

# 30 Ways to Make Your Mission More Than a Trip

How can you bring your mission trip experience home with you and let it become part of your everyday life?

## SHARE YOUR STORY

The story of what God is doing in and through you and the community you served in is worth sharing! Bring your trip home with you in how you tell your story. Here are a few ways you might share:

1. Plan a church gathering where you talk about the meaningful memories from your trip from the front of the room. You might incorporate some of the ideas below in your sharing.
2. Rather than a play-by-play of what happened, write about one significant event on your mission trip. What happened? How did you feel? What did you learn?
3. Write a collection of moments, perhaps posting on social media or maybe simply writing on small slips of paper. Make each memory really short – perhaps just a sentence beginning with “That moment when...” Over 30 days, write 30 memories, then compile them all in one place. OR you might do this with your entire group, having each person write 1-3 memories.
4. Draw, paint, design or create something that does less telling and more showing. Share what it means with the people around you.
5. Create a slideshow of pictures from your trip. Share it in person or on social media. (If you do share on social media, tag @ywmissions.)
6. Share your story at [youthworks.com/share](https://youthworks.com/share).

## PROCESS YOUR TRIP

Mission trips are eye-opening experiences. You might have unresolved emotions, thoughts or hopes. Keep wrestling with the things you experienced, thought and felt during your trip. Here are some ways you can do that:

7. Talk about your trip! Any of the above ideas about sharing your story could apply.
8. Set aside some personal time to think or write about what you experienced.
9. Ask someone who you enjoy talking with to ask you lots of questions about your trip. You can find Processing Questions on the After-Trip page ([youthworks.com/aftertrip](https://youthworks.com/aftertrip)).
10. Talk to God about your experience In an ongoing conversation that includes your hopes, fears and questions.

11. Don't be afraid of hard questions. Whether you're in a conversation, journaling or praying, voice those difficult things that you still wonder about. There might not always be easy answers, but asking is often the beginning of deeper understanding.
12. Seek out resources that help you learn more about an issue you encountered. Feed your passion – or your curiosity – with good information.

## SERVE OTHERS

What if serving others was part of your everyday routine? It can be... with some intentionality. Here are some ideas to get you started. (You don't need to try to do all these; just focus on one or two.)

13. Ask about needs at church or school, then respond intentionally to what you hear.
14. Quit something. Sometimes service is hard because we just get too busy. Try saying "no" to one thing so you can purposefully say "yes" to something else – the opportunity to serve others.
15. Repeat the same type of service you did on your mission trip. That might mean doing a work project for someone in need or gathering friends to lead a kids program at church or cooking to serve others.
16. Start a community garden and share the produce with a local food shelf or people you know.
17. Serve at home. Sometimes we forget to serve the people closest to us, but they should be the ones who most often experience our love! Clean, cook or run errands for those close to you.
18. Donate your stuff. Not just what you're tired of, but maybe something you will miss, because you know it will be a blessing for someone else to have. Serve with your stuff.
19. Invest your gifts. Identify things that you are especially good at and find a way to use those gifts to serve others.
20. Give your time. Consider who would be served well by your presence. Visit a senior center, someone who is sick, or someone who might be lonely or in need of a good conversation. Your time is valuable. Share it.
21. Encourage someone. Write a note or go out of your way to tell someone what you appreciate about them.
22. Continue to serve the community you took a mission trip to. Speak about them in respectful ways. Consider how you can continue the relationships you began, perhaps by returning to the same community, keeping in touch in other ways and praying for the people and places you got to know.
23. Pray for others. Consistent prayer is one of the simplest but most meaningful ways you can serve.
24. Be creative! There are infinite possibilities of ways you can love and serve others. Think outside the box to show others Jesus' love.

## DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

Of all the things you could bring home with you, the most important is a deeper relationship with Jesus. Here are some ways you can continue to deepen your faith after the mission trip is over:

- 25.** Keep doing Devos. Set aside a bit of time to talk with God each day.
- 26.** Pray throughout the day. As you remember that God is always listening, you will begin to recognize God's constant presence in your life.
- 27.** Watch for Yea God's. Take time at the end of each day to acknowledge how you saw God at work during your day.
- 28.** Seek out Christian community. Our spiritual lives will be strengthened when we have others walking alongside us. Make some decisions that lead you toward others who can encourage your faith.
- 29.** Ask yourself, "What's blocking me from a full relationship with Jesus?" and "What am I willing to give up to knock down those barriers?"
- 30.** Follow your convictions. You might believe that everyone should have access to good food or people should forgive each other always or service is important, but what do your actions say? Faith that doesn't do anything is really just a bunch of ideas. Let your faith come alive in the way that you live.

So now that you've read this list, what will you do? Copy, paste and print out one bullet point from this list that you want to commit to doing – or take a screen shot or write it down where you'll see it. How is God inviting you to make your mission more than a trip?