

Passport

Preparing Your Team for the Mission

Facilitator's Guide



Developing Leaders To Fulfill The Great Commission

LeaderTreks is a student leadership development ministry using curriculum, innovative training, and trips to help students identify and develop their personal leadership skills. We are calling the church to join us in making leadership development a core of youth ministry. To that end, we partner with youth workers who are passionate about developing the next generation of leaders in the church and culture. Our resources challenge and change participants. Students gain confidence and motivation, and a new vision for how they can lead and serve others.

Passport: Preparing Your Team for the Mission

Copyright © 2007 by LeaderTreks

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or otherwise – without the prior permission of the copyright holder, except as permitted by USA law.

Published by LeaderTreks

25W560 Geneva Road, Suite 30, Carol Stream, IL 60188

630.668.0936

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-934577-19-6

To see more LeaderTreks resources, call 877.502.0699
or visit our website (www.LeaderTreks.com)

Table of Contents

Introduction	iv
Session 1 – Mission includes Me	1
Objective: Students will connect with their personal mission as individuals.	
Session 2 – Mission is about the Kingdom	11
Objective: Students will understand how their mission connects with God’s plan for the world.	
Session 3 – Mission is about the Team	23
Objective: Students will understand how the team is essential for accomplishing God’s purpose.	
Session 4 – Mission Never Ends	39
Objective: Students will understand that this trip is the starting line of their life mission, but their mission has no finish line.	
Helping Parents Connect Before, During and After the Trip	53
Tips on Tailoring Passport to Meet your Group’s Needs	57

Introduction

LeaderTreks has trained thousands of students to participate in missions all over the world, from Argentina to Zambia. And we've made some interesting discoveries. We've found that no matter where students serve on a mission, when they return, most of them describe their trip in the same way: "I went on the trip to help others. But I'm the one who changed and grew the most!"

You've probably heard your own students say something similar.

No doubt, a mission trip is a powerful Kingdom endeavor and can be a life-changing event for a student. Students on mission trips grow spiritually. They identify materialism in their lives. Many of the students who participate in short-term mission trips go on to serve God full time as adults. Others spend their lives giving to and supporting world missions.

So we decided to create a training program that spends more time preparing students for this significant spiritual and emotional benchmark in their Christian faith. We saw a need for missions training that capitalizes on the most important part of your mission trip – your students. In the midst of busily planning logistics and finalizing ministry schedules, effective mission trip leaders ask themselves: What will happen to my students spiritually, emotionally and personally on this trip? And are they prepared for all that God has in store?

We named this curriculum "Passport" to communicate many things about this kind of training. A real passport represents your identity. Without it, you cannot go where you want to go. Leadertreks' unique missions-training program functions in much the same way. "Passport" will take your students where you want them to go and will help them understand: 1) Who they are as a team; 2) What they can contribute as individuals; and 3) How to maximize their spiritual growth before, during, and after the trip.

We know planning a mission trip is hard; training students for it should not be.

We've designed **Passport: Preparing Your Team for the Mission** to maximize your mission trip with proven training tips and unique insights that will prepare your students to participate in missions.

How to Use Passport

The self-contained training sessions include everything you need for a highly successful, interactive pre-trip training event. Each lesson includes 1) Introductory goals and objectives 2) Insightful teaching principles that coordinate with blanks in the student guide 3) Activities that will help students interact with and understand the principles and 4) Application-oriented assignments and/or activities.

Each session is approximately 1.5 hours long.

These lessons provide the framework for a four-week training emphasis or a pre-trip weekend training, depending on what timeframe works best for your needs.

Here is an overview of the session highlights:

» **Session One: Mission includes Me**

Objective: Students will connect with their personal mission as individuals.

» **Session Two: Mission is about the Kingdom**

Objective: Students will understand how their mission connects with God's plan for the world.

» **Session Three: Mission is about the Team**

Objective: Students will understand how the team is essential for accomplishing God's purpose.

» **Session Four: Mission Never Ends**

Objective: Students will understand that this trip is the starting line of their life mission, but their mission has no finish line.

Each lesson builds on the others in the series. These four sessions serve as “stamps” in the student guide “Passport.” As students complete each session, the passport shows where they have been in the training journey and which sessions they still need to complete.

When a student has all four “stamps” in their passport, they are considered ready for their trip! By working through this pre-trip training event with your team, you will enable your group to unlock their potential and be much more effective when you reach the field.



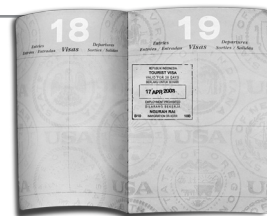
PASSPORT

Session 1

Mission includes Me



Mission
starts
NOW.



Say something like:

A mission trip is a great place to get a glimpse of God's plan for your life. We all believe that God has a great plan for us, but have you ever wondered exactly what that plan is? As we go on this mission trip, we will be able to start the process of uncovering God's plans. By discovering what God has in mind for us, we can start to align our life with what God wants. Here are some important things to remember about this process.

1. God has designed you in a unique and special way.

Help your students understand that they are special to God. Do this by reading the following Scriptures aloud. After each passage, ask: "What does this Scripture say is true about you?" Use the truths listed under each Scripture to guide their answers.

God knew you before you were born. *Psalms 139:13*

- » God saw us in the womb before we were born.
- » We are His special creation.

God made you for a purpose/mission. *Jeremiah 29:11*

- » God has a plan for our lives.
- » It starts even before we are born.

God has given you gifts to fulfill this mission. *Romans 11:29*

- » We are empowered by God to reach our potential.
- » He gave us the tools we need to accomplish our mission.

You can be a leader for God in this mission. *2 Timothy 1:7*

- » By fulfilling your calling, you can lead others.
- » God uses leaders to change the Kingdom.

If time allows:

Assign pairs of students to look up each Scripture and share how the verses show that God has designed them to be unique and special.

From the Student Guide:



Mission Includes Me
Session 1

Know Yourself!

1. God has designed you _____
Psalms 139:13
Jeremiah 29:11
Romans 11:29
2 Timothy 1:7

2. God has a plan for you that: _____

3. There are _____ to knowing God's plan for you.

Burden Survey

DIRECTIONS: If you are like most people, you've probably learned that a few things break your heart. This survey will help you identify your God-given burdens.

What brings tears to your eyes?

What makes you say, "I wish someone would do something about that?"

If you had a lot of money, how would you use it to help others?

What things are wrong, unjust or unfair in this world that ought to be made right?

What news stories make you really upset because someone is hurting or in need?

If you waved a magic wand, how would you make this world a better place?

Copyright © 2007 LeaderTrek

Permission to reproduce for purchaser's ministry only.
Copyright © 2007 LeaderTrek

LeaderTrek

What experiences in your life has God comforted you that you could comfort others?

In the spaces below summarize what you think may be your burdens.
I think my top 3 burdens may be ...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Sacrifice - It's Not All About Me

1. The _____ of a mission.

2. _____ Sacrifice.

3. The _____ of _____ for others.

What Sacrifices Can I Make?

Copyright © 2007 LeaderTrek

Permission to reproduce for purchaser's ministry only.
Copyright © 2007 LeaderTrek

Mission Starts NOW.

Read Psalm 139:1-16 together.

Ask:

- » *What do you think was happening in David's life when he wrote this?*
- » *What does this passage tell you about how God feels about you?*

2. God has a plan for you that will bring you joy.

Say something like:

God's plan for us fits us so well that when we are in the center of this plan we are satisfied. We are doing what we were created to do.

Share the following illustration:

*The film **Chariots of Fire** tells the story of Eric Liddell, a gold medalist at the 1924 Olympics and later a missionary to China. A part in the story recalls his refusal to run on a Sunday, believing Sunday was reserved for the Lord.*

Eric and his sister Jennie are also devoted Christians who want to serve on the mission field. She is concerned that his running will take him away from his missionary efforts. There's a scene where Eric is sharing with Jennie the good news that he's been accepted by the mission society to go to China. But then he adds, "But I've got a lot of running to do first. Jennie... Jennie... you've got to understand. I believe that God made me for a purpose... for China. But He also made me fast, and when I run, I feel His pleasure.... To win is to honor Him."

Later we see Eric in the final moments of his race with his head thrown back, legs pumping, arms flailing; he is clearly exhilarated in giving his best to what God has called him to do. As a result, God received glory and Eric's running called attention to, and gathered support for, his mission work.

3. There are benefits to knowing God's plan for you.

Ask:

- » *What are some of the benefits of knowing our own unique abilities, gifts, talents?*
- » *How does it help knowing the same things about others on our team?*
- » *How will this knowledge help us individually and as a team?*
- » *Did your students come up with any or all of the following?*

Knowing yourself helps you:

- » Develop confidence to reach your potential
- » Work smarter
- » Be more fulfilled

Burden Survey

Have students complete the Burden Survey in their Student Guides. Answering the questions and identifying their top three burdens will help them begin to understand how they are unique and what path God may have for them in the future.

Ask students to share their top three burdens with each other. Knowing this information before they go on a mission trip together will allow them to better utilize their uniqueness on the trip.

As they brainstorm, remind students to write down their answers.

From the Student Guide:

Mission
<starts>
NOW.

Mission Includes Me

Session 1

LeaderTrek

Know Thyself!

1. God has designed you _____

Psalm 139:13

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 11:29

2 Timothy 1:7

2. God has a plan for you that _____

3. There are _____ to knowing God's plan for you.

Burden Survey

DIRECTIONS: If you are like most people, you've probably learned that a few things break your heart. This survey will help you identify your God-given burdens.

What brings tears to your eyes?

What makes you say, "I wish someone would do something about that?"

If you had a lot of money, how would you use it to help others?

What things are wrong, unjust or unfair in this world that ought to be made right?

What news stories make you really upset because someone is hurting or in need?

If you waved a magic wand, how would you make this world a better place?

Copyright © 2009 LeaderTrek

Permission to reproduce for purchaser's ministry only.
Copyright © 2009 LeaderTrek

What experiences in your life has God comforted you that you could comfort others?

In the spaces below summarize what you think may be your burdens. I think my top 3 burdens may be ...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Sacrifice - It's Not All About Me

1. The _____ of a mission.

2. _____ Sacrifice.

3. The _____ of _____ for others.

What Sacrifices Can I Make?

Copyright © 2009 LeaderTrek

Permission to reproduce for purchaser's ministry only.
Copyright © 2009 LeaderTrek

Note: All of the following material is also in the student guide. You will want to set aside 20-30 minutes to complete this portion of the session and allow for debriefing.

To go deeper: debrief this survey by asking...

- Why do you think God gave you burdens?
- What does this tell you about how God has wired you?
- How do you think you will use these burdens on the trip?

DIRECTIONS: If you are like most people, you've probably learned that a few things break your heart. This survey will help you identify your God-given burdens.

What brings tears to your eyes?

What makes you say, "I wish someone would do something about that?"

If you had a lot of money, how would you use it to help others?

What things are wrong, unjust or unfair in this world that ought to be made right?

What news stories make you really upset because someone is hurting or in need?

If you waved a magic wand, how would you make this world a better place?

What experiences in your life has God comforted you that you could comfort others?

In the spaces below summarize what you think may be your burdens.
I think my top 3 burdens may be ...

1.

2.

3.

Now is the time to set the expectation that the team will have to sacrifice personally during this missions experience. Often when students think of the trip, they think only of all the exciting things they will experience. You can help them understand that this mission may require more of them than they are ready to give. However, make sure you emphasize that the reward is well worth it.

The greater the mission we take on, the more it will cost us. In order to do great things, we must be willing to pay the price. During this trip you will have the opportunity to do great things, but it will require you to sacrifice in ways you may not have considered. Now is the time to think carefully about what you are willing to give. The more you give, the greater the rewards.

Ask:

2. Personal Sacrifice

Mission Includes Me

Session 7

LeaderPreps

Know Thyself

- God has designed you _____
Psalm 139:13
- Jeremiah 29:11
Romans 11:29
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- God has a plan for you that _____
- There are _____ to knowing God's plan for you.

Burdens Survey

DIRECTIONS: Are you like most people, you've probably learned that a few things break your heart. This survey will help you identify your God-given burdens.

What brings tears to your eyes?

What makes you say, "I wish someone would do something about that?"

If you had a lot of money, how would you use it to help others?

What things are wrong, unjust or unfair in this world that ought to be made right?

What news stories make you really upset because someone is hurting or in need?

If you waved a magic wand, how would you make this world a better place?

What experiences in your life has God comforted you that you could comfort others?

In the spaces below summarize what you think may be your burdens.
I think my top 3 burdens may be ...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Sacrifice – It's Not All About Me

- The _____ of a mission.
- _____ Sacrifice.
- The _____ of _____ for others.

What Sacrifices Can I Make?

Copyright © 2009 LeaderPreps

Permission to reproduce for personal ministry only
Copyright © 2009 LeaderPreps

Copyright © 2009 LeaderPreps

Permission to reproduce for personal ministry only
Copyright © 2009 LeaderPreps

If time allows:
Share the illustration or show
the video clip.

Ask:

- » *Why is personal sacrifice hard?*
- » *What does it take to make a sacrifice personally?*
- » *What will happen to our team if we all are willing to sacrifice?*

3. The power of caring for others

We must sacrifice our own wants and desires in order to care for others. Often we only think of what we are giving up. Seldom do we recognize the power we have to influence others when we focus on their needs.

Video Clip: *Radio* (Sony Pictures 2003)
"A mistake to care about Radio?"

Start at 1:34:40. Note: The first line has some language in it. Begin right after that line.

The movie *Radio* is about a boy who is developmentally challenged called Radio who falls in love with football. Coach Jones, the high school football coach, inspires and challenges the school and community because of the compassion he shows to Radio. Things get difficult for the coach because some are angry with him for allowing Radio to be a part of the sports program. In this scene, Coach questions if it's worth it to care. Pay attention to the difference in perspective between Coach and his wife. When the clip begins, Coach has just said to his wife that it would have been better if instead of spending so much time with Radio, he'd helped him another way.

STOP before the church scene as Coach thinks about what Linda has just said.

Ask:

- » *Is it ever a mistake to care for someone else? Why or why not?*
- » *When does caring require sacrifice?*

Activity – What sacrifices can I make?

The purpose of this activity is to encourage students to think through situations on the trip that may be difficult for them so they are prepared to make sacrifices.

- » As a team, make a list of all the categories of sacrifice you may face on this trip. Examples would be physical comforts, relationships, money, etc. Have the students identify areas that will be tough for them.
- » Next, have each student work alone to list 2-3 personal sacrifices they can make in those categories that will be toughest for them.
- » Once each person has listed his or her sacrifices, pair students into accountability partners. Have the students share with each other the ways that they plan to sacrifice personally.
- » Include a time of prayer together to commit to making their sacrifices.

Note: These accountability partners will be used throughout this training.

As time allows:
End the time by having several students share some sacrifices that will be especially hard for them.

Closing Thoughts

Close this session by saying something like:

So far we have talked about how our mission on this trip includes you. Each person is responsible to be connected with our mission. I want to challenge you to start dreaming and praying about what this trip will mean to you personally. You have the ability to do your part to make this trip great for everyone. At the same time, you also have the ability to do just the opposite! In the next session, we are going to talk about how our personal actions will affect what God wants to do in His Kingdom while we are on this trip.

From the Student Guide:



Mission Includes Me
Session 1

Know Thyself!
1. God has designed you _____
Psalm 139:13
Jeremiah 29:11
Romans 11:29
2 Timothy 1:7
2. God has a plan for you that: _____
3. There are _____ to knowing God's plan for you.

Burden Survey
DIRECTIONS: If you are like most people, you've probably learned that a few things break your heart. This survey will help you identify your God-given burdens.
What brings tears to your eyes?

What makes you say, "I wish someone would do something about that?"

If you had a lot of money, how would you use it to help others?

What things are wrong, unjust or unfair in this world that ought to be made right?

What news stories make you really upset because someone is hurting or in need?

If you waved a magic wand, how would you make this world a better place?

Sacrifice – It's Not All About Me
1. The _____ of a mission.
2. _____ Sacrifice.
3. The _____ of _____ for others.

What Sacrifices Can I Make?

Copyright © 2007 LeaderTrek
Permission to reproduce for purchaser's ministry only.
Copyright © 2007 LeaderTrek