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## Be Humble

“Humble yourself under Gods powerful hand so he will lift you up when the right time comes...”  
– 1 Peter 5:6 (NCV)

Mission itself is truly a humbling experience. Holman's Bible Dictionary defines Mission as *“a task on which God sends a person He has called...to introduce another group of people to salvation in Christ.”* In the Christian Context the person sent is called a missionary. This person is charged with the task of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to people to whom they are sent. The mission of the churches is to send our missionaries to all parts of the world until everyone has had the opportunity to hear the message of Jesus and accept Him as Lord.” While the term “mission” is not found in the Scriptures, we can sense its concept throughout the entire Bible. People that were set apart such as Paul, Peter and James submitted themselves to the Holy Spirit and were separated to take the Gospel into the various regions. Ask yourself: Have I been called? This is something to be very prayerful about.

It is a humbling experience to enter a community that is culturally different from you when you are a stranger. There will be many needs that you observe during your time here. Maybe your team will be addressing some of these needs, so it's crucial that you walk in humility as the hands and feet of Jesus. Some of the things you will address are likely to meet the physical needs of the person. This is a part of mission as well. Meeting the physical is easy, but remember that your main task is to introduce someone to Jesus Christ and His plan for salvation. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:22, “To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might save some.” I encourage you to humble yourself and be attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and watch God lift you in His power, in His timing, and in His way.

As you go about your task on your mission in our community, humble yourselves by praying with a stranger, crying with a stranger, laughing with a stranger, sharing the Good News and yes, by serving. Pour out yourselves in the act of humility. In John 13, Christ washed the disciple's feet and left instructions that we were to do the same. We are to humble ourselves as Christ did being obedient in service and to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Being humble does not just entail giving of oneself or serving. There is another side to humility, and that is *receiving*. In Jonestown, you will likely be approached by people from all

walks of life. Some of them may be willing to share no matter how little or how much they may have. Humble yourselves in the act of acceptance. We are most humble when we can receive. It's important for you to understand that this is our way of saying "Welcome, we are happy that you are here!"

Our community may not only offer their time and conversation, but something tangible as well. If you are offered a bottle of water, a small snack, or maybe even a meal, accept it in thanksgiving. This is our way of saying "I can't do much to show my appreciation, but I am willing to do what I can."

Above all, be humble enough to receive in your spirit. Mission is a great teacher for life and spiritual growth. Let's keep in mind that as believers, we define humility different from the world. The world looks at humility as a weakness, but we know that when we are weak then His strength is made perfect in us. By humbling ourselves under his mighty hand, we allow Him to use us as he pleases and in His timing!

### **Small Group Questions:**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:22 --
  - a. Why would Paul be willing to "become weak"?
  - b. How can I apply this passage to my mission preparation?
  - c. What are some things, attitudes, habits, etc... that God might ask me to "lay down" while I'm in Jonestown?
2. What is my motive for this trip?
3. Why do I believe God wants me on this trip?
4. If humility is both giving and receiving, which area do I need to specifically ask God to grow me in? Why is that?
5. What do I believe God wants me to personally accomplish on this short-term mission trip?