

# GETTING STARTED

YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME



## Bonjou!

Welcome to your virtual mission trip with New Missions! We are thankful that you have chosen to travel to the beautiful land of Hispaniola with us. Over the next 5 days, you will have the experience of a lifetime as you step into the shoes of those who live in Haiti, as you walk closer with God, and as you step out of your comfort zone to make an impact in the lives of those around you. Most importantly, it is our prayer that God will use this mission trip to encourage you to make a difference right where you live.

*Loving Father,*

*Thank you for this opportunity to experience you in a new way. As I walk through the next 5 days, help me to see you with new eyes. Show me where you are in my community and how I can join you in the work that you are already doing in the lives of those you have placed around me.*

## Diving Deeper

The word **impact** means “the effect or influence of one person, thing, or action on another.” Jesus’s impact on his disciples’ lives spurred them to spread the gospel to the uttermost areas of the known world. As you look around you, who has God placed in your life that you can make an impact for the gospel? Write their names here:

“Let’s ask God to make a difference in our lives right where we live.”

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Over the next 5 days, ask God to show you ways you can impact their lives with the gospel for His glory!

# DAY ONE

YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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*The woman said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."*

*Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you— I am he."*

## **Your Place: A Fresh Perspective**

### **Read John 4:1-38.**

Woman. Samaritan. Sinner. These three categories alone should have been enough for Jesus, a Jewish man, to avoid the woman who found herself alone at the well. From his disciples' perspective, Jesus's choice to speak to her was uncomfortable, to say the least. Thankfully, Jesus never looks at us from the outside; rather, he sees straight into the heart. He saw what the thirsty woman truly longed for—grace, forgiveness, and new life. That day, the woman at the well walked away with a fresh set of eyes and so did Jesus's disciples. After the woman's departure, Jesus challenged his disciples to see their surroundings in a new way when he said, "I tell you, *open your eyes* and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

As you look around at the place and people who surround you, how might God be calling you to open your eyes and see others with His perspective?

*Omniscient Father,*

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see with your eyes. Please help me see others that way you do. Help me to shift my gaze from the outside to the inside of their hearts. Just as Jesus gently guided the woman at the well into understanding and belief in you, may you also help me guide others to saving faith in you.*

# DAY ONE

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## Diving Deeper

### Describe or draw your "place."

It could be your neighborhood, your family, your workplace, or anywhere you find your feet landing repeatedly.

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Create a **Vision**, **Mission**, and **Method** for your place.

**Vision** what you see when you imagine the future outcome of your place

**Mission** the aim, ambition or calling for your place

**Method** the practical steps you will take to accomplish your vision and mission

My Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

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My Mission: \_\_\_\_\_

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My Method: \_\_\_\_\_

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# DAY TWO

YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”*

## **Removing Distractions: Finding Time for God**

### **Read Mark 1:35-39**

It was probably a habit he developed as a young boy—spending time with his Father. Every day, while it was still dark, he would rise and go to his favorite quiet spot just to be with God. Once Jesus began his ministry, it became a crucial, restorative practice. As he spent long, exhausting days with the crowds healing the sick, casting out demons, and declaring the Word of God, intimacy with his Father was essential. During his prayer time, he was able to disconnect from the wearying world and reconnect with the true source of his peace and purpose.

Do you feel the wearying pull of the world’s ways? Do you long for a little peace and quiet in your life? Try Jesus’s method of stress-relief—quiet time with your heavenly Father.

*Heavenly Father,*

*Your loving-kindness is never-ending. You are the source of true peace and rest. Help me to set aside time everyday to connect with you so that I can receive your truth, direction, and clarity for my life. Please show me a special quiet place where I can meet you without the distractions of the world. As I purposefully spend time with you, please renew and restore your will for my life. I long for a deeper relationship with you.*

## DAY TWO

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### Diving Deeper

**Take an extended “quiet time” with God today.**

#### Quiet Time Guidelines

- Find a quiet and peaceful spot where you will not be disturbed (consider somewhere outside, if possible)
- Although any time frame is acceptable, aim for 2 hours.
- Bring a bible and journal. Write down what God says to you.
- Ask God to guide you to a specific scripture that He has prepared for you.
- Take time to listen. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.”
- As the Lord leads, you may want to pray, worship, draw or write.

#### Specific Prayer Requests

- The person or people on my impact list
- My “place” vision, mission, and method
- My own spiritual needs
- The gospel’s spread in Haiti
- New Mission’s impact in Haiti and the DR

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*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7*

# DAY THREE

YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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*“Lord, if it’s you, “  
Peter replied, “tell  
me to come to you  
on the water.”*

*“Come,” he said.*

*Then Peter got down  
out of the boat,  
walked on water and  
came toward Jesus.*

## **Learn Something New: The Art of Discovery**

### **Read Matthew 14:22-33**

“Come.” With one word, Jesus beckoned Peter to embark on a new adventure. The disciple boldly stepped out of the boat, in faith, and felt his feet float on top of the water! Well, at least for a moment. When he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the scary situation around him, he began to sink. In that erroneous blink of an eye, the greatest adventure of his life suddenly turned into his worst nightmare. As the waves crashed over him, Peter cried out, “LORD, SAVE ME, ” and Jesus plunged his hand into the water pulling Peter to safety. Peter’s faith in Jesus allowed him to experience a miraculous adventure that no other human has experienced; His fear taught him he could depend on his Savior.

Do you allow fear to get in the way of your faith in Jesus? Has God asked you to trust him in an area of your life that you are fearful to turn over to him? The art of discovery involves risk. Thankfully, we have a Savior who beckons us to “come.” He calls us to follow him into uncharted waters, and when we falter he faithfully pulls us back up. We are safe with Him.

*Almighty Father,*

*Help me answer the call to “come.” Give me the faith to walk with you into deeper waters. Help me to embrace and enjoy new experiences you have prepared for me as I trust in you.*

## DAY THREE

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### Diving Deeper

Try something **NEW** today!

### Go on an Adventure

Take a bike ride or car ride and explore an area you have never been to before

Think of something you've always wanted to do—and do it!

### Learn a new skill

Research a good YouTube tutorial on your area of interest and try it out!

Ask a friend or neighbor to teach you about their job or hobby

### Enjoy a Haitian meal

#### Haitian Beans and Rice

At the bottom of a big pan, pour 1/4 cup olive oil. Sauté 4-5 cloves of minced garlic. Add 1 lb. cooked or canned red kidney beans without the liquid. Sauté for a few minutes with salt, pepper, hot pepper, and a tiny pinch of ground cloves. Add 4 cups of water and 2 cups of white rice. Bring to a boil. Turn down heat to a simmer and cover. Cook for 25 minutes. Turn heat off and leave undisturbed for at least 30 minutes.

Variations: add bouillon, onion, parsley or tomato with the garlic

### Share the Gospel

Take a prayer walk around your area of impact

Host a water balloon or popsicle party at your neighborhood park and share the gospel

Organize a virtual MangoRun in your community

# DAY FOUR

YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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*“Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”*

## **Serving Others: Acts of Kindness**

### **Read John 13:1-17**

Mere hours before his crucifixion and death, Jesus humbly showed his disciples a powerful act of kindness. He washed their feet. By today’s standards, this service doesn’t seem that lowly. After all, we are fortunate enough to have socks and shoes to protect our feet from dirt, dust, and dung. However, in Jesus’ day, one was fortunate if they owned even one pair of sandals. Inevitably, their feet were filthy and foul. Thus, the service of foot washing was a demeaning task saved for a lowly servant. The disciples must have been shocked when they realized their Master and Lord was cleaning their filthy feet. As he washed away the dirt, he symbolically washed away their sins. He showed them the full extent of His love. Then he challenged them to do the same act of kindness to each other.

Our simple acts of spirit-led kindness show the love of Christ to a world that needs to know the saving grace of the gospel. What act of kindness can you show to a friend, a neighbor, a family member or someone in need?

*Loving Father,*

*Thank you for your example of kindness through your son, Jesus Christ. Help me to serve others the same way that he demonstrated his love for me. Help me to be obedient to your prompting, and help me to be generous with my words, finances, time, and talent.*



## DAY FOUR

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### Diving Deeper

**Today, perform at least one act of kindness.**

It can be a secret or a surprise. The objective of your act—to make the person feel loved, seen, and appreciated.

Here are some ideas:

- Write a note of appreciation to someone
- Deliver cookies or a meal to someone in need
- Color your neighbor's sidewalk with affirming pictures or messages with chalk
- Tip generously at a restaurant (or your delivery person)
- Give something you love away to someone in need
- Send flowers to an elderly person
- Pick up groceries for someone in need
- Spend time with elderly neighbor who lives alone
- Smile and give a compliment to a total stranger
- Babysit for free
- Offer to clean a young mom's house for free
- Mail a card of encouragement for no particular reason
- Allow someone to go in front of you in line.
- Pay for someone else's coffee, groceries, medicine, etc.
- Send a text message that says "Jesus loves you, and so do I" to however God prompts you to
- Pick up trash
- Buy a bible and gift it to someone in need
- Invite someone to dinner
- Leave a surprise gift basket on a friend's doorstep

# DAY FIVE

YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

## **A Greater Vision**

### **Read John 3:1-21**

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. He sought to understand who Jesus really was, but he had trouble seeing beyond his own spiritual blindness. “How can someone be born when they are old? Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Nicodemus, one of Israel’s most educated men, struggled to comprehend Jesus’s greater vision. Patiently, Jesus shed light on God’s plan of salvation for a dark and dying world—a new spiritual birth.

The gospel is this simple message: God loves you so much that he gave his only Son, Jesus, to die so that you wouldn’t have to. By believing in Jesus, you can live forever with Him. Have you made the personal decision to believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Who do you need to share the gospel with today?

*Loving Father,*

*Thank you for loving me enough to rescue me from my sin. Thank you for the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross so that I can be spiritually born again. I believe that Jesus is my Savior, and I accept his gift of grace. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I ask you to give me boldness to tell others this life-changing gospel message.*



## DAY FIVE

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### Diving Deeper

#### Part 2: Sharing the Gospel

Once you have experienced the life-changing impact the gospel has made on your life, it is natural for you to desire to share the good news of Jesus with others. You may use this guide to help you get started!

#### Pray

Prayer is the first and most important step in sharing the gospel. As you connect your heart to God's heart, He will show you who needs to hear about Jesus, and He will guide you in the exact moment that he wants you to speak. God is 100% in control!

#### Four Essentials Truths

The gospel can be summarized into 4 truths that are easy to remember:

1. The truth about God—God is our holy Creator who designed us to be in relationship with Him (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 4:10)
2. The truth about sin—Our sin separates us from God and we need reconciliation (Romans 3:23)
3. The truth about Jesus Christ—Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, died on the cross to provide the only way of reconciliation. (Romans 5:8-9, Acts 2:24)
4. The truth about our response—Our response is to confess faith in Christ, repent, and draw on God's power to live a transformed life. (Romans 12:1-2)

#### Follow-up Questions

In light of these truths, what is your response to God?

Will you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin and Lord of your life?

*"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9*

# DEBRIEF

## YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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### Welcome Back!

Thank you for taking this virtual mission trip to Haiti and the DR with New Missions! We hope that you were able to grow closer in your relationship with God and that He has given you a fresh perspective for the mission field he has placed you in.

Over the past 5 days, you have prayed for specific people that God has called you to make an impact for the gospel. You have created a vision, a mission, and a method for your own mission field. You learned how to rest in the Lord as you spent quiet time with Him. As you virtually traveled through Haiti, you simultaneously experienced new adventures right here at home. When you completed your acts of kindness, you shared the love of God. And, as you formed your personal testimony, you prepared yourself to share the gospel with those God will bring to you.

**“When you know Jesus he fills every pore and every cell that needs to be satisfied. You don’t need the stuff—you just need Jesus.”**

As you re-enter back into your normal life and routine, it is our prayer that you will continue to surrender to the call that God has placed on your life as a result of your mission trip. Remember—your mission field is where your own two feet are!

### Reflection Questions

- What is God calling you to do as a result of this virtual mission trip?
- How will you carry your “fresh perspective” back into your normal routine?
- With whom will you share your mission trip experience?