



Session 4

Getting Ready to Serve: Spiritual Preparation for Your Group

Purpose: To help your students get spiritually prepared to work, pray and worship with others who may not be like them.

Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:12-22

Preparation:

- It is very important that you keep the momentum going from the prior lesson about preparing the individual for this mission experience. Remind students and adults that their heart must be right individually before they can even work spiritually as a group.
- Remember that the mission of this lesson is to help the students and adults understand that bringing glory to God in everything is the goal.
- Don't forget to look through the options and prepare yourself on how you will use them. If you are not using the options make sure you supplement where needed.

Plan Options:

Choose from the following learning activities based on available teaching time:

- **Affirmative Fold-Ups (ice breaker) – 5 minutes**
- **Read the Word! (Scripture focus) – 15-20 minutes**
- **Know Your Role!**

Affirmative Fold-Ups (ice breaker) – 5 minutes

1. Ask the group to sit comfortably in a circle. Give each student a piece of paper and ask him or her to write their name at the top. Place all of the papers in the center of the circle. Ask each student draw a sheet from the center (not their own) and ask them to write one positive word (or a sentence) about that person at the bottom of the sheet, after which, they are to fold up the paper to cover up the word. Ask each them place the sheet back in the center and repeat on another sheet. Participants will continue to select other's sheets from the circle to write affirming words on, until the name is the only thing showing on the paper. The leader can then distribute the papers to their owners.

2. Ask the following questions when everyone has had an opportunity to read their on affirmations:

- What do you think this exercise is for? (*building others up, affirming one another, show diversity in a group that can still function together, etc...*)
- Do you look at yourself like these in the group look at you?
- How many different attributes do we have among the group? (*Have them read the attributes that are on their papers to see how many different affirmations or attributes there are.*)

Read the Word! (Scripture focus) – 15-20 minutes

1. Ask a student to read 1 Corinthians 12:12-22.

2. Note for your understanding or to paraphrase, “First Corinthians 12 is a wonderful place to start for building a group that can work together. The premise behind Paul’s writing is the church as a whole, working as one.” With this in mind, help your students and adults understand that working together does not require everyone to have the same skill set, the same way of doing things, or the same mindset. There will be some in your group that think because they cannot do something someone else can do that they are not as good as the other. Make sure to explain to them that there can be diversity yet still have unity if they are all working from the premise that everything they are doing is to bring glory to God.

3. The Body. Read or paraphrase the following, “There are 206 bones in your body. All have their purpose. All have their place. All work together to help you walk, talk and motor around. Your bones do not work against each other, they work together. First Corinthians 12:15-17 speaks of body parts desiring to be other body parts.” Explain that when this happens the body begins to dysfunction.

4. Ask, “Has anyone here has ever had a broken bone? How did you have to alter the way you lived?” (Example: If your foot is broken you have to use crutches, which require you to use your hands for something else other than the freedom they have when not using crutches. This is difficult and causes your body to change its natural function.)

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:18-19. Paraphrase the following, “The phrase, ‘But God’, is the key to understanding the unity in the body. It is God who has set the boundaries of the body. It is God who has made the body work as it does. It is God who has put you together as a group to accomplish the task that this mission experience has for you this summer.” Help students and adults understand that if we do not work together then we become like a body that has a broken leg, or a broken arm, or head injury.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:20-22. Read or paraphrase the following, “Once again in order to have unity within the body we have to take ourselves off the throne and allow God to be leader. We as students and adults cannot decide who can do something and who cannot. ‘The eye does not say to the hand, I have no need of you.’ There are no weak individuals in a group on a mission.”

Know Your Role! (learning activity) – 5 to 10 minutes, depending on option

Option 1 (10 minutes) – Take this time to help them understand the positions they may be able to have while on their Mission Serve experience.

For Students:

- **Medic:** The medic helps take care of small scratches and bruises and keeps a log of all accidents on the site while at Mission Serve.
- **BreakMasters:** Usually consists of two students that have the opportunity to serve the group by getting the coolers ready for the day and making sure they get on the vans to the sites.
- **Chaplin:** The Chaplin has the opportunity to get the group together each day for a daily devotion and share the love of Christ throughout the week.

For Adults:

- **Squad Leader:** The Squad Leader is a person who is excited about what is going on and helps keep the morale of the group on the site to a high level no matter the job. They serve as encouragers to those who may think that they are weaker or that they cannot do what everybody else is doing. They also look for opportunities to share the gospel with the homeowner and students. Another aspect to the Squad Leader role is to help keep the Construction Captain focused on the task of ministry as well as construction. The Squad Leader also helps look out for safety issues around the site.
- **Construction Captain:** The Construction Captain is the head of the group. This is a great responsibility. The Construction Captain must be sound in all ways. He should be able to lead a construction crew of teenagers as well as be a spiritual leader. The Construction Captain answers to the Supervisor and the Supervisor answers to the Construction Coordinator.
- **Supervisor:** The Supervisor position is a position that requires a great deal of putting out fires from site to site. The Supervisor must know construction well and be able to move quickly from site to site to make sure the construction side of things is going as planned. Most of the time the Supervisor has four to six sites he watches over.

(You can find a description of all positions in your Group Leaders Manual found at mission-serve.com. On the menu under Mission Serve -- Downloads.)

Paraphrase: There are a lot of positions available at Mission Serve. If one position is left out then something very important gets left behind. If we forget the Chaplin, the gospel does not stay at the forefront of the Mission Experience. If we decide we don't need the BreakMasters we don't have the food or the water we need for the day. If we decide we can do without the Construction Captain, there is no leader to guide the group to finish the task. If one falls then the whole system crumbles and we fail to Glorify God in all we do.

Let's take an opportunity to see how this may play out with a game.

Option 2 (5 minutes) – Back to Back: Ask every group member to find a partner of approximately equal height and weight (if possible). The partners will lock arms with their backs to one another. With arms remaining locked at all times, the partners will sit down on the ground, kick their legs out straight and try to stand back up. Then ask groups of four to try to do the same thing. Then ask groups of eight, 16, and eventually, the entire group, try it together. This is the perfect activity to begin a trust sequence.

Paraphrase: If you noticed throughout the game that everyone had to work together in some way or another. Everyone had to function as a team to stand up from groups of two all the way to the whole group. This is exactly how it will be at the mission experience this summer. You will have to trust others. You will have to pick others up. You will have to motivate and to be motivated. You will have to work together even when the times are tough. The only way this can be done is to trust God and to glorify him in all you do.

For Your Understanding: This is a great time for you to take the opportunity to share with your students the way Mission Serve works as a whole. If they do not understand the process it is much harder for them to work as a team.

Share the following:

- We will be sleeping in a school, church, multi-purpose building on cots, sleeping bags or air mattresses.
- We will get up early 5:30 a.m. to get ready to start the day at 7 a.m.
- We will be put in groups "Squads" of 10-12 students.
- You will have one to two people from your student group in your Squad. *(This is a very important. Help them understand this is why we are doing this lesson. They will be working with people they do not know and they need to have the mindset of putting others first.)*
- We will worship corporately nightly and then meet as a student group for debriefing of the day.
- We will start over again each day.

You may want to ask if students have any questions. If you as a leader need to understand more about the process please contact your Project Coordinator (PC) with any questions. They will be glad to help you any way they can.

Paraphrase: Everything works together at Mission Serve. By now your students and adults should have a good idea of the functions of a group on a Mission Serve trip. Now let's take this opportunity to have a prayer time for the individuals and the team that will be attending the Mission Serve experience.

Option 3 (10-15 minutes) – Prayer Time Conclusion: Make sure each participant develop prayer partners well in advance of the trip. You can double your prayer power and broaden the impact of your trip by partnering in two ways.

1. Invite another member of the mission team to be your prayer partner for the week before, week during and week after the trip.

2. Invite a member of your congregation who is not going on the trip to pray for you daily as you prepare and as you go. *(This is a great way to get the whole church body involved in what you are doing and shows the mission team how the body works as one).*

To bring this all home set up a time during the service to have your mission team prayed for before they leave for the Mission Serve experience. Explain to the church that there are ways that they can pray for them as well as encourage them throughout the trip. Such as:

- Sending a package for the whole group along with the leader that includes encouraging notes and prayers for each student involved.
- Explaining to the church congregation how they can send ServeMail to everyone during the trip. Please see directions on at mission-serve.com about two weeks before the summer begins. Most of the time it is as simple as going to the mission-serve.com and choosing ServeMail, then choose your site, then write your note, and click send. The project staff will download and place into the individual mail slots on the Mail Wall.

If you plan to have a service to send out the mission team, plan it well in advance to ensure prayer time and your time to speak on the issues is accounted for within your service.

Close your meeting out with your partners of two praying together for the week to come.