



REENTRY

from your mission trip to life back home
4-WEEK MISSION TRIP FOLLOW-UP JOURNAL

LeaderTreks®



Making Disciples...Developing Leaders

REENTRY: *From Your Mission Trip to Your Life Back Home*

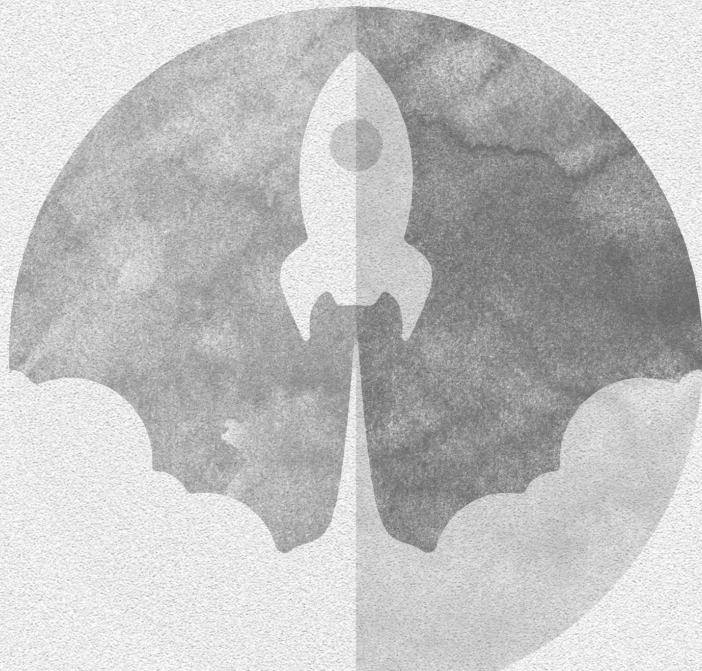
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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



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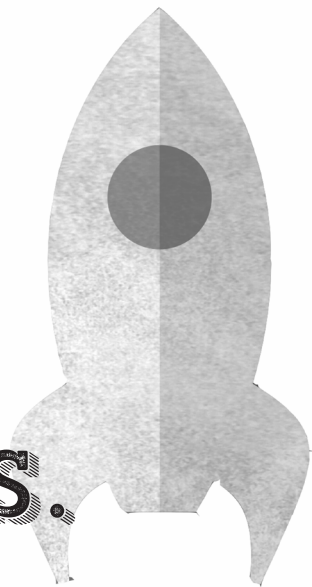
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IMAGINE STARING OUT A TINY, CIRCULAR WINDOW

INTO BLACK EMPTINESS.



Soon, your entire field of vision is taken up by a spectacular view: planet Earth. You see thunderstorms from above, the Northern Lights dancing in green, and shooting stars—passing below you! On the nighttime side of the planet, thousands of yellow lights turn on to reveal a web of civilization. As the Earth passes out of sight, you hold your breath, waiting for the spacecraft to rotate so you can catch another glimpse of the planet.

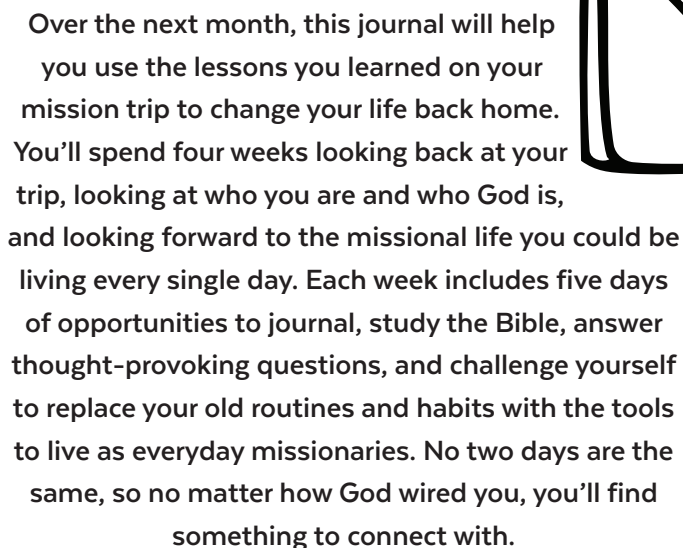
When they weren't running experiments, performing maintenance, or doing their daily chores, many astronauts living aboard the International Space Station (ISS) spent much of their time "Earth watching." Most say their first glimpse of Earth from space was a profound, life-changing experience. But it's not the only reason they went into space.

Most of the ISS astronauts were actually in space to do scientific experiments to help us back at home in our everyday lives. Many of these experiments led to ideas and resources that have drastically changed our own lives. Just think about how different life would be without these technologies discovered by NASA: artificial limbs, baby formula, cell-phone cameras, MRI and CAT scans, solar

panels, shoe insoles, water filters, UV-blocking sunglasses, and almost 1,800 other things we use every day on Earth.

Like an ISS astronaut returning to Earth, you've just arrived back home from a spectacular experience. The things you saw and did on your mission trip rocked your world, and you connected with others and met God in a way you never thought possible. But in reality, your trip was about more than that amazing feeling you had while you were there. It was a laboratory, a place to discover things about the world and about yourself that can radically change your life back home. It all depends on your reentry—how you transition from that once-in-a-lifetime experience into a life transformed by your experience.

HOW IT WORKS:



Over the next month, this journal will help you use the lessons you learned on your mission trip to change your life back home. You'll spend four weeks looking back at your trip, looking at who you are and who God is, and looking forward to the missional life you could be living every single day. Each week includes five days of opportunities to journal, study the Bible, answer thought-provoking questions, and challenge yourself to replace your old routines and habits with the tools to live as everyday missionaries. No two days are the same, so no matter how God wired you, you'll find something to connect with.



WEEK 1

NAVIGATING



**“KEEP YOUR
EYES ON THE
STARS,
AND YOUR FEET
ON THE
GROUND.”**

-THEODORE ROOSEVELT

DAY 1: YOU ARE HERE

WEEK ONE: NAVIGATING

YOU ARE HERE. The pulsing blue dot on your GPS is just as important as the destination address you typed in. You can't get directions to a destination without knowing where you are coming from. It doesn't matter how many places you plan to go, how many adventures you want to take before you reach the finish line, you first need to know where the starting line is. In fact, this was a life-or-death piece of information before the space shuttle program. When astronauts reentered the atmosphere, their spacecraft usually landed in the middle of the ocean, and they had to wait it out until help arrived. The only way rescuers knew where they splashed down was by first learning the "you are here" information NASA received when the craft reentered the atmosphere. Only then could they project where the craft might be floating in the ocean.

In the same way, as you come home from your mission trip, you are at the moment of reentry. You're probably looking forward to a lot of things now that you're back home: a hot shower, your own bed, mom's home cooking, a reunion with your teammates in a week. But all the amazing things God did during your trip—those crazy fun moments and those once-in-a-lifetime experiences—could get lost in your memories if you don't take some time to note where you are now.

The truth is, you are not in the same place as you were when you first left on your mission trip. You have probably changed and grown in a lot of ways. You're most likely farther down the road in your spiritual journey. So instead of jumping back into the comfortable grind of daily life, take a look at your "you are here" dot. It's time to sort through the story of the amazing things God did while you served him on your trip.

Take some time to answer these questions about your trip as you get back into your daily life.

A hand-drawn rectangular box with rounded corners and a thick, shaded border, intended for writing an answer.

What was the most challenging part of your trip?

A hand-drawn rectangular box with a thick border, intended for writing an answer.

When did you laugh the most?

A hand-drawn rectangular box with rounded corners and a thick, shaded border, intended for writing an answer.

How did you see God work in the community you served? In your team?
In you?

What changed in you over the course of your trip?

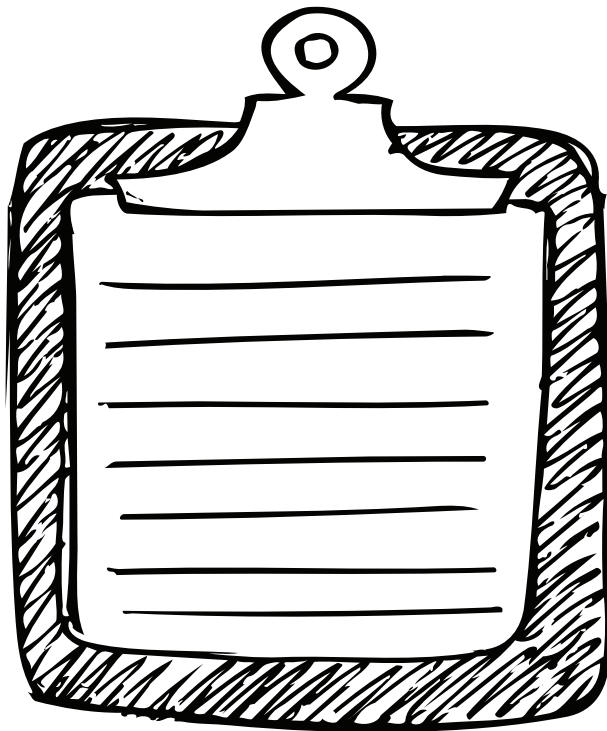
What do you want to change in your life back home?

What was the best moment of your mission trip?

When someone asks,

“HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?”

what will you say to communicate the story of what God did?



Make a short list of bullet points. (Remember, most people want a 30-second to 2-minute answer!)

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4-WEEK MISSION TRIP FOLLOW-UP JOURNAL

Chances are, the things you saw and did on your mission trip rocked your world. You probably connected with others and met God in a way you didn't expect. But your trip was about way more than that amazing feeling you had while you were there. Your trip was only a small taste of a much larger mission, a place to discover things about the world and about yourself that can change everything about your life back home.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR REENTRY.

How do you transition from that once-in-a-lifetime experience to a life transformed by your experience?

The same God who did amazing things and showed you an incredible new community can't wait to show you his mission plan for your life back home. The same God who you connected with and relied on for so many things wants you to lean on him daily. Over the next four weeks, learn to hold tightly to the God you met in a new way on your trip. Use this journal to start living every day as if you were on a mission trip.

REENTRY CONTAINS FOUR WEEKS OF:

BIBLE STUDIES
CHALLENGES
THOUGHT-PROVOKING EXPERIENCES
HARD QUESTIONS
INSIGHTS INTO LIVING ON A MISSION

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