



WELCOME

Welcome to the Virtual Mystery Mission Trip! When our plans change, it creates new opportunities to adapt and accomplish our mission in new ways. This week we will grow as disciples and make a difference from a distance. Each day will include:

- personal devotions
- a service project
- nightly group calls
- fun and new friends!

The best part is, you can log in from anywhere! Everything you need can be found on www.firstmethodistyouth.org

For the next few days you will need:

- 11x17 paper - don't have that? 8.5x11 works too!
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons, or pens
- A parable Jesus told that you think is important
- Gently used sports gear, books, Bibles, puzzles, board games, or DVDs you're willing to donate.
- 1-3 t-shirts (size S or M) you're willing to donate but that aren't gross.
- Scissors
- Bible verses that bring you hope

The devotional can be found within this packet or on the the YouVersion Bible app for your device

To Download:

1. We recommend you create an account, so you can make notes, save reading plans and do them with friends!
2. At the Plans tab, search for Living Life On Mission. This is what you'll start on Day 1 <https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/13779-living-life-on-mission>
3. Click "start plan." You can invite friends, or your small group to read with you, otherwise choose "by myself"
4. Read the day's scripture passage and devotional
5. For the evening Zoom, bring one new idea you had (or what God spoke to you), one challenging or confusing idea, and a verse from the Bible reading you want to remember
6. Choose a translation of the Bible that's easy for you to understand. Choose the "Read" tab at the bottom > click the 3-4 letter abbreviation at the top (it might say "KJV"). Select your favorite translation: we really like NLT, NIV, CEB or CEV

DROP OFF: For the next week 7/23-7/30 bins will be out at the following locations for drop off your service projects and donated items. Choose the location nearest your area and drop off when convenient for you

***COVID-19 CAUTION:** if your household has been in contact or suspects contact with COVID-19 please do not use these drop off bins. Call Kale and we will work out another option.*

FUMC

930 North Blvd. Baton Rouge, La 70802 (America St. covered driveway)

The Goodson's

15340 Veranda Park Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70810

The Schwab's

1342 Ridgeland Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70810

The Wetekamm's

2014 Lee Dr. Baton Rouge, La 70808 (bin located at blue house under the covered driveway on Arrowhead St.)

DAY 1

DAY 1 DEVOTIONAL

What is a life on mission?

There is an old latin term 'missio dei' which means the "mission of God" or the "sending of God"— it refers to God's great mission to restore humanity to himself (by sending Jesus) and His call to us, His church to take part in the mission. It is a mission that has been at play for thousands of years and still continues today.

Jesus is key to this mission. It's through him we are granted access to take part in this. Jesus not only made a way for us to be reunited in relationship to the father, but to also be an example of what life on mission would look like.

The 'great commission' given in Matthew 28:18-20, is our call and exhortation from Jesus. This being that, "all authority has been given for you to go and make disciples teaching people to obey everything that Jesus has commanded you to do".

This isn't just a call for some, it's a personal command for you as a follower of Jesus. This can seem like a heavy task, and in some respects it is, but you are never called to do this alone. Quite simply put, it's living as a christ follower everywhere you go, and opening your mouth to tell people about the hope that you have. Everywhere means not just some parts of your life but every part.

DAY 1 DEVOTIONAL

What is a life on mission?

That's why it's super important to know god for yourself. When you know someone, you understand their ways, their character, and you have an intimate and close friendship with them. You want to spend time with them and do life with them.

Sometimes life on mission looks grand and other days it looks grubby. Some days it is done with others and some days it is done alone, but it is never done without the Holy Spirit. He is centre to the strategy. In fact, it is our obedience to His prompting and guiding that ensures we are "mission-effective".

Life on mission isn't a task, rather it's a lifestyle and a commitment we embrace when we accept Jesus. Accepting Jesus is accepting the mission.

We are given both identity and purpose when we accept Jesus. We are both 'saved' and 'called' according to His purpose and mission. If you have ever questioned what your purpose is, look to Jesus. He has already shown you! You are called to join god in His great mission of restoring humanity to himself. The question is, are you being effective in your mission and obeying?

DAY 1 READING

**Matthew
28:1-20**

DAY 1 THOUGHTS

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?

For the evening Zoom, bring one new idea you had (or what God spoke to you), one challenging or confusing idea, and a verse from the Bible reading you want to remember.

DAY 1 PACKING LIST

- 11x17 paper - don't have that? 8.5x11 works too!
- Markers, colored pencils or crayons
- Choose a parable Jesus told that you think is important.
- Gently used sports gear, books, Bibles, puzzles, board games, or DVDs you're willing to donate.



DAY 1

MISSION PROJECT

Watch the video to meet our partner for this project!

Option 1:

We will make “stained glass” for the halls, by illustrating the important stories of Jesus. You don’t have to be a great artist – stick figures are fine! Choose a parable or story of Jesus’ life that gives you hope. Illustrate it, write the scripture at the bottom and “Parable of ____.” If you want to write out the text that’s great too.

Option 2:

Art not your thing?? Make 4-5 Happy Birthday cards that can be given to youth on their birthdays. (sign it with your first name only, or “Your friends at First Methodist Church in Baton Rouge”)

DAY 1

OPTIONAL DONATION

Gently used sports gear, books, Bibles, puzzles, board games, or DVDs you're willing to donate.

DAY 2

DAY 2 DEVOTIONAL

Win the friendship, not the argument

A life on mission, means being real and asking yourself questions about how you communicate, both with your words and, your body language. Have you ever had a time when you've been talking about God, or your own faith journey, and ended up in a debate that went nowhere? Maybe you presented all the right arguments or shared a personal testimony, but the person still refused to consider an alternate point of view. Perhaps, it's made you feel like you want to give up on them. Have you considered that there is something more important at stake?

For every argument you win, it doesn't mean you've won the person. In fact, quite the opposite is often true. A debated or strained conversation can end up causing a barrier or distance with the person and stop further discussion about God and faith. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to give a reason why we believe, but to do that with gentleness and respect.

When a conversation turns into a debate, it sets up a 'them and us' pretense and puts people on the defensive. From that point on, everything you say requires a rebuttal. In a debate, most people prefer to be seen as right, rather than actually be right. This makes it hard for anything you say to cut through their defensiveness.

DAY 2 DEVOTIONAL

Win the friendship, not the argument

So, change tactics and avoid the debate. A nicer way to engage is to share experiences with each other. That means listening to each other's stories. You can talk about situations where God has helped you and the changes that have happened in your life since knowing Him. Tell them of something that has happened to you and then ask if they would like to experience the same. You could even offer to pray for them. Even if they say no, you can leave the conversation having won the friendship rather than the argument.

Winning an argument can create tension in the friendship and can close the door to future opportunities to share in a more positive way. When you win the person, you will have many opportunities to disciple them as you continue to share your life with them. Perhaps you're reminded of a time when an opportunity with someone didn't go so well. Today might be that day where you could talk to God about that. Could you go back to the person to see if you can restore the relationship and reconnect again?

DAY 2 READING

**1 Peter
3:8-22**

DAY 2 THOUGHTS

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?

For the evening Zoom, bring one new idea you had (or what God spoke to you), one challenging or confusing idea, and a verse from the Bible reading you want to remember.

DAY 2 PACKING LIST

- 1-3 t-shirts (size S or M) you're willing to donate but that aren't gross.
- Scissors

DAY 2 MISSION PROJECT

Watch the video to meet our partner for this project!

Art is a great teaching tool and helps the kids express their imagination, grow confident in their skills and have fun! Some kids do not have multiple outfits, and no one likes messing up their clothes. Mrs. Zoe has asked for aprons that the kids can wear while painting. We will make these out of our old t-shirts, using the following template: <https://craftychica.com/2014/02/no-sew-t-shirt-apron/> The kids can put these on to protect their clothes from mess while having fun during art time!

DAY 2

MISSION PROJECT

How To Make:

1. Lay your shirt on a flat surface and smooth out any ripples.
2. Cut off each arm, armpit to collar. Make sure not to cut the collar itself.
3. Turn the shirt over, back side up. Cut below the collar ONLY on the back.
4. Cut from armpit to armpit along the back. Remove the excess piece.
5. Cut up each side, leaving 3" connected. This 3" piece will turn into the apron ties in the next step.
6. With the shirt laying backside up, start on the left side and snip up only half-way, then cut along the width of the shirt. Once you get to the end, snip UP. This will have turned the back piece into two ties for your apron.

Watch the helpful video: <https://craftychica.com/2014/02/no-sew-t-shirt-apron/>

DAY 2

OPTIONAL DONATION

The preschool also welcomes donations of extra cleaning supplies to keep the teachers and children safe during the pandemic. Disinfecting spray and wipes, hand sanitizer and paper towels would be most helpful.

DAY 3

DAY 3 DEVOTIONAL

Be a breath of fresh air

We know a guy, his name is Dan. He makes us smile. He has this exuberance about him that is rare to find. He always seems to have a smile on his face, and he embraces life and enjoys the everyday moments that it brings. He keeps his eyes open and looks for opportunities to share his faith in all sorts of unique ways. Now, like everyone, Dan would have his down days, but even in the midst of downers, Dan is up. He's real, he wears his heart on his sleeve, and he keeps smiling through it all.

Dan has this way about him that causes you to go through what we would call 'the uncomfortable zone'. There's this boldness about him that's contagious because it comes with this authenticity that's uniquely him—he doesn't try to be anyone else. He can do the most awkward things and get away with it, and in being naturally him, he draws out people in the room, allowing them to take a deep breath of fresh air. He has this ability to make a 'stagnant' room erupt into laughter and leave you talking about him for days. The preschool also welcomes donations of extra cleaning supplies to keep the teachers and children safe during the pandemic. Disinfecting spray and wipes, hand sanitizer and paper towels would be most helpful. 7 days.

DAY 3 DEVOTIONAL

Be a breath of fresh air

Now we aren't all "Dan's", but it's important to remember; God has gifted you uniquely with talents and character to bring freshness and life into a room, rather than leaving people with a bad smell.

We're not suggesting that you should try to achieve getting everyone to like you. If everyone likes you, you're probably not living to the standard God is asking of you. Can you ask yourself a question? Are you socially aware of your environment and are you thriving in it?

In displaying the fullness of what God has naturally given you, you will cause people to take stock of their own lives, and perhaps to start asking you where your joy and life comes from. You will raise a God standard and people will take notice.

DAY 2 READING

Romans
12: 1-21

DAY 3 THOUGHTS

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?

For the evening Zoom, bring one new idea you had (or what God spoke to you), one challenging or confusing idea, and a verse from the Bible reading you want to remember.

DAY 3 PACKING LIST

- 8.5x11 paper
- markers and pens
- Bible verses that bring you hope

DAY 3 MISSION PROJECT

Watch the video to meet our partner for this project!

CARDS OF HOPE:

Often people living in poverty feel embarrassment, shame, guilt for not being able to provide, and it's easy to lose hope. During the pandemic, you can imagine the nightmare of being isolated in a home that is unsatisfactory. Today we will make Cards of Hope to bring the light of Christ. For past clients, and people still waiting because this summer's missions were postponed, your cards will remind them they are loved and not forgotten. Challenge: think of more than "Jesus loves you:" share why Jesus gives YOU hope when your plans get changed or don't go your way. Uplifting Bible verses are a great way to share that hope too. You can sign it "the Youth of First United Methodist Church Baton Rouge" or your first name (not last name).

DAY 3

OPTIONAL DONATION

The biggest need for this organization is financial. Without volunteer fees to fund the ministry, there is a big challenge to keeping the doors open. Insurance must still be paid, plus facility rentals to make sure there's a mission site in the future. If you would like to give a financial gift to support, make a donation to FUMC Baton Rouge (designated "Mystery Mission") or directly to our ministry partner.

