduce the problem of re-entry into a situation where you have changed but others may not have changed or appreciate your change

Understanding your feelings

As a result of your cross-cultural experience, you have changed. Don't expect others who haven't shared the experience to understand what you have gone through.

Address both the short-term and the long-term effects of re-entry

Short term effects- how do I deal with being so uncomfortable.

How do I process these difficult feelings so that I can become productive at home for the Lord?

Long term effects- how do I deal with the becoming comfortable again? Will my life really change in terms of life patterns and routines or will I go back into the same old things? Have I really changed will I go back to business as usual?

Strategies for re-entry:

Recognize that the models we have learned on the mission trip are for all of life ... not just the mission trip.

Utilize the Learner/ Servant/ Storytelling Model to re-enter your culture. Return to your own culture as a “learner”.

What is God doing in your home, church and community that you never noticed before?

Return to your own culture as a “servant”.

Be prepared to get involved in serving the needs of others in your own family, community and your church.

Return to your own culture as a “storyteller”

Resist the temptation to tell people what they are doing wrong.

Just tell your story of what God did for you and through you on your mission experience.

Invite others to share their stories of what happened while you were away.

Cross Cultural Entry Model

Utilize the Experiential Learning Cycle when you re-enter your culture This model describes how we learn. It is our approach to learning. We are interested in learning that makes a difference in the way we think, feel and act. Look For ways to learn experientially when we return home.

Use the **Cross-Cultural Entry Model** to re-enter your culture.

This model describes **approaches to entering a new culture.**

The choices we make, as described in this model will make all the difference in how we can actively engage the culture instead of simply being a detached observer. When we return home, we need to engage in this approach.



Our Contact Information

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Our Vision: To develop Healthy Churches in all nations, equipping God's people to make disciples, who make disciples. (Matthew 28:19a ...make disciples of all nations)

Mission Statement: We walk alongside Pastors, mentoring and coaching them to develop a healthy Church that equips its members to love God and love their neighbor.

Ephesians 4:12 "Equipping God's people for works of service for the building up of the kingdom of Christ..."

May you discover the presence and power of God in your life and know the joy that comes when you serve and bless others.