

Faith Trek Training Centers: Mission Control

This activity is designed to nurture a knowledge and understanding of God's plan for God's people as they journey in faith together. The call of Moses will be highlighted as participants consider God's overall plan or mission for God's people in the world. Participants will be engaged in a creative exercise to reflect on their own life stories and identify occasions when they have been chosen, set apart, equipped and sent.

Faith Trek Journey Packs introduced and distributed in the First Steps gathering activity will be used to integrate the content of this program for future reference. A Faith Trek theme design is provided for you to make a banner, poster or PowerPoint slide. A "Faith Trek" sign design (PDF file) is also provided to identify the location for each activity.

The Leaders Notes for this activity, along with the necessary preparations, equipment and supplies are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating some of the details and tasks involved.

Scan through the activity outline and adapt it to honor your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using this activity to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events through the year.

Approximate time: 7-10 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- Mission Description sheet 1-2 (PDF file)
- Travel Tip #5 reference sheet (PDF file)
- A dead branch or bush – A bushy green plant might also work
- Red, orange and yellow paper streamers or construction paper
- Stuffed-animal lambs of various sizes
- Faith Trek Travel Pack and Travel Tips (PDF file)
- Faith Trek theme design (PDF file)

Leader's Notes:

Scan through the activity outline and adapt it to honor the time you have scheduled for your overall event.

Set up an area where participants can gather to participate in an interactive telling of the call of Moses (Exodus 3:1-4:20). Find a "bushy" branch, with or without leaves, to display. Cut flames designs out of red, orange and yellow construction paper or use rolls of crepe paper, to represent flames in the braches of the "burning" bush.

Reproduce copies of the Mission Description sheets 1-2 for participants. Separate the "Commissioned for Mission" I.D. Card and reproduce one for each participant. Complete a card for easy reference. Also separate the interactive story and the "Special Effects" cue cards to use for the interactive story.

Display the Travel Tip #6 reference sheet and a Faith Trek Travel Pack. If you haven't already imprinted and assembled a pack, the pattern and guidelines for imprinting and assembly are outlined in the First Steps gathering activity along with the entire collection of Travel Tip sheets. Make sure you have a few extra packs available for participants who haven't received one.

Use the Faith Trek sign design to identify the title of this activity in the space provided. You might also download the Faith Trek theme design to enlarge and display in your program area. Many professional printers have the ability to enlarge B & W designs to 3' x 4'. You might also consider projecting the design. This option however is dependent upon the availability of Microsoft PowerPoint, a projector and a large screen. You will also need to know how to download the design and save it to an appropriate file for presentation.

Activity:

Identify "Mission Control" as a service center for managing a special project or endeavor. Most people might think of a "Mission Control" as a space or sci-fi concept, e.g. NASA has a mission control center in Texas and in Florida. Airport Control Towers also have highly trained personnel to navigate safe and successful. The employees are all commissioned to provide a specific service with a high level of accountability - as the lives of domestic and space travelers depend on the job they are employed to do.

Explain that God manages the mission and commissioning of God's people as they journey in faith. Though church sites today might be considered "Mission Control Centers" as they train people and provide services to sustain God's Mission; in Bible Times - God, managed a network of people to further the mission.

Ask participants what God's Mission might be (God's mission is to claim the world as God's own and commission the world to faithfully serve God and others.) Then say, even as God calls people to devote their lives to specific areas of leadership and service, God called Moses to accomplish a monumental task.

Gather participants around the bush and lead them through the interactive story. Pass out strips of paper with special story effects from Mission Description sheet #1. Depending on your group size, you may wish to recruit two people to join each special effects team or invite the entire group to do them together. Point out the "cue" word on each strip along with the action it will prompt. Encourage them to listen carefully so they will be able to hear their cue word and do their special effect.

Access a copy of the interactive story on Mission Description sheet #2 and read lead your participants through it. You might also consider inviting someone to read the story so you can facilitate the cues and "special effects."

Point out that God still comes to us today. And, when we notice God's presence through the voice or word of another, through an inspiring thought or creative thought - or, in the midst of prayer and quiet meditation, we feel can't help but feel like we're on "Holy Ground." Listen for God's prompting to do a kind or courageous deed. It doesn't matter if it's an ordinary task or an extraordinary venture, we just need to be ready and willing to follow God's lead. As partners in managing God's Mission -we are commissioned to obey!! Ask participants to identify some things God has asked them to do (Lead or serve at church, be kind, loving and encouraging to friends and family.)

Display your "Commissioned for Mission" I.D. Card as you distribute the cards to your participants. Encourage them to print their name in the blank as you read the statement together.

Explain that, like Moses, God claims us as God's own, equips us with special interests, talents and abilities talents and prompts us to carry out God's mission in the world. God is in control and, as members of God's family, we join in partnership with God and others to bring the Good News of salvation, love, joy, grace and peace to the world on any given day- in the most ordinary and

extraordinary ways. If time permits, ask participants to identify some of the talents, interests, abilities and spiritual gifts (Identified in Gift Discovery Center II.)

Refer to the Travel Tip #5 reference sheet and Travel Tip #5 in the Faith Trek Travel Pack as you identify Ephesians 4:1b-2 as the key learning to retain for inspiration and support as they watch and listen for God's call to lead or serve.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing one another in love. Ephesians 4:1b-2

Remind them that God calls people of all ages to be God's hands and feet and voice to speak - Including them!