

RETREAT

FRIDAY

- 6 pm** Arrival
- 6:30 pm** Dinner
- 7:30 pm** Get Acquainted Activities (see page XX)
- 8:15 pm** Introduction to the Weekend
- Set the tone
- Define the purpose of the Retreat
- Set community standards
- Select a theme verse
- Discuss hopes and fears of the mission experience
- Sign Covenants
- 9:15 pm** Small Group/Large Group Activity
- (Small Group Activity and Bible Study One)
- 10:30 pm** Compline – A Disciple’s Prayer Book (see page XX)
- 11:00 pm** Ice Cream Sundaes
- 12:00 pm** Lights Out
-

The first evening of the retreat is important. It sets the tone for the entire weekend — and even for the pending mission experience or pilgrimage. Start with an ice breaker. If you need ideas visit the section titled Recreational Theology. This will get the group laughing together. Follow that up with a group building activity. This will let the group know that part of the purpose of the weekend is to promote cooperation, trust, and

communication. As you move into the introduction to the weekend, help the group understand the purpose of the retreat and what you will be doing.

Go over the schedule and set any rules you feel are necessary. Then move into a little more focused time of selecting a theme verse. If you already have one selected, share it with the group and dialogue together as a group on the meaning of the verse.

Then move into a time where team members share their hopes and fears of the coming mission experience. What are they excited about? What do they hope will happen? What frightens them? Remind them that this should be a time of honesty and trust. Each team member should share.

If you have not already done so, have the group sign the Covenant you will be using during your mission experience or pilgrimage. Next move into a small group activity, followed by the first Bible study found in your resource section. Depending on the size of your group, you may want to do the Bible study together. If your group is larger than 25 people, you may want to split them up into smaller groups to do the Bible study. Smaller groups will help those who are a little shy feel comfortable sharing.

Next move into a time of singing, scripture reading, and group prayer. Conclude the evening with ice cream sundaes or some other kind of fun snack.

Saturday

8 am Breakfast

8:45 am Lectio Divina

Mark 10:51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’”

9:15 am Wakeup Game (see page XX)

9:30 am Small Group/Large Group Activity
(Small Group Activity and Bible Study Two)

11:00 am Group Building Activity (see page XX)

RETREAT

Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Fundraising and Scholarship Fund
2:30 pm	Mission Action Project

Ideas: Visit a nursing home, make care packages for college students and/or senior adults, sort clothing or food at your local shelter, rake leaves for the senior adults in your congregation

6:30 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Small Group/Large Group Activity (Small Group Activity and Bible Study Three)
8:45 pm	Game Night! (ideas on page XX)
9:45 pm	Compline
10:15 pm	Late Night Snack

Discuss driving safety, Safeguarding God's Children training, other issues

Start the day right with a great breakfast and a time of focused reflection. Pick a wakeup game that gets your youth moving around and laughing. Follow this with a small group activity and the second Bible study from this workbook, and then a group building activity.

Following lunch, we suggest you move into a discussion on the importance of fundraising and brainstorm some good fundraising ideas for your group. Next head out together for a mission action project to allow your youth the chance to give back and get their hands dirty.

After dinner gather again in small groups and do the third Bible study together, and then let loose with a game night. Play some of your favorite youth group games or select some of the games from the Recreational Theology section.

End the night with a focused time of reflection, singing, and prayer. But before you send off the tired crew to bed, give them a late—night snack like popcorn balls or brownie sundaes!

Sunday

- 8:30 am** Breakfast and pack
 - 10:00 am** Worship with faith community
 - Noon** Lunch with Mission Team and families
-

Ending the retreat on the right foot is just as important as starting the retreat on the right foot. Give your youth plenty of time to pack and to help clean the retreat space. Follow this with a commissioning service that blesses and encourages your missioners. Include your theme verse and some time for prayers.

If your group will be joined by youth from the host community, it will be very important to incorporate a similar retreat—life experience for the two groups at the beginning of your time together.