



CHANGED FOR LIFE

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Session One: Before the Trip

HOST

MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS

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Session One: Before the Trip

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Goals

- ✦ The host group will learn the importance of what God might do through a relationship with a STM team, not just during the trip but afterwards as well.
- ✦ The host group will learn about the dynamics of a mission experience and begin to think through the complexities of hosting a STM team.

Prepare

- ✦ Read Session 1.
- ✦ Watch the Session 1 Video and determine if it is relevant to show your community.
- ✦ Make copies of Session 1 Handout.
- ✦ If your primary language is different from that of the STM team, connect with them, since they will be gathering key phrases in your language. Consider sharing some key phrases of the STM team's primary language with your community members. Use Handout 1.4 to record key phrases.

Materials

- ✦ Handout for Session 1 (paper or electronic)
- ✦ Video for Session 1 (optional)
- ✦ Computer or projector for watching videos (optional)
- ✦ Newsprint or white board and markers
- ✦ Pens and pencils
- ✦ Bible

OPEN

Time: 10 minutes

Pray that your relationship will grow and deepen even before the short-term mission (STM) team arrives. Ask that the STM team and your community will be changed for life as a result of your time together.

EXPLORE

Time: 25 minutes

If your group understands English, consider the reflection questions using the Scripture on the handout. Watch the Session 1 Changed for Life Video together (optional).

CONNECT

Time: 15 minutes

Share with your group that the STM team is learning some key phrases of your location's primary language. Talk about how you could share some key phrases of the STM team's language with members of your community before their arrival.

CLOSE

Time: 10 minutes

Close your session today in prayer. Pray that in your preparations, during the mission trip, and after the mission trip a deep and lasting partnership might form between you and the STM team. Pray for God to open your eyes to see the ways that partnership can be built and relationships strengthened.

HANDOUT: SESSION 1.1

Discussion

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

—Matthew 13: 3b-9 (NIV)

1. Why do we want a STM team to come?

2. As a host group, how can we “prepare the soil” for the STM team?

3. How can we best work alongside the STM team?

4. What might a *Changed for Life* relationship look like after the STM team leaves?

5. Make a list of ideas for how our group could extend the relationship with the STM team in a way that cultivates lasting change in all lives involved.



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