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What's your story?
A Mission Beyond



Welcome!

The prophet Micah has a very important question to ask before you go on this mission trip: **Why does God want you to be a part of this trip?** You can find the answer to Micah's question in the Bible, Micah 6:8: The Lord requires you to **DO JUSTICE** (fairness), **LOVE MERCY** (kindness) and **WALK HUMBLY** with your God (openly surrendered).

Those who return from short-term mission trips will often tell you that it was a challenging week, but in the next breath they'll say something like: **"It was one of the best experiences of my life!"**

Why is THAT?

1) **It's a great experience because we've been created to DO JUSTICE in our world.** When we actually roll up our sleeves and get involved in doing for others what we would hope they would do for us, we're doing what God wants us to do.

2) **It's a great experience because we've also been created to LOVE MERCY.** Showing mercy involves doing acts of kindness for others, especially those who really need the most help. Whenever we get involved in doing random acts of kindness, we're doing what God wants us to do.

3) **It's a great experience because we've been created to WALK HUMBLY WITH OUR GOD,** which means that we need to be openly surrendered to what God wants. We need to include Him in each step of the way. If we decide to walk humbly with God, the Bible promises that God will show us the way. It takes focus and faith, though. Mission trips help to give us the focus on God we all need. If we walk humbly with God and surrender to His purposes, God will be our guide.

So, welcome to this incredible mission opportunity to plant the seeds of justice, mercy and humility within yourself and others. Micah tells us that God requires this of us: we're to live God's mission of justice, mercy and humility in our world. It's what life is all about!

Using This Journal

Write in this Journal Before, During and After the Trip

7 pre-trip journal pages before the trip...

During the 7 days before departure, plan to take 10-15 minutes daily to complete a page in your journal. If you miss a day, try to make it up on the next day.

Why is writing helpful? It's a great way to learn! You may not consider yourself to be a great writer, but whenever you put your thoughts and experiences into words, you are learning. There may be times when you don't feel like writing, and that's OK. But try to write at least a word or phrase for each item in the journal. When you do, you'll find that it really helps you to focus more clearly on what you are experiencing.

30 on-site journal pages for the 7-10 days of the trip...

Plan to have a daily reflection time while you're at the mission site. This journal offers three pages of writing space for each of your mission days (up to 10 days). Two pages will guide your reflection and the third page gives you an open space for notes, sketches, poetry, songs, or whatever.

Plan to carry your journal with you. It's good to have it nearby when a thought or idea hits you. Bring your journal to the small and large group gatherings. It's a great place to keep track of the many things you'll be learning. It really helps when it's time to debrief the experience at the end of each day, or at the end of the trip.

7 back home journal pages after the trip...

When you arrive home, it's a great idea to continue writing in your journal. When you've filled up the 7 back-home pages, plan to buy a notebook or diary for the months and years beyond the trip.

The pages of this journal will become the written record of your experience. It will help you to tell the story of what you learned and the people you met. And when the opportunity comes again to prepare for your next mission trip, this journal will be a great resource to review. Because...

This journal is the written record of what God is about to do in your life!

In everything you do, look to God, trust God, and know that God is with you...God will always be your best guide to help you live the life God has always wanted you to live, a life of justice, mercy and humility. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Remember what the Lord requires of you! You're to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

IN **07** Days WE TRAVEL
TODAY'S DATE: _____

READ Matthew 11:28-29 & Micah 6:8

WRITE A RESPONSE TO GOD...

Summarize the invitation Jesus gives to us?

What are the three things God will require of us during the trip?

PRAY...

Dear God, help me to realize that I'm going on this mission trip, not just because I've chosen to go, but because You have invited me. Teach me during the coming days to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with You. May our team represent Christ to the people we will soon be meeting and serving. Amen.

BE SILENT...

Think about what it will mean for you to be more like Jesus Christ to the other members of your team and to the new friends you will soon meet.

WRITE...

List some of your reasons for going on the mission trip:

WRITE A PRAYER...






Dear God...



Do/Love/Walk... _____


Look up the meanings of JUSTICE, MERCY, and HUMILITY and write the definitions on a piece of paper. Post it in a place where you'll see the words often.


MISSION DAY **04** TODAY'S DATE: _____

TODAY'S WEATHER:     

TODAY'S MOOD:      


WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE...

 SEEN?

 TASTED?

 HEARD?

 SMELLED?

 TOUCHED?

READ 1 Peter 5:6-11

WRITE A RESPONSE TO GOD...

After reading these verses, choose three key words or phrases that are important for you to hear from God at this point in your week.

1.

2.

3.

PRAY...

God, I humble myself before you. Please take all of my worries, fears and doubts. I accept the fact that you accept and care for me, even when it seems that others don't. Protect me from evil, and strengthen my faith, today and for the rest of my life. I give my life, once again, to You and to Your purposes for me and this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BE SILENT....

Think about the many reasons you have to be happy, thankful, and joyful. Offer praise to God for each good thing. Take time to rejoice in this experience and thank God for this day.

REFLECTING...

Something I noticed/learned...

A person I was kind to...

The high point of my day...

I especially felt God's presence when...

I noticed humility (in myself or another person) when...

WRITE A PRAYER...

Dear God...



Do/Love/Walk...

Today when you see someone who needs help or encouragement, offer to spend some time with him/her. Remember that you're here to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.

notes | *doodles* | drawings



THE STORY OF MY MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE

DURING THE TRIP, I ENJOYED MEETING...

THE HIGH POINTS FOR ME
WERE...

ONE OF MY LOW
POINTS WAS WHEN...

IT WAS A
CHALLENGE FOR
ME TO...

SOMETHING I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF...