



A Life-Long Mission Trip

Bible Study Leader's Guide

[Please provide: copies of this study, LSB hymnal and accompaniment]

Note: You might wish to use this Bible study as part of program that includes a speaker who has recently completed a short-term mission trip.

Have you recently heard about short-term mission teams going to many parts of the world? Have the sharing and the stories concerning these trips intrigued you? Do you feel as if God is tapping you on the shoulder to participate in such an adventure? In this Bible study, let's examine what God says about mission trip opportunities.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, despite our sins, You have chosen us and You work in us to spread Your Gospel throughout the world. As we study Your Word, open our hearts and our minds to the new mission opportunities including mission trips where we can joyfully share Jesus our Savior with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Our Mission

Read Psalm 145:4–13, Isaiah 43:10, and Matthew 28:18–20a. What is the mission God has given to every believer? We are to share God with other generations and *make known to the children of man* [God's] *mighty deeds* (Psalm 145:12). God declares that we are His *witnesses* (Isaiah 43:10). In Matthew 28, Jesus Himself commanded His disciples to tell *all nations* of Him and His saving love. As God's people today, we are to bear witness to Him.

Read Romans 10:14–15. Why is God's mission for us so important? People need to hear of Jesus and His truths of salvation from the Bible before they can come to know Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How might these verses encourage you as you consider your participation in a mission trip? As believers, we have the joyful privilege and duty to share with others the way of salvation found in Jesus alone.

Our Message

As believers in the Triune God, we are called to proclaim Him to the world. Read the following Bible passages. What facts does each one share concerning the God in Whom we believe?

Colossians 1:16: God our Father has created *all things*.

Psalm 145:15–16: God continually cares for all of creation.

John 3:16: God loves us so much that He sent Jesus, His only Son to save all people from their sins.

Ephesians 2:1–7: Left on our own, we are *dead in our sins* (v. 1). God, in His mercy and love, saved us from our sins and has given us eternal life through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Because of Jesus, God shows us the *immeasurable riches of his grace* (v. 7).

Romans 4:25: Jesus died for our sins and was raised so that we could be justified and made righteous in God’s eyes.

1 Corinthians 12:3: No one can say “*Jesus is Lord*” except in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us faith in the Triune God, keeps us in that faith, and grows that faith within us.

These passages as well as others you know describe the Triune God and His work in our lives. Use these truths to develop a short paragraph that you could use as a way to share who God is with someone who does not know Him.

As participants formulate their paragraphs, emphasize the importance that they be God-focused. Each paragraph needs to include that God is our Creator, Redeemer, and faith-giver. Each paragraph also needs to include the reason why we need Jesus. Encourage participants to share their completed statements.

God’s Call

Throughout the Bible, we read accounts of God inviting and even commanding His people to go and spread His saving Word. Read about one such account in Exodus 3:1–4:17.

How did God call Moses to go and serve Him? God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and personally spoke to Him.

What did God specifically ask Moses to do? God asked Moses to appeal to Pharaoh so that God’s people could be brought out of slavery in Egypt.

How did Moses initially respond to God’s call? Moses feared that the Israelites would not listen to him and that he would not know what to say.

How did God respond to Moses’ objections? God told Moses what to say and even gave him his brother Aaron to speak for him.

As you ponder a mission trip opportunity, you might feel as Moses did. What gets in your way when asked to serve God? The devil can stir up fear and doubt in us. Instead of relying on God and His power to help us, we instead focus inward on our own inadequacies. We may also think we don’t have the time to serve. We may also put other obligations before God’s call.

When you have doubts and fears concerning serving God and sharing His Word, how might the following truths from the Bible reassure you?

Matthew 28:20b: Jesus Himself promises to be always be with us.

Romans 8:28: In all things, God works for good, even if we make unwise decisions or fumble opportunities.

Philippians 4:13: God gives us the strength to do all that He asks of us.

Read Matthew 4:18–22. How did Jesus invite Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to serve Him? Jesus saw them and personally spoke to them.

What did Jesus ask these four men to do? Jesus said to them, *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men* (v. 19).

How did these four fishermen respond? *Immediately* (vv. 20, 22) they left their fishing nets and boat and followed Jesus.

Read Isaiah 6:5–8. What does Isaiah’s response to God’s call as well as the response of Peter, Andrew, James, and John say to you concerning how we are to respond when given the opportunity to share God’s Word? *By the power of the Holy Spirit, we joyfully say, *Here am I! Send me.** (Isaiah 6:8). Through faith, the Holy Spirit gives us the desire to serve God because of all that He has done and continues to do for us as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

God’s call to work for Him most likely will not come to you in a burning bush or in an appearance by Jesus Himself at your workplace. Through what means does God call us to work for Him? God calls us to work for Him through His Word accompanied by the encouragement of other Christians.

The Importance Of Prayer As We Go For God

Read Ephesians 6:18–19. What did Paul ask the Ephesians to do for him? Paul asked them to pray for him as well as for the other believers who were sharing the Gospel.

Why did Paul make this request? Paul recognized that he needed boldness and courage from the Holy Spirit so that he could powerfully continue to preach the Gospel message.

How might you incorporate the thoughts in Paul’s prayer as you prayerfully contemplate a mission trip? Like Paul, we also need the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can boldly proclaim Christ.

A Final Thought

Mission trips can take place in a far-off land or in your own community. Since God has commanded us to share Jesus with everyone, our entire lives can actually be considered a mission trip as wherever we go we are called to share Jesus’ saving love.

Read Colossians 1:3–14. What does the Holy Spirit give us that motivates us to share Jesus (vv.4–5)? The Holy Spirit gives us faith, love for others, the sure and certain hope of eternal life because of Jesus’ death and resurrection for us, and the wisdom for salvation that comes from the Gospel.

Reread verses 9–11. For what things did Paul pray that God would give the Colossians that we can also pray that God would give us as we serve Him? By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can pray that we would be *filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding* (v. 9). We can pray that we *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord* (v. 10) and that we might *bear fruit in every good work* for God as well as *increase(ing) in the knowledge of God* (v. 10). We can pray for *God’s power, endurance and patience with joy* as we serve Him (v. 11). In our prayers we can also thank God who has made us His heirs and who has taken us out of the darkness and death of sin and *transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son* who has redeemed us and forgiven us (vv. 12–14).

Closing Prayer: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for creating us, redeeming us, and for giving us faith in You. The Gospel message that Jesus died and rose to save us from

our sins and to give us forgiveness of sins and eternal life is the most precious gift in all creation. Thank You for working in us so that we may share it with others. Wherever our mission trips may take us, give us strength and courage to tell others that salvation is found in You alone. Give us joy to serve You, even when it's not easy. Wherever we go, keep us ever mindful that You are always with us so that we might accomplish all things to Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Jesus, Send Us on Your Mission" by Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy (Permission granted to the LWML for its use in this Bible study.) Tune: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," LSB 686

1. Jesus, send us on Your mission.
Make us servants true and bold.
Give us all courageous vision
That Your story may be told,
May we each, the nine fruits bearing
And the Spirit's gifts displayed.
Leave this place, Your Good News sharing
You our Rock, our Staff, and Stay
2. "Go and serve where I will send you.
Let My will and yours be one.
Go in Peace. I will befriend you.
You will never be alone.
Waste no time, now is the hour.
Let your banners be unfurled.
Go united in My power.
Bring My love to all the world."
3. Savior, rich in grace, all-knowing,
We will follow where You lead.
In our coming and our going
You'll supply our every need.
So with alleluias raising,
And Your Name to still our fear.
On our way we now go, praising,
Sent to witness far and near!

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Leader's Guide
Written by Sandy Hardies, Garden City, Michigan
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