



A Guide for Group Leaders

Pre-trip preparation meetings are essential for building unity, setting expectations, and spiritually preparing your team for your upcoming mission trip. These meetings are not only about logistics—they are an opportunity to disciple your team, align hearts with God’s mission, and create a shared sense of purpose. Below is a suggested framework for leading three effective preparation sessions.

In addition to the sessions outlined below, here are several other links you may find helpful for training your team.

- **Go Experience Pathwright course** (required for all participants) – <https://tinyurl.com/GoXCourse>
- **Support Raising** – imb.org/goexperience
- **Scavenger Hunt** – imb.org/goexperience

SESSION 1: TRIP OVERVIEW AND ALIGNMENT

Purpose: Ensure clarity, set expectations, and begin spiritual preparation together.

This first meeting should focus on reviewing the overall trip details and making sure every participant understands what lies ahead. It is also an important moment to reinforce that this trip is part of God’s global mission, not simply a travel experience.

Key Topics to Cover:

- **Trip overview and updates:** Review the destination, dates, purpose of the trip, and how your team will serve alongside the missionary hosts.
- **Travel details:** Share current flight and travel information, noting any upcoming deadlines or confirmations still needed.
- **Passports and documentation:** Confirm that all participants have valid passports and are aware of any visa requirements.
- **Go Method registration:** Ensure all team members are registered and understand expectations related to Go Method.
- **Go Experience Pathwright course:** Remind participants of required training and set clear deadlines for completion.
- **Expectations and communication:** Review team expectations regarding preparation, attendance, and participation.

Prayer Focus:

Spend time praying for your missionary hosts, their teams, and the people groups you will be engaging. This helps shift the team's focus outward and reinforces the spiritual nature of the trip.

SESSION 2: CULTURE AND MINISTRY PREPARATION

Purpose: Equip the team for cross-cultural engagement and gospel ministry.

This session helps your team understand where they are going, whom they will serve, and why the gospel is needed in that context. It is an opportunity to foster humility, cultural sensitivity, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Key Topics to Cover:

- **Cultural overview:** Highlight key aspects of the local culture, worldview, religious beliefs, and social norms. Discuss appropriate behaviors, communication styles, and cultural sensitivities.
- **Ministry context:** Explain the type of ministry your team will be involved in and how it supports the long-term strategy of the missionary team.
- **Gospel engagement:** Discuss the spiritual climate of the area and why gospel engagement is vital. Review how team members may have opportunities to share their faith.
- **Testimonies and practice:** Train the team to share personal testimonies or gospel-sharing tools, and spend time practicing to build confidence.
- **Missionary connection:** If possible, invite your missionary host to join the meeting virtually. If that is not feasible, share a recorded video, written update, or message from them to help personalize the partnership.

Prayer Focus:

Pray specifically for cultural understanding, boldness, sensitivity, and openness to gospel conversations. Ask God to prepare hearts—both within your team and among the people you will meet.

SESSION 3: FINAL DETAILS AND COMMISSIONING

Purpose: Finalize logistics, reinforce unity, and commission the team in prayer.

This final meeting should bring everything together. At this point, most logistics should be finalized, allowing space to focus on unity, readiness, and spiritual commissioning.

Key Topics to Cover:

- **Packing lists:** Review required and recommended items, including ministry supplies, clothing guidelines, and any location-specific needs.
- **Money and logistics:** Clarify details related to spending money, group funds, and financial expectations while on the field.
- **Final Go Method reminders:** Confirm completion and address any remaining questions.
- **Travel itinerary:** Walk through the full travel plan, so everyone knows where to be, when to arrive, and what to expect.
- **Ministry assignments:** Share any team roles or ministry assignments, helping participants understand how they will serve.
- **Team conduct and unity:** Revisit expectations for behavior, flexibility, and mutual encouragement during the trip.

Prayer Focus:

Spend extended time praying over the team. Commission them for the journey ahead, asking God for protection, unity, humility, and fruit. If appropriate, consider laying hands on team members as a sign of sending and support from the church.

Final Encouragement for Leaders

These preparation meetings are an important part of discipling your team. When led with intentionality, they help ensure your team arrives prepared—logistically, relationally, and spiritually—to serve well and support the long-term work of missionaries on the field.