

BEYOND THE TRIP

FROM THE MISSION TRIP TO LIFE ON A MISSION

4 week follow up journal

LeaderTrek®

BEYOND ^{THE} TRIP

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4 week follow up journal

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



Partnering with youth workers to develop student leaders.

Beyond the Trip: From the Mission Trip to Life on a Mission

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ISBN 978-1-939031-10-5

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Published by LeaderTreks

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WELCOME HOME

One of the easiest things to do when you first get back from a mission trip is to look forward. There's nothing like your own bed, your cell phone, or a shower that doesn't require waiting in line. You really start to appreciate all the little things you took for granted before the trip. Even your little brother doesn't seem that annoying. Home cooked meals and frappuccinos fill your stomach while time with your missed friends and family fill your days. And it doesn't take long before the daily grind of your life has returned

back to normal. The worries you used to have creep back, your cell phone seems outdated, and your little brother is just as annoying as you remember.

But wait! Didn't something amazing just happen to you? Didn't you go to bed exhausted every night after a day filled with hard work and endless piggy back rides, thinking that life couldn't possibly get any sweeter than this? Didn't you become close to a team of people you didn't used to know that well? Didn't you connect with God more than you ever had before?

These things (and probably more) happened to you on your mission trip. They are a significant part of your story. And once you take those first steps through your front door, and sleep the first night in your comfy bed, all these things are at risk of becoming no more than just a really cool memory. There's nothing that would make Satan happier than for you to look back at your mission trip and think that it was a really great trip, your team did a really great job, and you have some really great stories. Why? Because that moves your trip into the memory category, and that's dangerous.

God invited you on a great adventure. He sent you to (fill in the blank) with a team of people in order to show you another piece of his HUGE redemption story. He wanted you to see first hand how He is working in this world, and He wanted you to experience

what it's like to have Him working in and through you. God would be thrilled if your trip never made it into the memory category, but instead became a milestone along the road in your journey with Him. A mark that you can look back on, celebrate, and take inventory of what He's been telling you and where He's leading you from here.

This book is designed to help you go home. To not leave your trip behind, but to use it as a lesson in living "on mission." To help you go from a mission trip, to a mission road.

HOW IT WORKS

For the next month, this journal will help you to keep living on the mission road. It will give you a chance to look back on your trip, the highlights and the lowlights, and transfer that experience into your every day life. Each week will focus on one main topic and give you a chance for 5 days to connect with God, connect with your team, be challenged, debrief, and take risks. No two days are the same, so no matter how you're wired, there will be something for you.

**“ Here’s the test to find out whether
your mission on earth is finished. If
you’re alive, it isn’t. - Richard Bach**

WEEK 1

THE STORY

**“ There is no greater burden
than carrying an untold story.**

- Maya Angelou

**“ If history were taught in the
form of stories, it would never
be forgotten. - Rudyard Kipling**

WEEK 1: THE STORY

DAY 1 THE STORY OF YOUR TRIP

Stories are powerful. It's just true. It's why billions of dollars are spent each year bringing stories to life through the movies. Stories can make us laugh until our sides hurt, or they can break our hearts. They can inspire us, force us into action and help us take a risk, or they can stop us in our tracks. But one of the best parts of a great story is that it can be unforgettable. And whatever action or feeling you had the first time you heard the story, will be the same action or feeling you have when you hear it a year from now.

This is why we have to tell the story of our mission trip. So that when all the great things that happened begin to fade into the fog of a shallow memory, we can go back to the story and be reminded of how to walk on the mission road. How to serve well, reach out to strangers, show compassion, laugh a ton, and live on faith. It has the potential to turn your trip from a mountain top experience to a way of life.

Spend some time telling the story of your trip by answering the following questions:

Looking back, why do you think God brought you on this trip?

**Did you feel burdened by anything you saw or experienced on the trip?
Why or why not?**

What was the highlight or the best moment of the trip? Why?

WEEK 1: THE STORY

What was the most challenging part of the trip for you? Why?

When was a moment you felt really connected to God on the trip? Why?

What are some of the stories you learned about the people you were serving?

“

Many Christians estimate difficulty in light of their own resources, and thus they attempt very little, and they always fail. All giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and His presence. - Hudson Taylor

WEEK 1: THE STORY

DAY 2 GOD'S STORY

“ ***For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.*** - ***Luke 19:10*** ”

Redemption. The thread of redemption has been woven through the entire story of scripture. God redeemed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt by leading them across the desert (using a cloud and pillar of fire), through the Red Sea (literally), across the Jordan River (during flood season), and into the Promised Land. As you can see, He was really set on redeeming them.

Ruth was given hope through Boaz, a Kinsman Redeemer. God redeemed David's heart from being swallowed by the effects of adultery with Bathsheba. And poor Hosea married a cheating prostitute, just so the power of redemption could be demonstrated to others through his marriage. And these are just tiny glimpses of the redemption thread weaving itself in and out of the pages of your Bible.

Every time there's healing, saving, seeking, rescuing, forgiving, loving, there's also redeeming. It's part of the giant story that God has been telling since before the beginning of time. Jesus came to Earth to reveal the redeeming love God offered. After all, he came to seek and save the lost.

*Take a look at the following stories that Jesus told in Luke 15:1-10, and use the **5P** method to study this passage.*



PURPOSE

Why do you think the author wrote this? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? In a sentence or two, write what you think the overall theme or topic is.



PRIMARY VERSE

Which verse seems to contain the most important thought in the passage? Which one stands out most to you? Write out the verse completely and the corresponding reference.

WEEK 1: THE STORY



PROMISES

Make a list of any promises you find. Sometimes you need to infer promises from a passage. For example, John 3:16 does not come right out and promise you heaven. But it implies a promise: “if you believe, you will have eternal life.”



PROBLEMS

If you find anything you don’t understand – even if it’s just a word – write it down as a question. Then ask someone for the answer or look it up yourself. One way to know if you have any “problems” is to ask yourself “is there anything in this passage that I could not explain to a friend?”



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Think about what the passage means to you. What action should you take? What do you need to change or work on so that what you have read is real in your life? Be specific – your application should tell who, what and when.

WEEK 1: THE STORY

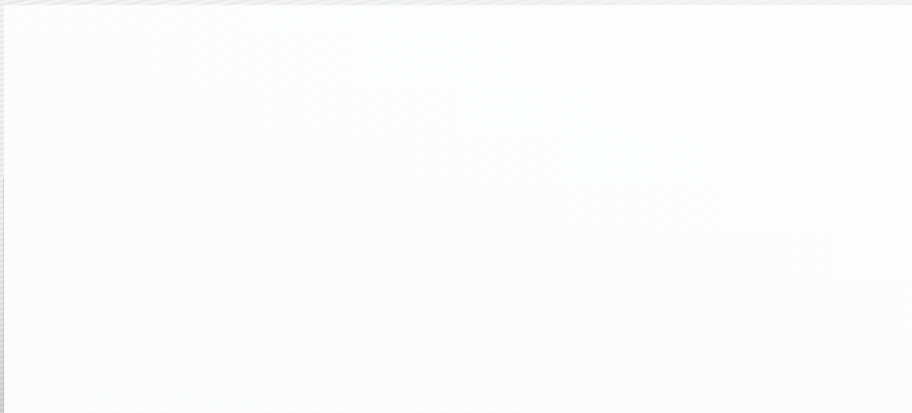
DAY 3

GOD'S STORY IN YOUR LIFE

It's pretty clear that God's redemption story runs throughout history, from creation to the early church. But how has it woven itself throughout your life? What are the moments that you have seen the redemption thread pop up in your own story, maybe even in the story of your trip?

Spend some time answering these questions, and identifying God's story written in your own experiences.

What have been some of the pivotal moments in your life? How do you see God in those moments?



What relationships have helped you find God?

What moments have you received forgiveness or grace? What difference did that make?

WEEK 1: THE STORY

Redeemed. Saved. Unconditional love. Grace. Forgiveness. Healing.

What experiences in your life could you label with one of these words?

Did you see God's story of redemption woven into your trip? How?

“ To live by grace means to acknowledge my whole life story, the light side and the dark. In admitting my shadow side I learn who I am and what God’s grace means.

- Brennan Manning

One of the easiest things to do when you first get back from a mission trip is to look forward. There's nothing like your own bed, your cell phone, or a shower that doesn't require waiting in line. You really start to appreciate all the little things you took for granted before the trip, but **it doesn't take long to forget everything you experienced when you were away.** The worries you used to have creep back into your life and your cell phone seems outdated.

But it doesn't have to be that way! **This book is designed to help you come home from a mission trip, but stay on the mission road.** To not let your trip turn into a mere memory, but to use it as a lesson in living on a mission. A HUGE God invited you to be a part of a HUGE story, and that story lives long past the daily grind of your life back home. Take the mission **BEYOND THE TRIP.** Use this journal to help live that adventure every day.

**IF YOU WANT TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY WHEN
YOU GO HOME, THIS JOURNAL IS FOR YOU.**

**BEYOND THE TRIP contains
4 WEEKS OF:**

- Bible Studies
- Challenges
- Thought Provoking Experiences
- Hard Questions
- Insights into Service, Community, God's Story, and Connecting with God in your everyday life.

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ISBN 978-1-939031-10-5



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