



# 6 THINGS YOU WON'T WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND

There are plenty of things you'll take home from your mission trip – dirty clothes, your favorite pillow, maybe an awesome new T-shirt... In all that you will take back home with you, don't miss these six things.

## STORY

You probably met some fairly interesting people during your trip, and maybe you encountered Jesus in a new way. You have a story to share. Think about how you'll tell it, where you'll tell it and who you'll tell it to. Some people will give you five seconds, others will listen for five minutes, and a couple people will listen for hours! Think about what might happen if, instead of sharing a story about what you did, you shared a story about *what God did* in and through you. Choose your words carefully to spread the story God has given you.

## SERVICE

It's awesome to take time out of your life to go serve people you've never met in a community you've never been to. Here's something else that's awesome: You don't need to drive to another community to find people who need to be loved. They live across town from you... and just down the street... probably even under the same roof. Take the service you did and try doing it back in your own community. You can participate in what God is doing in your community by serving the people around you.

## CHANGE

Back home, don't pretend the things you experienced on your trip never happened. If you've heard God telling you to make a change, do it! The Bible says if you don't make that change, you're like a guy who looks in the mirror, realizes there's something wrong, but walks away and never does anything to fix it (James 1:21-25). That would be a little silly!

Instead, chase after change! It doesn't magically happen. It takes work, prayer and someone to walk with you through it. Talk to one of your leaders and tell them how you want to be different after this trip. Jesus is inviting you to step forward in new and incredible ways to be part of what God is doing in the world.

## QUESTIONS

During your trip, you likely asked your leaders or YouthWorks staff some questions. After your trip, some more questions might be rattling around in your mind. It's OK to have questions! It's alright to wonder "why?" and "what if?" and "how on earth?" and "what's my place?" Take time to think about your questions. Talk to God about them. Then, go find a leader, some friends or family to ask your questions.

## RELATIONSHIPS

Who did you get to know better this week? Who did you laugh with? Cry on? Get a note from? Share something with? Serve alongside? Those people are valuable! The fact that they were with you during your trip is meaningful. Don't walk away from the relationships you built this week.

Maybe some of those relationships didn't travel home with you. Maybe you met a child in the community, or you got to know someone you served. Think about how you can "bring home" those relationships. Perhaps it's by writing a letter, sending a gift or praying for them. Or maybe it means taking another trip to continue to build those relationships.

## DEVOTION

Everyone devotes their lives to something: money, grades, TV, friends, popularity, sports, addictions... When you devote yourself to something, you commit to it. You set aside distractions and focus. This week you devoted time to Jesus by focusing on him each morning, and you devoted your energy to serving others. Now, as you head home, what will you devote to?

This week you had the chance to devote yourself to Jesus. How will you take your devotion to Jesus home with you? It might begin with five minutes of prayer, a few verses of Scripture or a small act of service. It might be seeking Jesus in quiet moments on your own, or it might be talking and worshipping among friends. However you start, let your devotion to Jesus fill your thoughts, your actions and your life.