



*“Sharing our Faith through
Home Repair Mission*

Bible Study #1

Goals & Priorities

Focus

The focus of this Bible Study is to help you and your group set goals and establish priorities for your mission experience.

Materials Needed

Flip chart, tape, 3x5 cards, pencils, Bibles and supplies for the opening (see #1 below).

Overview

This study is oriented toward helping a group to define its goals for a mission project. It is also designed to introduce the group to the idea of service and commitment.

Scriptures

Mark 8:34, Mark 10:43-45, John 12:26, James 2:14-18, 1John 3:17-18, Galatians 6:9-10

Begin with a prayer asking for God’s help in bringing the group to a better understanding of their special purpose and mission.

1. Opening – 3 to 5 minutes

Be prepared with items that are used in your church to represent “a minister” or the role of ministry. Some examples might be a cross from the altar, a banner, a Bible, or something unique to your church – anything that triggers the idea of a minister. Say, ***“These items represent some of the thoughts we have about what it means to be a minister. This summer, we will minister in a very special way, with other symbols that will also come to represent ministry.”*** At this point, produce a hammer, nails, work gloves, paint brush, etc. and tell the group that ***“These items will be used, by us, to reach out to others. We will, in a sense, become ministers to other people through hammers, paint, and hard work.”***

2. Bible Study – 12 to 15 minutes

Separate into small groups of 3 to 4 youth (smaller if needed). Assign one of the scriptures to each group and have them look it up, answer the questions, and rewrite the verse in their own words, using their own language. Give each group a piece of Flip

chart paper on which to write. On the board, or piece of Flip chart paper, write the following three questions to which the youth will respond:

1. What does this verse say about our relationships to each other?
2. What is it that God is trying to tell us through this Scripture?
3. What can we do to make this Scripture happen in both our lives and in our group?

When the groups have finished, have each one share their Scripture, their paraphrase, and their answers with the rest of the group.

After the sharing, say, ***“We have all been called, by God, to be servants. This summer, we will be serving God through our Home Repair Mission Experience. Not only will we be helping others, but we will grow as individuals, and also, we will grow as a group.”***

3. Personal Goal Setting – 5 to 7 minutes

Pass out a 3 x 5 card and pencil to each person. Say to the youth, ***“Goals are important for us to have. Each of us should have some individual goals that we want to see happen in our lives. We will also have some group goals that we will strive to reach.”*** Next, instruct everyone to list three personal goals on one side of their card. These goals should be things that they would like to see happen, in their own lives, on the trip. On the reverse side, have them list one total group goal. After they have had time to work, call them back to their small groups.

4. Small Group Sharing – 5 to 7 minutes

Ask the youth to look at their personal goals for a moment. Give them time to go around the circle and share their goals. Remind them that no one has to share a goal, if they think it is too personal. After everyone has had time to share, call their attention back to the front. Say, ***“All of us have goals for the week; things that we would like to have happen to us, personally. In a moment, we will ask God to help us with those. Let’s talk, for a moment, about our goals for the group. Now working with your small group come up with two goals you would like to see us work on together!”*** After a few minutes, call the group back and have each group share their ideas or goals. List these on the Flip chart as they are shared, making sure you affirm each one as it is mentioned. Once you have a list, begin to talk about how the group would prioritize those goals from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important. Put a number by each goal and then list the top three on another sheet. Leave this sheet up in your area; these are your groups’ goals for the experience.

5. Commitment – 7 to 10 minutes

Have all of the group place their names in a box (or have them pair up, whichever works best for your group). Everyone will draw a name and the person whose name is on the slip of paper is their partner for the duration of time you choose. It can be for the time left before the experience, from that point until the end of the experience, or just during the weeks of these Bible Studies. Say to them, ***“This person is your spiritual friend/prayer partner for the next (whatever time period). To be a spiritual friend/prayer partner means that you do three things:***

- 1. Pray for this person every day.*
- 2. Talk to this person, outside of church, at least once a week (to check on how things are going, etc.).*
- 3. Meet with this person for at least a few minutes at church.*

Instruct the partners to get together for a few minutes. Ask them to share, starting with the one who got up the earliest that morning, their full name, age, grade, school they attend, and a vegetable they don't like. Then, after a few minutes, have each person introduce their partner to the group, using the information they learned above. After the introductions, have the partners share their personal goals with one another and encourage them to pray for each other.

6. Closing – 7 to 10 minutes

Have a piece of Flip chart paper taped on the wall in the form of a cross. In a worship type setting and atmosphere, ask the youth to pray about their goals for the week. Tell them that, as they are ready, they should tape their goals on the cross, as a way of telling God that they will work toward the goals. Leave the goals on the cross as a reminder of what they are striving to reach. Place the list of group goals beside the cross. Close with a prayer seeking God's help in your experience.



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Bible Study #2

Mission Experience

Focus

The focus of this Bible Study is to enable the group to grow closer together and to begin the process of developing a sense of what their mission is really about.

Materials Needed

Flip chart, markers, pens, Bibles

Scriptures

Luke 15:11-24; Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:1-2; John 13:4-9

1. Opening – 5 to 7 minutes

Begin with a review of the goals you worked on last time. Talk over any thoughts or ideas anyone might have had about them. Say, ***“Goals and priorities are really good for us to have. In order to accomplish them as a group, we must all begin the process of getting our own lives ready for the commitment that will be needed from us. Our team is only as strong as our weakest member. All of us have thoughts about what this experience will be like. Let’s discuss some of those thoughts.”***

2. Small Groups – 10-15 minutes

Have the group break into devotional teams of three to four people. Have the following questions, listed below, prepared on a Flip chart at the front of the room. Cover each question so that you only reveal one at a time. Each group should be given a piece of Flip chart paper and markers. Instruct the groups to list their answers on their paper. One person will then share their responses with the rest of the group.

- A. What are my reasons for attending this experience?
- B. What is one thing I hope to gain from this experience?
- C. What am I willing to do to make this a good experience for myself and others in the group?

You may need to give a personal example of what your responses would be to each of the questions. When everyone has had time to finish, go around the room and listen to each of the groups’ responses. Tape their Flip chart paper on the wall around the goals you set

last time. Make a transition to the next section by saying, ***“All of us will find ourselves needing to reach out in some way. It may be to the family we help, or it may be to one another.”***

3. Caring Relationships – 10-15 minutes

Say to the group, ***“The idea of being in ministry during a work retreat is fantastic. In order to do that, though, we must be in ministry first to one another. Being together for a week, like you are planning, can be wonderful. It can also create some problems within a group if you are not careful. Things like anger, jealousy, and bitterness have a way of just creeping in. We need to be thinking of ways we can help each other and begin practicing ways we can help each other.”***

Create, now, four teams or small groups. Say, ***“We are going to create some ways we can use to make all of this happen. Each group will have a scripture. (Write the scriptures on Flip chart or the board.) You have a few minutes to develop a devotional to share with the rest of the group, based on your scripture. You can use role play, music, a skit, or anything you choose to demonstrate the scripture.”*** Assign the scriptures above, or use some of your own. Give the groups time to plan and practice, and then call them back together. Encourage the group watching to affirm the “performance” by clapping and cheering.

4. Group Covenant – 7 to 10 minutes

Say to the group, ***“We have looked at various ways we can be in ministry to one another. In order for that to happen, and to help remind ourselves, let’s write a covenant for the experience. This covenant will be written and placed on the wall, typed for each of us to sign; and a copy will be mailed to ReCreation Experiences.”***

Ask if anyone knows what a covenant is. Explain that a covenant is a sacred agreement between people. It is also a sacred agreement between people and God. It has been used since the Old Testament days to seal an agreement. A covenant is a list of expectations and things we agree to do. It is also a list of things we expect to have happen in our own group and individual lives. Then say, ***“Let’s see if we can write a covenant together.”*** This process may grow and evolve over time; you may not get through it all in one day.

Using the outline below, work through the process of writing your own covenant. Use the Flip chart paper for your working copy, and write the following outline:

- I. We commit ourselves to treat each other as follows:
- II. We desire to see some of the following things happen in our individual lives:
- III. We desire to see and experience the following things in the life of our group:
- IV. We will support and be responsible to each other by:
- V. We expect our leaders to:
- VI. We agree to handle any group behavior issues or concerns (such as noise, sleeping times, drugs, alcohol, hassles, disagreements, or breaking the covenant in the following way:

Use as many of these as you wish. Feel free to add or delete items as you think appropriate. Once you have developed a complete covenant, have a copy that the entire group signs, and send it to us. We would like to have it for our use. Once you have finished your covenant, have a dedication of some kind. Invite your pastor or a church leader to commission the group and offer a blessing of your covenant.

5. Closing – 3 to 5 minutes

Have everyone get together with their spiritual friends/prayer partners from last week. Have them touch base with one another and pray for any special concerns they might have. Then have a total group closing lifting up the experience and thanking God for the covenant you have developed.