

# PRE-TRIP SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS

## LESSON 1: WHY AM I DOING THIS?

1. **Why are you doing this? Circle as many as apply to you:**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Something to do                 | i. Fun                                      |
| b. Did it before                   | j. My friend invited me                     |
| c. Someone told me I would like it | k. Learn about God                          |
| d. Adventure                       | l. Worship                                  |
| e. Travel                          | m. Learn a skill (painting, cleaning, etc.) |
| f. Serve others                    | n. Boring summer otherwise                  |
| g. Grow close to God               | o. My parents are making me                 |
| h. Nothing else to do              |   |

2. **Tell the group three of the reasons you circled and why you circled them.**

3. **Are some reasons to go on SERVE better than others? Why or why not?**

4. **Read this passage from I Peter 4:10-11** — 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

5. **What does verse 11 tell us about where to find the strength to serve?**

6. **How can this passage shape your prayers for the trip before you go (as a group and as individuals)?**

7. **Close in prayer, using the passage above.**

## LESSON 2: WHO AM I SERVING?

**(Note to Leaders: can divide up into 4 small groups and have each group take a numbered section.)**

“SERVE” is the name of the trip, and we usually think about the people in the place we are going to as the ones we are serving. But actually....

1. **The first one we are serving is: God.** We serve God as a response for all he has done for us.
  - Name two things God has done for you recently:
  
2. **The second group we serve are our Teammates:** everyone who is going on this trip with us!
  - What’s one way in which you can serve the group? (e.g. I’m good at singing/painting/cleaning up after meals/ coming up with games to play/ etc....)
  
  - What’s one way in which the group could serve you? (e.g. I need it quiet to sleep/ Don’t talk to me in the morning/ help me avoid my food allergy/ pray for \_\_\_)
  
3. **The third group we are serving is our Host Church.** Many of these folks take vacation days to volunteer. They give up time with their families to be with us. They put in long days preparing for us to come, hosting us, and then sending us off.
  - If you were part of the Host Church team, what would you want from the guests who are coming on SERVE?
  
  - What is one way in which we can all serve our Host Church together?
  
4. **Finally, we are serving the citizens in our Host City.** These could be small business owners, the staff of city parks, families, children, senior citizens, immigrants, homeless people...
  - What can we do that will make people glad to see us come?
  
  - What can we do that will make people sad to see us go?
  
  - How can we leave this place better than we found it?
  
5. **Close in prayer by going through each of the four areas of service.**

## **LESSON 3: WHAT WILL MAKE THIS A GOOD EXPERIENCE?**

1. **Finish this sentence: SERVE will be a good experience for me if . . .**
2. **Share your sentence with your group.**
3. **Name two things you can do to make this a good experience:**
4. **Name two things someone else (large group, small group, friends, leaders) can do to make this a good experience:**
5. **Read James 5:13-18** — 13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.
6. **How can you pray specifically about your trip between now and when you leave, both as a group and on your own?** (Think about times of day, phone alarms, texting, etc.)
7. **Close in prayer, using James 5 as your guide.**