



GO • PRAY • GIVE

# SERVANT LIFE TRAINING SESSION

Group leaders, we hope this material serves you well. We believe that the discussion of these topics is very important for your group, and know it can be overwhelming for you to gather content and create a session like this.

Having your group process some of these things before the trip might change their attitude and help them have a better experience as you serve. Thank you for leading out well and demonstrating a commitment to the Great Commission!

We are honored to partner with you in ministry.

- THE SERVANT LIFE STAFF

## HOW TO USE THIS CONTENT

Before your training session, please **print pages 2 – 4 of this document for everyone attending** the session, and print pages 5 – 7 for yourself (and other adult leaders, if you would like). You can either stream the videos online during your session, or download them all beforehand. They can be accessed at [www.servantlife.com/videos](http://www.servantlife.com/videos), or found on Vimeo at [www.vimeo.com/album/3342235](http://www.vimeo.com/album/3342235).

Play the videos one at a time, and pause after each video to have students work through the discussion questions in smaller groups. Afterwards, use the leader guide to help supplement their answers. Please, feel free to discuss any additional questions that come up!

The order of the videos is as follows:

- What's the big deal about the Great Commission?
- Group Travel
- Culture Shock and Cultural Sensitivity
- How to Share Your Faith in a Foreign Context
- Returning Home and Being on Mission

There is an optional 6<sup>th</sup> video titled Health, Medical, and Safe Practices. We encourage you to watch this video on your own, but it might not be important for your students to watch it. Even without watching the video, have your students go over the discussion questions and think through the scenarios they might encounter.

We encourage you to incorporate anything else into the training session that you feel might be beneficial. Note that the Servant Life Field Manual we sent to you has a robust section on putting together a biblical testimony and gospel presentation, and that would be something great to have your group go through together.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## WHY GO? THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. The Great Commission includes the phrase “make disciples of *all* nations.” What does this teach us about how God feels about people from different countries, ethnicities, backgrounds, and belief systems?

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2. God could have chosen many different ways to spread the Gospel, but he chose to do it through his people. Knowing that this was God’s plan, how does it change our view of missions?

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3. It would be narrow-minded of us to read the Great Commission and think that it only applies to one or two weeks out of the year when we go on a mission trip. What does it look like to be on mission year-round?

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## GROUP TRAVEL

1. A “short-truth statement,” or an STS, is a simple phrase that you can give to a customs agent to explain why you are entering their country. Write down your STS and repeat it a few times until it becomes normal. Try to briefly and simply explain why you are there, *and if needed*, what you will be doing. (Good words: *visiting, spending time, volunteering, serving*. Bad words: *converting, working, evangelism*.)

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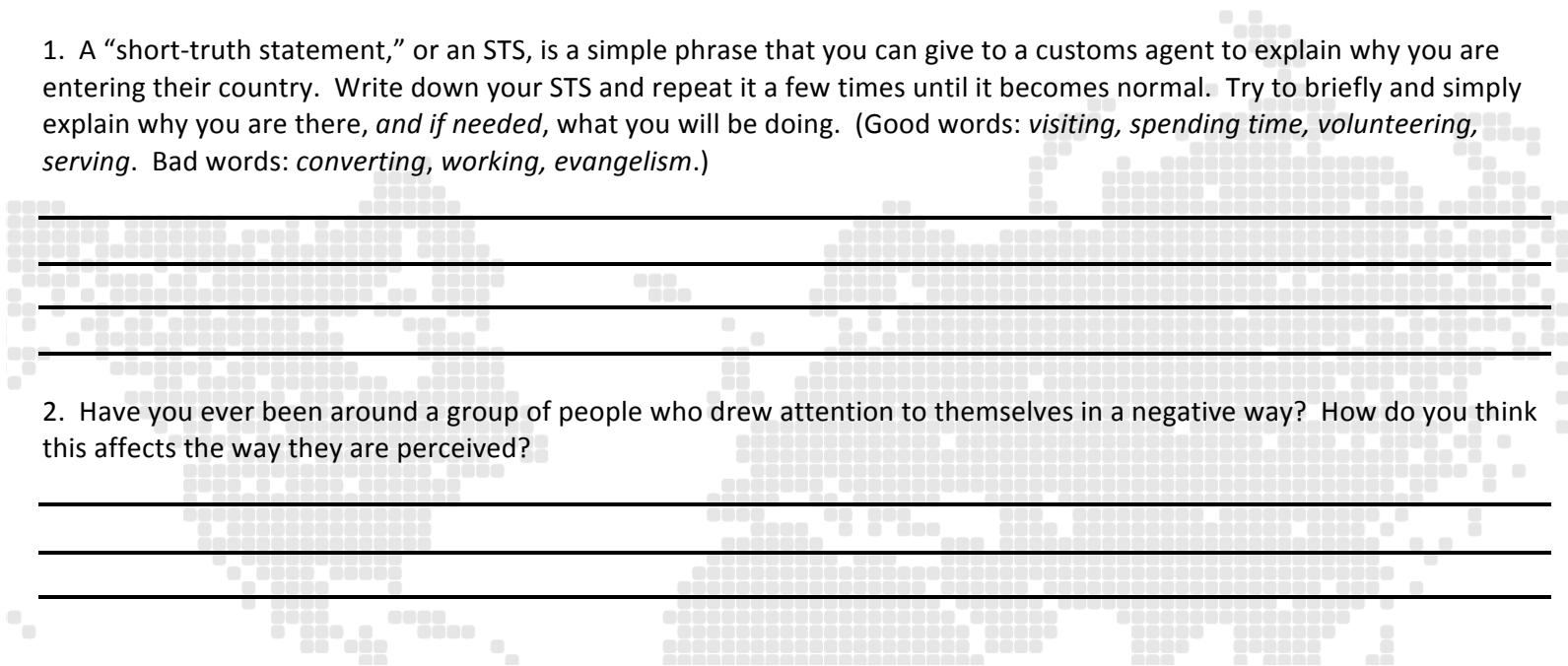
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2. Have you ever been around a group of people who drew attention to themselves in a negative way? How do you think this affects the way they are perceived?

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3. Take a moment to pray for your group, that you would uphold the name of Christ in everything that you do.

## CULTURE SHOCK

1. What are you most apprehensive about as you enter a different culture?

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2. How do you feel about eating food that might be different than normal? Why it is important for us to try the local cuisine?

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3. Why is important for us to be culturally sensitive in a different context? Why can't we just accept the differences between our culture and their culture and be ok with difference?

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## SHARING YOUR FAITH

1. Some people think that their testimony is not very exciting, but if God has truly redeemed you from sin and brokenness and filled you with his Spirit, that is a testimony worth telling! Why is it important to be able to share your testimony in addition to the gospel?

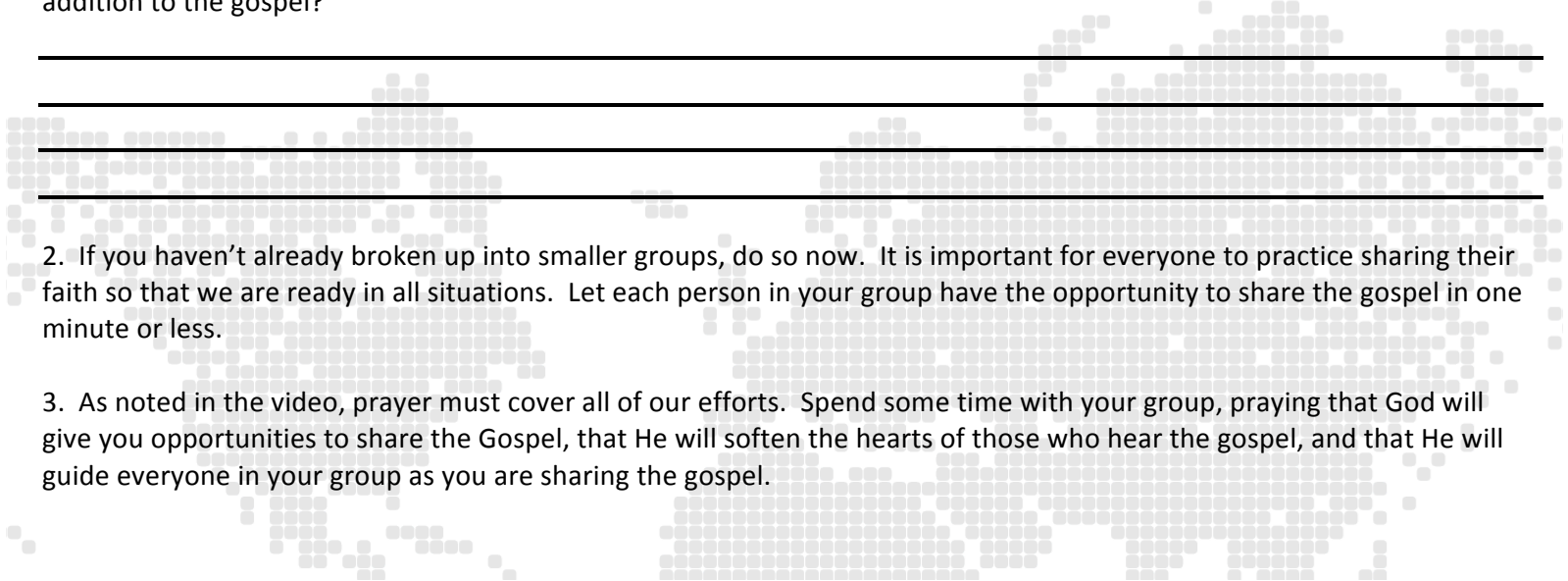
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2. If you haven't already broken up into smaller groups, do so now. It is important for everyone to practice sharing their faith so that we are ready in all situations. Let each person in your group have the opportunity to share the gospel in one minute or less.

3. As noted in the video, prayer must cover all of our efforts. Spend some time with your group, praying that God will give you opportunities to share the Gospel, that He will soften the hearts of those who hear the gospel, and that He will guide everyone in your group as you are sharing the gospel.





## RE-ENTRY

1. When someone asks you about your trip, it might be easiest to simply say, "It was great!" Why is it important for us to go beyond this and talk more about our trip?

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2. It is possible that you might see poverty on your trip in a way that you have never experienced it before. Some people have a hard time returning to the more wealthy American culture. How can you re-engage with culture in a *healthy* way after witnessing something like this?

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3. How can you help your experiences with you on the trip stick with you, and not fade away over time?

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## MEDICAL AND HEALTH

1. Servant Life trips always provide clean water and correctly prepared food, but imagine that you are visiting a home and the mother offers you a drink or a snack. What should you do?

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2. Even if the food is correctly prepared, if it is something your body is unfamiliar with, it might upset your stomach. What should you do if you have an upset stomach?

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3. Considering that you might be in a warm environment and working in the sun, it is easy to get dehydrated. How might it affect your trip if you get dehydrated?

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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## LEADER GUIDE

### WHY GO? THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. The Great Commission includes the phrase “make disciples of *all* nations.” What does this teach us about how God feels about people from different countries, ethnicities, backgrounds, and belief systems?

**Leader:** The Great Commission clearly demonstrates that God loves *all* people. He was not content with Christianity spreading among the Jews or the local regions, but wants people all over the world to know Him, to trust in Christ for salvation, and to be in relationship with him.

2. God could have chosen many different ways to spread the Gospel, but he chose to do it through his people. Knowing that this was God’s plan, how does it change our view of missions?

**Leader:** If missions and evangelism are not merely a human effort but part of God’s plan, we can trust that God will bless our ministry and trust that the results are in his hands. We have to respond to this task in faith, but only God can bring people to salvation. As we go to the nations and proclaim the Gospel, we know that only He can soften hearts and produce fruit.

3. It would be narrow-minded of us to read the Great Commission and think that it only applies to one or two weeks out of the year when we go on a mission trip. What does it look like to be on mission year-round?

**Leader:** Examples: We can go on mission trips. We can share the gospel with people at school who might not be following Jesus. We can use our money to support missionaries, mission organizations, and other international ministries like Compassion International. We can be faithful to pray for the world (check out Operation World and The Joshua Project for prayer resources).

### GROUP TRAVEL

1. A “short-truth statement,” or an STS, is a simple phrase that you can give to a customs agent to explain why you are entering their country. Write down your STS and repeat it a few times until it becomes normal. Try to briefly and simply explain why you are there, *and if needed*, what you will be doing. (Good words: *visiting, spending time, volunteering, serving*. Bad words: *converting, working, evangelism*.)

**Leader:** *Help your group craft one appropriate for your trip. Be as general as you can and say little rather than a lot. Make sure your group is ready to go through customs!*

2. Have you ever been around a group of people who drew attention to themselves in a negative way? How do you think this affects the way they are perceived?



**Leader:** Negative attention might cause people to respect you and trust you less, which will affect the way they listen to you when you share the gospel. If someone hears you proclaiming the good news that we can be saved and our lives will be transformed, but they don't see evidence of that in your lives, why would they believe your message?

3. Take a moment to pray for your group, that you would uphold the name of Christ in everything that you do.

## CULTURE SHOCK

1. What are you most apprehensive about as you enter a different culture?

2. How do you feel about eating food that might be different than normal? Why is it important for us to try the local cuisine?

**Leader:** Trying food in a different culture demonstrates that you are open to their culture and their lifestyle. It could be interpreted as offensive if a meal is prepared for you, and you do not attempt to eat it.

3. Why is important for us to be culturally sensitive in a different context? Why can't we just accept the differences between our culture and their culture and be ok with difference?

**Leader:** We must accept that there will always be differences in culture. However, it is important that we try to understand differences so that we can respect their culture. As we saw in the video, our gospel message will not come across clear if our actions and mannerisms create a barrier between us.

## SHARING YOUR FAITH

1. Some people think that their testimony is not very exciting, but if God has truly redeemed you from sin and brokenness and filled you with his Spirit, that is a testimony worth telling! Why is it important to be able to share your testimony in addition to the gospel?

**Leader:** If we can't connect our personal testimonies to the gospel, then the gospel feels like something foreign and abstract as we share it. When we tell people the good news and the hope of Jesus Christ, we should be able to explain how it has changed and impacted our lives as well. If the gospel hasn't impacted us, why would someone else want to believe that gospel?

2. If you haven't already broken up into smaller groups, do so now. It is important for everyone to practice sharing their faith so that we are ready in all situations. Let each person in your group have the opportunity to share the gospel in one minute or less.

3. As noted in the video, prayer must cover all of our efforts. Spend some time with your group, praying that God will give you opportunities to share the Gospel, that He will soften the hearts of those who hear the gospel, and that He will guide everyone in your group as you are sharing the gospel.

## RE-ENTRY

1. When someone asks you about your trip, it might be easiest to simply say, “It was great!” Why is it important for us to go beyond this and talk more about our trip?

**Leader:** It gives others the opportunity to hear about what God is doing, and you can even share the gospel with others as you tell them why you went and what you did. It also allows God to be glorified as we talk about how He is working around the world. Some people might even be encouraged and realize that they can serve on a mission trip too.

2. It is possible that you might see poverty on your trip in a way that you have never experienced it before. Some people have a hard time returning to the more wealthy American culture. How can you re-engage with culture in a *healthy* way after witnessing something like this?

**Leader:** Seeing poverty *should* help us to open our eyes and view our lifestyle through a critical lens. It could change the way we view material resources forever. However, it is also important to remember that God has placed us in this culture for a purpose. How can we use our money, our time, our resources, and our influence for the spread of the Gospel? God can use us to do great things if we are selfless and generous with our resources.

3. How can you help your experiences with you on the trip stick with you, and not fade away over time?

**Leader:** I strongly encourage you to consider journaling your experiences. This will help you remember all the ways that you saw God moving. It will help you share your experiences with more detail and remember them for years to come.

## MEDICAL AND HEALTH

1. Servant Life trips always provide clean water and correctly prepared food, but imagine that you are visiting a home and the mother offers you a drink or a snack. What should you do?

**Leader:** *Always* ask the local missionary or your trip leader before eating or drinking anything you are unsure about, as it might cause problems for you. You don’t want to rudely reject an offered meal and you might even have to accept a small portion to be polite, but check with your team leader and with the missionary before consuming.

2. Even if the food is correctly prepared, if it is something your body is unfamiliar with, it might upset your stomach. What should you do if you have an upset stomach?

**Leader:** Don’t be too embarrassed to tell me or one of the adults immediately, because it can happen to anyone. Most people who have traveled internationally have experienced this at some point (it is almost a rite of passage!). You will be much more miserable trying to hide it than letting us give you some medicine to help.

3. Considering that you might be in a warm environment and working in the sun, it is easy to get dehydrated. How might it affect your trip if you get dehydrated?

**Leader:** Symptoms of dehydration can include extreme fatigue, disorientation, headaches, and dizziness. It is crucial to stay hydrated so that you—and your leaders—can focus on the task at hand instead of having to stop and take care of you.