Make an IMPACT

TEAM BUILDING

Team building before a short-term mission is incredibly valuable because it helps move a group from being a collection of individuals to becoming a ministry team. The best activities build trust, encourage communication, reveal personalities, and reinforce the mission's spiritual purpose.

1. Two Truths and a Mission

Objective

Help team members get to know one another beyond surface-level introductions.

Instructions

Each person shares:

- Two true facts about themselves
- One mission-related hope or expectation

Example:

- I've visited 12 countries.
- I once ran a marathon.
- I hope God stretches me outside my comfort zone.

Debrief Questions

- What surprised you about someone?
- What common interests did you discover?
- What are some shared hopes for the trip?

2. Desert Island Survival

Objective
Practice teamwork and decision making.

Instructions
Tell the group: "You are stranded on an island. You may bring only five items from a list of 20."

The leader will come up with a list of 20 items to share with the team. Have small groups view the list and decide together.

Debrief Questions

- How did your group make decisions?
- Who emerged as leaders?
- Were all voices heard?

Mission Connection
Mission trips often involve problem solving and adapting together.

3. Mission Expectations Wall

Objective
Address expectations before the mission.

Instructions
Provide sticky notes, have participants answer and then post answers on a wall:

- What excites me?
- What concerns me?
- What am I praying for?
- What do I hope God teaches me?

Debrief
Discuss common themes and pray together.

4. Prayer Partner Exchange

Objective
Build spiritual support.

Instructions
Assign prayer partners for the mission season.

Partners should:

- Check in weekly
- Pray for each other
- Encourage one another

Optional
Rotate partners at each team meeting.

5. Strengths Discovery Activity

Objective
Help team members appreciate each other's gifts.

Questions

- What gift do you bring to the team?
- What role do you naturally play in groups?
- What areas do you need support in?

Then ask teammates: "What strengths do you see in this person?"

Key Verse
1 Peter 4:10

6. Mission Simulation Challenge

Objective

Prepare for real mission challenges.

Present Scenarios

- Plans suddenly change.
- Transportation is delayed.
- Language barriers arise.
- A teammate is discouraged.
- Resources are limited.

Small groups discuss:

- How would we respond?
- What is your first thought?
- What strategies can you use to help yourself or others with these challenges?
- What biblical principles apply?
- How does what you learned about your teammates help you serve together more effectively?

Debrief

Discuss flexibility and finding a positive in challenges