



MISSION TRAINING GUIDE

MATTHEW 28: 18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go [a]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

CONTACT

WITH ANY QUESTIONS



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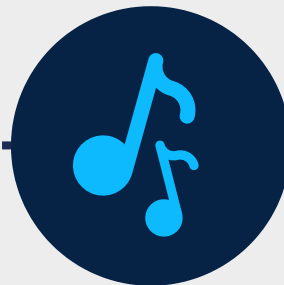
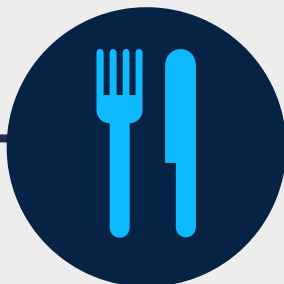
HOW TO USE

- This training guide is a sample of what you can do when training your group before a mission trip
- It is recommended that a group meets about 4 times before going on a mission trip. This will ensure that you all:
 - Understand what the mission is all about
 - Grow together in unity as a group
 - Prepare all the logistics
 - Prepare spiritually for the great mission ahead
- Keep in mind that this is just a tool, so feel free to use or even modify it for your own purposes
- The goal is to prepare the missionaries to be ready for the ups and downs of the mission and to rely on God in the process
- Reading the Scripture, Prayer (personal & liturgical), and the sacrament of Confession should all be practiced during this period of preparation
- We want the missionaries to grow closer to God and to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) on the trip and when they come home
- We can't forget one important part: Have Fun!
- This is going to be an amazing journey!!



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

6:30 PM	Arrive, Eat & Chat
6:50 PM	Icebreakers (get to know each other)
7:05 PM	Agpeya Prayers (choose selective parts)
7:15 PM	Mission Message (the group learns about the mission)
7:45 PM	Discussion Time
8:10 PM	Logistics (next training session, fundraising, trip details, travel information, etc)
8:25 PM	Q & A
8:30 PM	Sing a worship song and close in prayer (have different people pray each time)
	Afterwards, allow people to spend time together in fellowship!



SESSION #1

MISSION MESSAGE - THE HOLY TRINITY LEADS THE MISSION



STSA CHURCH

Goal: Understanding this is God's mission and we are not alone

Intro & Illustration:

- **Ask the group** this question and get different people to answer:
 - a. When I say 'missions' what thoughts or words come to mind?
 - (Hear from them and add some of your own. For example: helping people, going to another city in our country where there is a need, something to accomplish, etc.)
 - b. What are some goals that you have for this specific mission trip?
 - (Come closer to God, find my purpose, connect with people in my Church, serve others in need, etc.)
 - c. Draw a picture that symbolizes what mission would look like
 - (Have paper and pen ready and here from their answers)
- Now, let's talk more about our mission
- Every mission should mimic God's mission

**MAIN MESSAGE:
THE HOLY TRINITY IS LEADING THIS MISSION.
WE ARE NOT ALONE.**

1- God The Father's Mission of Love:

- God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, on a mission
- **Have someone read** *John 3:16*
 - Out of love, God the Father sends Jesus Christ to restore us back to Him once again
 - “Mission of Love” for us
 - He couldn't stand to see us separated from Him
- This mission of love is to return the lost and broken back to Him.
- So, our mission has to carry the same focus which is God's love for His people through us
- We must continue God's mission of love to people all around us
- Love is the summary of the entire Bible and the summary of what God wants to give His people.
- God's love is what they need
 - People are lonely, broken, busy, worried, feel guilty, etc.
 - First and foremost, they need the love of God the Father
 - We need that, and the people we serve in the mission need that

2 - God the Son's (Jesus Christ) Mission to Save Us:

- Jesus' time on Earth was to: (Have people ready to read the verses below)
 - *"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*(Luke 19:10)
 - Jesus' mission was to search for His lost sheep
 - We must mimic this
 - *"the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28)
 - We love to be served and for people to serve us hand and foot like we are on a luxurious vacation.

- That is fine for vacation, but the way of life is to give our life to serve others
- That is the way of God and the way of His followers (us)
- Jesus did the ultimate mission to save mankind through the Cross & Resurrection
 - Greatest Mission Trip
- "*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*" (*John 13:14*)
 - He also showed us the model of washing others' feet
 - To humble ourselves and do the dirty work to bring people back to Him
 - Whatever is needed
- Then, before He ascended to Heaven, He gave us the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
 - "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations"
 - It is our turn to go out and be a little Jesus in this world
 - Not that we just go on a mission trip, but we continue to support people on their journey to know Him every day.
- Seems so hard!!!
- You are right, but He didn't send us alone. He sent the ??
 - Holy Spirit - to give us the power to do it

3 - The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for the Mission:

- We can't be little Jesus' to the world unless God the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us
- That is why we rely on the Holy Spirit's power to do our mission work

- We rely on the Holy Spirit through the Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church to strengthen us and transform us so we can be lights of the world.
- **Read Acts 1:8**
 - *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
 - We receive power so we can be witnesses to God's beauty and love in all places
 - Pause & **ask a question:**
 - Ask the missionaries to share what Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and “ends of the earth” means practically in their life. (This is a good chance to hear from them again!)
- How we can see the Holy Spirit's work in the Early Church?
 - After Pentecost, St. Peter preached and 3,000 new believers were added to the church (*Acts 2:38*)
 - Gave boldness to proclaim the Good News (*Acts 4:31*)
 - It is the Spirit that enables others to receive it
 - And much more throughout the Book of Acts
- We can't do the work of God unless the Holy Spirit is inflamed in us
- We must do our part to connect with God through communion, confession, scripture, and prayer to fill us up
- As a group, we will commit to these things together in the next 4 weeks and onwards into the mission trip

Summary:

- God the Father sent us on a mission of Love
- God the Son showed us the mission of washing feet (dirty work)
- God the Holy Spirit empowered our mission so we can fulfill it
- We are not alone on this mission
- This is not our mission, but God's mission
- Let us continue to connect with God the Trinity so we can be filled by God's power
- This will help us to fully participate in this great work of God

- Discussion Questions:
 - In what ways can we show love to people around us in our daily lives?
 - How can we practice this on our mission trip?
 - We mentioned that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. How can we do that in our Church? What about on our Mission?
 - What does it mean to wash people's feet practically?
 - What are some ways that we can ignite/strengthen the Holy Spirit that is in us?
 - What are some ways to know if the Holy Spirit is actually working in us? What will we see?

SESSION #2

MISSION MESSAGE - WE ARE AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST



STSA CHURCH

Goal: Be an ambassador of Christ

Recap from Last Session:

- The role of the Holy Trinity in leading the mission
- God the Father sent us on a mission of Love
- God the Son showed us the mission of washing feet (dirty work)
- God the Holy Spirit empowered our mission so we can fulfill it.
- We are not alone on this mission
- This is not our mission, but God's mission
- Let us participate in this great work of God.
- How specifically can we participate?

Intro & Illustration:

- St. Paul gives us a clear idea of what our mission should look like:
 - Read 2 Corinthians 5:20: *Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*
 - What is an ambassador? (*Ask the group*)
 - Someone who is sent by a home country to a foreign land to represent the home country.
 - So what does an Ambassador for Christ look like? (*Ask the group*)
 - Tie it together
 - We are representing Christ here on Earth, in this foreign land.
 - Home is Heaven.

- We are here temporarily.
- Don't forget who you belong to.
- Also, keep in mind the goal in the verse that we all be reconciled back to God.
- That all return and follow Him.
- We are ambassadors of Christ so others can return to their Father again.
 - Let's **watch this video** to get a clearer picture:
<https://youtu.be/Zi817IwU3DI>
 - Home is Heaven.

**MAIN MESSAGE:
WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST.
WE HAVE 3 MAIN THINGS TO FOCUS ON:**

1) Knowledge

- Know who God is through the Church and through our relationship with God through the Scriptures
- Important to follow the Bible Plan together to grow in our knowledge of Him
- Knowledge is not just information but should lead to transformation
- The more we know about God intimately, the more we grow

2) Wisdom - Discern and make good decisions

- Not just grow in knowledge, but wisdom (which is knowing how to speak)
- When to speak and how to speak in a way that lifts people up
- How to make good decisions in your life
- Again, that comes from God not just ourselves.
- Wisdom is from above and we should pray for it

3) Character - Live the life

- We are constantly being transformed into His image so we can become like Him
- We love like Him
- Act like Him
- Honest like Him
- Walk the Walk in our daily life

Walk the Walk:

- As Ambassadors, we become an agent of God's glory spreading to all.
 - In essence, our life of worshipping God will lead to others to do the same.
 - We are not giving them something we don't practice.
 - We practice and we represent God.
 - This is the character we should develop over time
 - We are not going on a mission trip to be good over there and then come back and become monsters

Session #2, We are Ambassadors of Christ

- This is a way of life
- We must act like Christ
- Our relationship should transform us back to His image once again

Agents of God:

- Ambassadors are “Agents of God” (Sounds like Mission Impossible)
 - It is not impossible but needs daily steps towards this goal
 - As agents, we must grow in:
 - We should worship Him and follow Him. If we represent Him well, then others will want to be citizens of Heaven and follow Him too.
 - We speak as the Home country is speaking and cannot say something different.
 - We speak and act representing Christ
 - As you speak to a person, it is as Christ is speaking to them

Best Strategy:

- What is the Best Strategy that an Ambassador of Christ can use:
- Incarnational Love
- What does that mean?
 - Love, we know. But Incarnational Love? What is that?!
 - Incarnation is when Christ came to Earth and became man and dwelt among us in the flesh
 - So, the Incarnation must be felt among the people. It must be visible among the people in your mission group.

- It must be felt and manifested among the people we go and serve.
- This is not a job or a camp. This is a mission to transfer God's love from Him to His people through us
- This is Incarnational Love.
- We must taste it first, and then spread it to others.
- That is the best strategy: Incarnational Love

- As an Ambassador, God's love needs to be transmitted to all the people around us.
 - It is less about sending missionaries to a far country and capturing them to your religion and faith
 - It is more about becoming Godlike and becoming love so others can taste His glory and goodness.
 - Unfortunately, we as missionaries are trying so hard to grow our membership in our churches rather than spread the love of God through our daily lives wherever we are.
 - On our mission, we must bring the love of Christ to every person we meet.
 - Do not focus on the growing number of members but on growing members who love others.

- The Orthodox mission is becoming love wherever we are.
 - We are becoming love!
 - In the book "On Incarnation" by St. Athanasius, he says: God became man so we can become like God.
 - Another quote by him, "He became what we are, that He might make us as He is

Session #2, We are Ambassadors of Christ

- We have a chance as Ambassadors to be part of people meeting God, following God, and becoming like God.
- We have a role in this.
- You are truly an Ambassador of Christ
- Let us start with our mission group here
- Let us start with our families at home
- Let us be that ambassador at school and work
- Let us truly live it where we go, and not just on this mission.

Summary:

- Remember
 - Knowledge: Know who God is through our daily devotions & our life in the Church
 - Wisdom: Discern and make good decisions. Ask for wisdom to speak well and decide well.
 - Character: Live the life. Walk the Walk. God will transform us to be like Him so we can represent him well.
 - The best way to walk the walk is Incarnational Love. God's love is alive all through us.
- Go be an Ambassador of Christ
- Go represent Him well

- Discussion Questions:
 - What is one thing that stood out for you in this talk?
 - In a nutshell, what does being an ambassador of God really mean?
 - What are some ways, as a group, that we can continue to grow in our relationship and knowledge of God?
 - What are some ways we can walk the walk at home and at school/work?
 - What are some things that are obstacles keeping you from living as an Ambassador in this world?
 - How can we really practice Incarnational love in our daily lives?

SESSION #3

**MISSION MESSAGE - PERFECTLY
JOINED TOGETHER IN UNITY**



STSA CHURCH

Goal: Unity with each other

Intro & Illustration:

- Start with Object lessons of unity together
- Here is the video, but try to do it with real apples in person. (Don't show the video but rather **do the object lesson in person**)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsMj7b3OXfU>

Ask the group:

- What are some ways that we divide people today?
 - (Give the youth a chance to share ideas and be ready to give other ideas of differences that they use to divide themselves.)
 - If they need prompts, include differences such as politics, wealth, age, color of skin, gender, etc.
- Even in this mission group, we have differences.
 - We won't go into what they are, but we all know that they are present, right?
- So, ask yourself this question: Do differences bring us closer together or farther apart?
 - Usually divides us
 - But as Christians, we are supposed to be “One” and it should unite us
- What do you think it could look like if we really did live as if we were ONE?
 - What would our mission trip look like? Our home? Our community? Our world?

- Challenge:
 - The gospel gives us guidance on what the challenge really is when it says,
 - "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:24-25
 - "Cannot Stand" is ringing in my mind
 - Looking back at history, we find that the downfall of man and problems of man are rooted in division
 - I believe one of the biggest problems (even today) in this world is division
 - We are divided by our religion
 - We are divided by our color
 - We are divided by rich and poor
 - We are divided by the way we look
 - We are divided by our different tribes
 - We are divided by our different cultures
 - We are divided by our different ideas and opinions.
- It is hard to find people who can agree together.
 - Divided by which priest we follow.
 - Even which Church we follow. ("They go to so and so Church")
 - Our mission group with the people we go and serve
- This division causes the house and our life to fall.
- We can't stand.
 - Families are falling. Churches are falling. Businesses and companies are falling. Communities are falling. Most Missions CAN fall if we are not together

- I am sure we all have some experience in this.
 - Groups, Cliques, etc.
 - We huddle with people we are comfortable with, and keep people who are different at a distance
 - We need each other, even the people who are not like me
- How do we avoid the problem of division on this Mission trip?
 - It is the death of the Christian life because it separates us from the people who can help us.
 - We need to make every effort to unite with others in this group and the group we will meet up with on our mission.
 - Let us go out of our way to get to know people in this group.
 - Start conversations and learn about each other.
 - You will find more in common than you think.
 - Don't stick with the friends you already know.
 - There is no successful mission if the spirit of unity is not there.
 - Actually, the opposite can occur, division can cause the mission to fall.
 - So let us look inward for a moment to see what has to change in us.

**MAIN MESSAGE:
WE MUST BE IN UNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER
AND NOT BE DIVIDED.**

What is the solution to division? Does it mean that we always agree?

- No, but what it does mean is that we give each other the benefit of the doubt.
 - See the best in each other and don't assume the worst
- We take the time to try to understand one another.
- We need to realize that differences can bring diversity to the group
- Each one brings their own talents, personality, etc. to the group
- This makes the group stronger
- We don't have to always agree, but we must listen to each other and work towards a goal together.
 - We don't have to see eye to eye, but we must go hand in hand
- Striving towards unity, we must be even ready to forgive each other if we are hurt or hurt others.
- But the goal remains the same, which is Unity
- More specifically to be “perfectly joined together” as St. Paul says,
 - **Read** 1 Corinthians 1:10, "*But that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* "
 - So that is our goal
 - How do we do it?
- First, we must look at 3 things:

1 - Mission of Jesus Christ: Unity

- Christ prayed for Unity
- **Read** John 17:23, "*I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*"

- Jesus loves this when we are together with each other.
- A Father always likes to see his children getting along
- That was His final message before being crucified on the Cross.
 - Need to take it seriously.
 - This was his final request.
 - His desire.
 - We must honor that.
- So we must be united because it honors Christ's final words and maybe the most important message.
- Yes, we have differences with each other, but we still have the same spirit as 1 Cor. 12 eludes to.
- We should welcome differences

2 - Perfectly Joined Together: Humility

- Even St. Paul was pleading the church not to be divided because the Church was dying.
- **Read** *1 Corinthians 1:10*, "*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*"
 - St. Paul put this in the first chapter because he felt it was the biggest problem.
 - Later chapters talked about Sexual Immorality, but division was the number 1 problem that led to many other problems.
- Imagine if we are not one in this church...what will happen?
 - People will be scattered.
 - They will flee to their houses and do more sin.

Session #3, Perfectly Joined Together in Unity

- Their houses will be destroyed.
- We can disagree but have discussions together.
 - Work it out.
 - No divisions among us but be perfectly joined together.
 - It takes work and humility.
 - We have to come to the conclusion that maybe we are not correct.
 - Maybe the other one has a better way.
 - Let us examine ourselves, not examine others.
- In a hospital, they examine patients, but the one to examine today is ourselves.
 - Our Pride gets the best of us, so we refuse to give in to our way.
 - To be perfectly joined together, we must humbly discover God's Way.
 - He is the Way.
 - So if we work together to find the Way, then we all win.
- No one has to feel bad that they didn't get their way.
- Perfectly Joined together when humility is there to search for the Way.

Humility Focuses on One Another!

- **Read** Colossians 3:13-14, *"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."*
 - We must think of one another. Eyes off of ourselves.

- **Read** Romans 12:16, "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."
 - Everyone has an opinion. Be humble to listen to other opinions and do it another way.
- **Read** Ephesians 4:3, "Endeavoring [every effort] to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (make an effort)
 - Matthew collected taxes for Rome, and therefore, in the eyes of his fellow Jews, collaborated with the enemy.
 - Tax collectors were despised for their corrupt practices and for requiring the Jewish people to give money to an authority other than God.
 - On the other hand, before Jesus's call, Simon the Zealot was devoted to a group of Jewish nationalists who hated Rome and sought to overturn it, often through aggressive and violent means.
 - They decided to humble themselves and focus on the other

3 - Benefit of Unity: Joy, Fullness, and Growth

- There is joy when we are united.
- **Read** Psalm 133:1, "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*"
 - Unity brings Joy which is the fullness of Christ.

- **Read** Ephesians 4:11-13, 11 *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"*
 - We will be full and complete.
 - Maybe things get confused in our lives because we are missing Unity.
 - It removes the presence of God.
- **Read** Ephesians 4:16, *"From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*
 - Builds the people. Everyone doing their part, each with their own gifts working together builds the church
 - Causes Growth in you.
 - When you are part of this church and it is working together. You will grow.
- We need this. Each of us do our part today.
- We won't have joy, be full, or even grow in our walk if unity is not there.
- Pray together, and serve together, this will bond us for life.

- **Conclusion:**

- Why do countries fail or sports teams fail because there is division in the leaders? (Division among the teammates)
- Most successful and blessed families and churches, workplaces, and sports teams → they are ONE.
- It takes a lot of humility and forgiveness to keep us together.
- A lot of admitting when we are wrong.
- Unity doesn't just happen, but when we make an effort for it.
- God comes down and blesses everything we touch.
- And that is what He will do if we remain united on this mission trip.
- Let us pray for that today.
- Let us pray and we will be perfectly joined together.

- **Discussion Questions:**

- What stood out for you in today's talk?
- What are some practical ways to develop unity in this mission group?
- Delve deeper together on how differences can be good for the team as a whole
- What is the biggest challenge for you when it comes to uniting with others?
- **Read** 1 Corinthians 12:12-23 (Discuss together what you learned)

SESSION #4

MISSION MESSAGE - STAND UP & BE DIFFERENT



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Goal: To be different from the world

Intro & Object Lesson:

- **The \$20 Lesson** - We are valuable and unique
- Objects needed: A straight, clean, crisp dollar bill or a \$20 dollar bill
- Take the 20 dollar bill and show it to the group.
- Ask if anyone knows what it is (of course they're all going to have an answer).
 - Then ask how much is it worth.
 - What can I buy with it?
- Now Crumple up the money. Make it really wrinkled.
 - Then ask, Will you still accept my money now that it's all wrinkled?
- Now step on the money.
 - Will you still accept this money?
 - Why?
- This money has been crumpled up, and stepped on, but its value remains the same.
- This is the same with God.
- No matter how torn or stepped on you are, you are still just as valuable and as precious in his eyes.
- You are valuable even if others don't see it as well.

Challenge:

- You are different and people won't always go along with what you do or say
- People will make fun of you for trying to be Christian and to be different
- We will try to fit in at times and talk like others and act like others
- But no matter the pressure you face at work or school or in society
- You are valuable the way you are!

MAIN MESSAGE: STAND UP & BE DIFFERENT

- There is someone in the scriptures who did that and was very blessed by this decision.
- His name was Daniel.
- How did he do it?
- 3 things that he did

1 - Purpose in Our Heart:

- **Read** Daniel 1:8, *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”*
 - He set out in His heart that He was valuable the way He is and was going to be Different

- He wasn't going to eat what everyone else ate.
- He wasn't going to defile himself
- But this could mean death because he was in the King's House
- And remember this wasn't the King of Israel, but of Babylon who captured them.
- What can we learn?
 - It's a commitment inside of you that you will stand up and be different.
 - That the world will not move you, but God will.
 - That your friends do not influence you, only God does.
 - You have to make that decision in your heart. If that is there, then you can go forward.
 - Usually when someone does something you already purposed in your heart to that sin.
 - If someone offers you a drink. The decision has already been made in your heart.
 - If someone offers their body to you. The decision has already been made.
 - If someone tries to show you some bad movie. The decision has already been made.
 - If someone tries to tempt you to break the rules, the decision has already been made.

2 - Accept the Consequence:

- **Read** Daniel 1:10, *“And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king”*

- He could have been killed. It is a big risk.
- But he already purposed in his heart and made the decision to stand up no matter what.
- No matter if friends leave me or make fun of me.
- No matter what I accept what will happen
- You may feel that you are different, but remember different is good
- Be yourself, walk in the shoes that God made you to walk in
- You might lose some people, but God will give you others.

3 - Relationships Will Win Others:

- **Read** Daniel 1:9, *“Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.”*
 - He had built a good relationship with the people around him.
 - So when he made a stand, he was well respected.
 - His stand was with his life, not his mouth.
 - People also respected Daniel because he was a good person and he developed a relationship with the people.
- **RESULT:** Favor of God
- **Read** Daniel 1:14, *“And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies”*
 - God will give you favor when you trust in him.
 - Looks hard to stand up and be different, but when we stand He will show us favor
 - You will be stronger, wiser, and more successful.

- Favor from God leads to favor in all parts of your life
- **Read** Daniel 1:19, *“Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”*
 - Teacher or Principal will say in your school you are the best. There is no person like you.
 - Even more successful in the world and well-recognized.
 - Boss and coworkers will see your honesty and faithfulness.
 - There is something different but amazing about you.
 - Don't be afraid to Stand up and Be different.

Conclusion:

- Are you ready to take a stand and be different in speech, actions, and way of life?
- Stand up and be counted as a child of God.
- Stand up and be different and this is a real mission that will make the ultimate impact on others' lives.
- And Remember:
 - 1 - Purpose in your heart how you will respond to situations before they come. Be ready!
 - 2 - Accept the Consequence - Don't be afraid that people will look at you or separate from you or make fun of you in the beginning.
 - 3 - Relationship will win others - You will win people over time because people will trust you and actually want to be like you.

Session #4, Stand Up & Be Different

- Result: Favor with God & Others

Discussion:

- Why is it so hard to live out your Christian life at school, work, and even at home?
- What would happen if you act like a Christian? What would people do to you?
- What positive impact could it make?
- Why is it so hard to stand up and be different?
- What are practical ways to purpose in your heart before temptations come?
- What is the role of this mission group to help you be different?

APPENDIX A

READING PLAN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE MISSION



STSA CHURCH

- Read scripture from the Book of Acts together - Sample that can be used for the weekdays. (Weekends can be off)
- Read the scripture and answer the questions after your reading.
- This can be done in a journal that is printed or put in a texting group that can be discussed daily.

Week 1:

Day 1: Read Acts 1:8

- God wants you to serve Him and be a witness [Show proof that you are His follower] in
 - Jerusalem [family and Church Family]
 - Judea [Community you live in + Plus community around the Church]
 - Samaria [Baltimore and areas around America]
 - Ends of the Earth [International Missions in places like Egypt, Africa, South America]
- Write down some ways you can practically serve Him in all those different areas.

Day 2: Read Acts 2:1-4

- What is one of the things that was done before the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples?
- How can we practice these things in our lives at home, church, and in the community around us?

Day 3: Read Acts 2:42-47

- What are some of the reasons the Church grew in these verses?
- What is one thing that you would like to practice from your list?

Day 4: Read Acts 3:1-10

- What was the miracle that happened in these verses?
- In which way can help those who are in need around us?

Day 5: Read Acts 3:19

- What is the benefit of repenting from this verse?
- Write down some of the things you would like to repent or change in your life.

Week 2:

Day 6: Read Acts 4:13

- Write down some different descriptions of Peter and John from this verse
- What made them so great?

Day 7: Read Acts 4:20

- Peter and John were told not to speak about God. What can you learn from their response?
- How can we apply it in our own lives when it is hard to share about God?

Day 8: Read Acts 4:31-35

- What part did you like the most from these verses?
- What benefits do you see with prayer in these verses?
- What did they do with the material possessions they had? Is there something we can practice here?

Day 9: Reads Acts 5:29

- The people around Peter and John wanted to influence them not to talk about Jesus or live for Jesus.
- What did you like about their response? What can you learn from it when dealing with friends in your school/work?

Day 10: Read Acts 6:1-8

- The work of God was growing so fast that they had to bring more people to help.
- What were some of the things you noticed in the people who were to come and help?
- Do you think at your age you can help in the work of God? If yes, how so?

Week 3:

Day 11: Read Acts 7:60

- When St. Stephen was being hurt because of his faith he forgave the people.
- Who does that remind you of from the Bible?
- Is there someone you need to forgive who has hurt you?

Day 12: Acts 8:26-31

- Phillip the deacon was sent by God to preach in Samaria to people who don't know God.
- What was Phillip's mission specifically in these verses?
- What does it teach you about your mission?

Day 13: Acts 9:1-9

- How was St. Paul changed in these verses?
- What message did Christ give to St Paul?
- What does that show you about God, if He can use even the worst sinner?

Day 14: Acts 9:11-22

- Ananias was asked to go to St Paul and help him to know God.
- Would you be scared to go knowing how St Paul hurt many Christians before?
- What did God say about St Paul here?
- What do you find amazing about St Paul's story that you would like to do also?

Day 15: Acts 10:1-8 & 34-36

- Cornelius was a good person, but not a follower of Christ.
- What good things do you see in him?
- How does God look at Him and how does God want us to look at someone who is not a believer?

Summary:

- The above verses cover 3 weeks before the mission trip.
- Now we can turn to the Book of James while you are on the mission trip as their quiet time.
- Remember these are tools, feel free to adjust according to your own needs

Book of James while on the mission trip

(Note some trips are shorter and some are longer. Use what you need on the trip and even continue when the group returns home.)

Week 4:

Day 16: Read James 1:5-8

- In these verses, it says that we must ask God for Wisdom to lead our lives.
 - But we must ask for it with what?
 - If we ask God about this thing, then we won't be unstable and doubting and tossed around.

- This is important to not let the world toss you around to the wrong ways.
- But ask in _____.

Day 17: Read James 1:21-24

- In these verses, God is calling us to be doers of the word of God not just hearers.
 - Name some things from these verses that will help us be doers not just hearers.
 - Can you name a story where you knew the right thing, but didn't do it?

Day 18: Read James 1:26-27

- In these verses, it talks about what the real religion that we should be following is
 - What is the real religion?
 - How can we practice it on this trip?
 - How can we practice it at home?
- Take some time now to pray about what you learned and what you want God to help you with.

Day 19: Read James 2:1-10

- These verses talk about how if we really have faith that is alive, we should not have partiality [Treat people differently].
 - Explain what partiality is here in these verses.
 - In what ways are you practicing partiality in your own life?

Day 20: Read James 2:14-26

- These verses talk about how our Faith without works is dead.
 - What does this mean?
 - What are some examples in these verses that support this?
 - What does this mean in your daily life?

- Take some time now to pray about what you learned and what you want God to help you with.

Week 5:

Day 21: Read James 3:2-12

- In verses 2 to 12, it explains that our words can hurt others.
 - What are the Symbols used about the way our words can hurt others?
 - In what ways personally are we using our words to hurt others?
 - What are ways that we can use our words to encourage others?

Day 22: Read James 3:14-18

- These verses have a description of the difference between wisdom and self-seeking
 - What are some of the benefits of having wisdom in your life based on these verses?
 - What does self-seeking and envy lead to in your life?
- Take some time now to pray about what you learned and what you want God to help you with.

Day 23: Read James 4:4

- Verse 4 talks about how being a friend of the world means being an enemy of God
 - In what ways are we befriending this world?
 - How can I really be a friend of God?

Day 24: Read James 4:7-8, & 17

- Verses 7-8 speak again about drawing near to God
 - What are the things highlighted here that we can do to be near to God?
- Please write your thoughts on verse 17. Elaborate and make it personal.

- Take some time now to pray about what you learned and what you want God to help you with.

Day 25: Read James 5:11-18

- Verse 11 talks about perseverance [Never give up] in your life of faith
 - What are some examples in your own life where you need to persevere when keeping your life with God?
- In verses 13-18, it talks about prayer
 - Name 2 or 3 things you can learn about prayer in these verses
 - What can you specifically apply in your life of prayer?
- Take some time now to pray about what you learned and what you want God to help you with.

Go now and live your life of faith by taking action!

God is calling you for so much more!

APPENDIX B

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE MISSIONARIES COME HOME?



STSA CHURCH

- It is important to have a Reunion meeting to talk about the next steps at home.
- This should happen within the first 3 months of returning home.
- Please feel free to continue to give Bible verses to meditate on together and continue to keep in touch through texting groups.
- It is important, as a leader, to make sure everyone is connected in a ministry at Church. It is an important way of continuing what they learned.
- Also, it is important that the Church continue to set up community service activities and Evangelism activities to keep the missionaries engaged at Home.
- The goal was not the mission trip, but the trip was a training ground for how we should live our life at Home.
- Pray and continue your mission and go and fulfill the Great Commission.

GOD BLESS YOU!



STSA CHURCH