



# Pre-Trip Session 1: Connect

## Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer

**5 minutes**

Start this first session with some fun information and build the excitement! Here are some questions to start with, add to this in a way that will build the excitement in your group. How many volunteers will be part of your group? How many different schools are represented in your group? What is the average age of volunteers? How many people have served with ASP before?

1-2

Prayer:

*God, we are thankful that you call us to serve you and to build kindness with our neighbors. Guide us, as we start to prepare for our trip. May we learn to build kindness with each other, with our neighbors and with all your people. Bless the staff at ASP who are busy preparing for a summer of service and transformation. Be with the families who are preparing to receive us into their homes. May your love and peace shine within our group that smiles turn to conversations, and strangers become friends. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.*

## Ice Breaker: Getting to Know You

**10 minutes**

Divide your group into small groups and provide each participant with the Getting to Know You handout and a pencil. Allow 10 minutes for participants to answer the questions and share with their group.

## Connect to ASP's Mission - ASP Facts Jeopardy Game

**15 minutes**

Read to Volunteer team members: The founder of ASP, Tex Evans, was quite a storyteller. With his quick sense of humor and deep faith, Tex would keep people interested and usually laughing while teaching profound truths. The stories he shared weren't out of the ordinary. He would simply tell stories of people, situations, and reflections he had encountered in his lifetime. But it was obvious that Tex had a vision about how we all could make a difference in this world. Play this ASP Jeopardy game to learn about ASP's roots and the mission. For the sake of time, this is best played in teams.

3-31

## Purpose of this Session

Volunteers will Connect to our theme Building Kindness and learn about our theme verse from Ephesians 4:32. You will learn about ASP's mission and engage in an exercise to help you connect to servant leadership. Team members will get to know each other and make intentional connections as your team builds community. This is where you start with ASP's trip preparations!

## What You'll Need for this Session

- Copy of this document for each leader
- The Power Point for this session
- Projection
- Writing utensils for each participant
- Index cards for each participant
- Copy of the handout page with Getting To Know You Questions for each participant

The core content of this session is planned for 60-75 minutes but could run longer for a larger group.



Denotes the Power Point slides that coincide with each section

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## Servant Leadership exercise (from 1990 EG on New Ways to Serve.)

**30 minutes**

This exercise is planned to help volunteers consider how powerful service and leadership are together. When we serve with humble hearts and prioritize building kindness and sharing love, we develop skills and outlook as servant leaders. For this exercise, create small groups of students and adult leaders. Ideally small groups of 5-7.

In this exercise we will reflect on our previous experiences of service and share our unique ways of approaching service in our lives, schools and communities.

Provide each participant with a notecard. Ask, what kind of things have you done for someone else?

(For example- What service activities have you participated in? How have you served another person?)

DO NOT include ASP experiences. Be specific and include at least three things. (Examples may include activities like mowing a lawn for someone, helping a neighbor with a task, visiting a care facility or nursing home. Serving meals at a community center or shelter.) In small groups of 4-5 participants, ask each person to share their list. Assign one person to record these responses on a large sheet of paper.

Next assign one of the following scripture passages to each group:

- Micah 6:8
- Isaiah 61:1-2a
- Luke 4:18-19
- Matthew 11:2-6
- John 21: 15-19
- Luke 10:30-37

In the small groups, discuss how these passages relate to the group's previous experience of serving others. Questions to discuss include:

- What does the passage say about serving or caring for others?
- Who do you think these passages are asking us to serve? Why?
- How do the activities you have done relate to the scripture? (an example of this might be, John 21:15-19 (feed my sheep) reminds me how I served in a Soup Kitchen over spring break.)

Encourage each group to share their scripture passage and their service examples with the whole group. Affirm each group as they share their service experiences. Ask each small group to create a name for their small group that reflects their attitudes of service.

## Connect to our Theme:

**10 minutes**

Read to Volunteers:

Our theme comes from Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. (NIV)

The book of Ephesians is a book about God's love for all people and in this we find instructions on how to live in unity with each other as members of the body of Christ. Our theme verse tells us that we are called to live by building kindness with each other. This is an intentional way of life where we give of ourselves in love and compassion to others. We do this with a servant heart, in humility, and we offer kindness with no expectation of receiving anything in return.

Ask groups to consider their ASP service week and how they will work on Building Kindness as they prepare for this week.

Make a list of how each small group will do this?

Keep this list and add to it at each meeting.

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## Wrap Up and Sending Prayer:

5 minutes

Wrap up and share the 3 things your group members need to know before the next meeting:

(Customize these for your group!)

This could be information about your group's fundraising, deadlines for forms and payments, dates for your next meeting.

Prayer to close each session.

This session is planned to be 60-90 minutes depending on group size.



Sending Prayer:

*May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.*

*May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. Amen.*





### Getting to Know You Questions:

- When I have some free time, I like to...
- My favorite time of year is...
- At Christmas time I...
- Some things I enjoy doing with friends are...
- Being rich means...
- A talent that I have is...
- The most important thing we need to teach children today is...
- My favorite food to make or eat is...
- The problem in my community that I am most concerned about is...
- The last book I read was titled...
- People older than me...
- IN my church, I share my time and talents by...
- If I had to give up everything, I own except one thing, that thing would be...
- I think the most difficult thing Christ told us to do is...
- My favorite music to listen to is...
- A poor person is someone who...
- I think the church...
- My favorite sport or activity is...
- Something my church or community is doing to help people in need is...
- Something I enjoy doing by myself is...



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