



LOVE EACH OTHER

Pre-Mission Trip Discussion Group

THE REFLECTION

What are some reasons your whole group is going on the mission trip? What are some reasons you personally are going on the mission trip?

You'll meet new people during your trip. Plus, there are a lot of people who will probably notice you in the community you visit. Do you think people will know who you are and what you're doing there? If so, what are some ways they will be able to identify you?

THE BIBLE

Jesus told his followers that there is a clear way people should be able to identify them. Read what Jesus says in John 13:34–35.

Jesus makes it pretty obvious. How should people be able to identify followers of Jesus?

THE CONNECTION

In general, do you think people today identify Christians by how much they love each other? Why or why not?

Do you think people will look at our team during the mission trip and say, "Wow. They really love each other!" Why or why not? What could change that?

In verse 34, Jesus didn't just say to love each other, he said to love each other "as I have loved you." Think of specific stories about how Jesus treated the people near him – the sick, the unpopular, the outsiders and his close friends too. How can we follow Jesus' example of loving others during our mission trip week? What about at home?



On a mission trip, you might travel a long way from home because you want to show people in another place God's love, which is great! But how silly would it be to try to love someone far away if you didn't love the people you see every day?! People might know you are on a mission trip because you travel in a big group or because you cruise around in a big van or because you all wear the same color T-shirt, but what if the first thing people noticed about your group is that you really love each other?!

What's one way you can love others between now and your mission trip?

What's one way you can love your teammates during the mission trip?

If you are a follower of Jesus, how do people know that back home? What's one thing you can do to make love for others the biggest evidence of your love for God?

THE CHALLENGE

During the next 24 hours, focus on doing something to love someone near you. Do the dishes, write them an encouraging note, share a snack, or simply ask how things are going then really listen to their answer. And when you do these things, imagine what it would be like if you loved people like that all the time.

THE PRAYER

Ask God to help you love the people next to you, both during the mission trip and at home.

