OVERVIEW OF PREPARATION

The Preparing Your Team Resources are tools that will help your group maximize their YouthWorks mission trip experience. These resources are designed to build your team before your trip and debrief their experiences afterward. Pre-trip materials will help students, adult leaders and parents prepare mentally and spiritually for the mission week through team sessions and learning about the type of community they will serve. Post-trip materials include a debriefing session where participants can reflect, share their story and continue using what they learned during their YouthWorks week.

We strongly encourage you to engage your youth and adult leaders with this material in order to get the most out of your week in the community you will be partnering with. We have found that the best way to do this is by having team meetings. You will need to plan ahead and pick meeting times now (even for the post-trip team session). You’ll also want to communicate that you expect both your students and leaders to be involved throughout the preparation and post-trip meetings. It may work best to meet before or after already scheduled times, such as youth group or after church on Sunday afternoons. Some groups meet weekly while others meet every other week or once a month. Your meeting frequency may depend on when your trip is scheduled during the summer.

Here is an overview of the Preparing Your Team Resources:

- **Team Sessions Guide** – Five session outlines to lead your youth and adult leaders prior to your YW trip.
- **Alternative Session Format Ideas** – Alternative session outlines in case you don’t have time for five sessions.
- **Additional Session Ideas for Alumni YW Mission Trippers** – Some tips for students and leaders who have been on YW trips before.
- **General Team Preparation Resources** – Book/video resources to use for team meetings.
- **Deep Justice Journeys Book Guide** – We suggest that you explore Deep Justice Journeys by Brad Griffin and Kara Powell. The book has been broken into a “menu” to help you customize the curriculum for your group. Pick and choose from this list, as well as this entire book, as you desire and sense God leading.