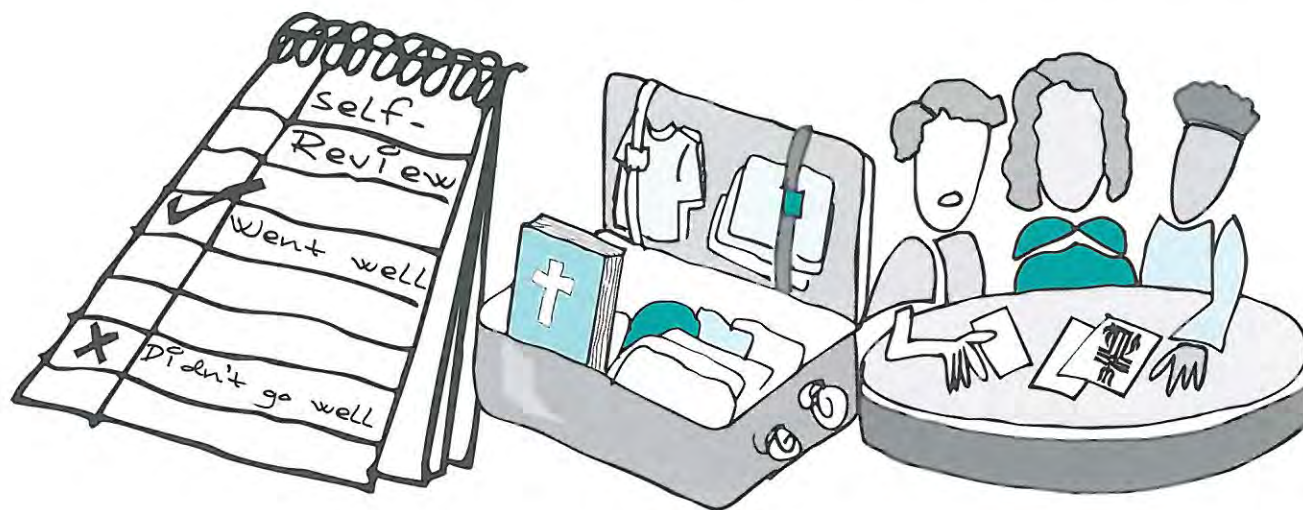


Leader self-Review



■ Encountering God

*"Well done, good and faithful servant."
(Matthew 25:21 RSV)*

Read Matthew 25:14–21 and Romans 7:15.



Most good leaders, Paul included, hope for the best, in themselves, in others, and for those they lead.

Sometimes we're at our best

and sometimes we're not. How do we assess our leadership? How do we assess whether we have used our talents well? How do we reflect on whether we have indeed been "faithful servants?" This last section of the manual is a section for you alone, an opportunity for your own "life review" and "leadership review."

■ An Opportunity for Self-Review

1. Think about the hopes you had for the trip. Write them down, so you can see them before you.
 - Think about the hopes you had for yourself as a leader on the trip. Write them down.
 - Look at both lists. How were your hopes fulfilled, or not fulfilled? You may want to write about this, or you may prefer to give yourself some uninterrupted time to think about it.
2. Begin at the beginning of the trip and glide through the days, asking both what went well and what didn't go well. List your responses. Then review the lists.
 - Look first at the "went well" list. Try to identify what contributed to things "going well"? Perhaps it was how you approached a particular situation, or how you related to participants and

others that you met. Perhaps it was your prayerful preparation that allowed you to be available to God and ready to listen for the nudgings of God's Spirit.

- Look at the "not well" list. Identify what you did not have control of in terms of influence, choice, input, etc. What would you have done differently in the places where you did have some potential impact on the outcomes? How will you do this differently if the opportunity presents itself again?
3. Overall, how did your role as trip leader enhance or detract from your total experience? Recognizing that sometimes your leadership role may have enhanced and sometimes detracted, think about why. At points of enhancement, how did your leadership make a difference? At the points of detraction, how did your leadership make a difference? What would you say to others assuming the responsibility of trip leader?

■ An Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

1. How and where did you feel God's presence on the trip? Is there any pattern to the places you name? In what sorts of situations, in what relationships, are you most available to God? Were there places where you felt that God was absent? Is there any pattern to where or when you feel the absence? How could you be more available to God in the places of absence?

2. Think of one person or one place where you heard the voice of God speaking to you. You may want to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for that gift of awareness and communion.
3. What challenges were presented to you—either expected or unexpected? How did your relationship with God help you meet those challenges?
4. Which "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22) did you use most—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Which did you find least present in you? In which did you grow most? In which would you like to grow more?
5. What is the one thing you bring home as a nonmaterial, spiritual "souvenir" of this trip? How will you allow this spiritual souvenir to continue to gift you as you move on in your life and as you continue to offer leadership to the people of God?

■ Love the Questions

Now it is your turn. YOU provide the questions for your own reflection. Think about what questions this trip has raised for you. What are the most important, the most haunting? How will you live the questions so you can receive them as a gift and love them as instruments of God's shaping your life and molding your leadership?