



55 THINGS TO

*Know*

BEFORE YOU

*Go*



The ultimate missionary training guide.

A stack of three Bibles with red and purple covers, a blue pen, and a notebook on a dark surface. The Bibles are stacked on the left, with the top one having a red cover and the bottom one having a purple cover. A blue pen with a gold tip is lying on a notebook to the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Biblical Training

The Bible is the only book we have with a record of what Jesus did, and what He called us to. Therefore, before we enter the mission field, we should study it. Whether we're asked a difficult apologetics question, or if we are struggling with our personal relationship with Christ, we can turn to the Bible and seek God's answers.



### **Firm Understanding of the Gospel Teachings:**

How can the teachings in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John be applied to where you are on the mission field?

### **Understanding of the Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit's power is needed so much in our lives; we need to understand why He was given to us, and how He can help us on the mission field.

### **Discerning Spiritual Warfare:**

Learn how to discern what may be flesh and blood, verses spiritual principalities. As well as knowing how to deal with them.

### **Understanding Biblical Application:**

So many times we will read a piece of scripture in the Bible but will not know how to correctly apply it. Having good hermeneutical skills will benefit you when you are studying the Bible on your own.

### **Know What Jesus Did Here on Earth:**

What were Jesus' goals when He came down from heaven? Knowing these goals and how He accomplished them will greatly impact your time on the mission field.



### **Living the Fruits of the Spirit:**

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control are character traits given to us by God to make us more Christ like.

### **An Understanding of the Early Church:**

The early church was the first group of people who gathered together before Jesus left. We should seek to form a church similar to them.

### **The First Missionaries in the Bible:**

An example of one of the first missionaries is Paul. He was one of the greatest missionaries in the Bible who completed God's call. If we study His teachings, we can reflect what He did with His own calling.

### **How to Pray and Intercede:**

God loves when we come before Him and pray. Understanding how the prophets prayed will help us during our intercessory time.



### **Which Biblical Characters Trusted in God:**

Being a missionary is not an easy job, it takes a lot of trust in the Lord. Whether your finances are low; you're not sure where to go next for your ministry, we need to know how to trust in God. We can study characters in the Bible who trusted in God, and gain a better understanding of what this looks like.

### **The Ability to Understand Theological Truths:**

This will be important for church planting. You will need to develop a theological doctrine for the church.

### **Confident Evangelism Skills:**

Evangelism doesn't necessarily look like going in the streets and witnessing to strangers, you can share how Jesus provided financially for you. Being able to accomplish this with confidence takes a lot of practice.

### **What Does Discipleship Look Like?**

When you go on the mission field, God may put people in your life to disciple and encourage. To do this well, we need to know how Jesus disciplined, and how we can mimic Him.



# Cultural Training

When you go onto the mission field, you cannot simply move to another country and do ministry. Immersing yourself into the culture takes time and a comprehension of what the other culture consists of. We cannot enter another country and force our culture onto the people; instead we need to know where they are coming from, so we can truly minister to them.



### **Contextualization Skills:**

How can we share our message in a way for other cultures to understand. For example: if you are in Thailand, a primarily Buddhist country, you should tell the Gospel in a way pertaining to Buddhist beliefs.

### **Non-Verbal Cues:**

Does the country you're going to have any nonverbal cues to be aware of? (Shaking with your left hand in India)

### **Gender Interaction:**

In most Muslim countries, some women only interact with their husbands. If you want to evangelize to people, you should know these things and keep them in mind while evangelizing.

### **Language Understanding:**

Studying the language of the country shows you are dedicated to learning the culture, as well as help you to communicate with locals. Even if the language proves difficult, putting effort into communicating with someone's native tongue shows you are trying to understand their language.



### **Learn to Laugh:**

When awkward cultural interactions occur, don't beat yourself up about it. Relax and learn to laugh at these situations.

### **Preparing for Culture Shock:**

It is best to be aware of culture shock and what it consists of before going into another country and suddenly be hit with it.

### **Understanding Worldview:**

When you go overseas, you want to be aware of what the people group/native's worldview's are. This helps you to understand where they are coming from. Additionally, understand your own worldview so you can filter it while overseas.

### **Prayer Points:**

Understand the spiritual needs of the area you are in and then take time to intercede for the people.



### **Deeper Knowing of World Religions:**

What religion are the people in your area practicing? How can you share the gospel with them relating to their own religion, and open their eyes to Jesus?

### **Know the Geography of the Area:**

In many countries, people who live in urban cities may have a completely different lifestyle or mindset compared to those who live in more rural areas of the country.

### **History of the Country You Are Serving:**

Understanding the history of where you are serving helps you to know what the people have gone through and even some worldview`s they may have

### **Cultural Innovation and Change:**

Sometimes cultures will change and shift. There are numerous reasons this happens, but when you're church planting and discipling, cultural change is bound to happen.

### **Perspective on Relationships:**

Other cultures see relationships on different levels compared to modern American stereotypes. Being a mother in America may be completely different than being a mother in Kenya.

A woman with long hair, wearing a red and white checkered shirt, is seen from behind, looking out over a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the woman and the text in the foreground.

# Vision & Calling

Many times people receive specific callings from God for the mission field. Other times, people have a heart for missions, but have no idea where God wants them. Jesus called us to make disciples to ALL nations. Whether you go to the Philippines, or even stay in America, you can live out the gospel to anyone.



## **How Do I Know if God is Calling Me to Missions?**

God is personal and created us uniquely for a specific purpose in life. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” –Ephesians 2:10. Some biblical characters receive a clear calling from God for their life, but others had to continuously seek God’s call. Pursuing the Lord’s heart will give you a better understanding of how he made you, and what his calling for your life may be.

## **Why Are You Going on the Mission Field?**

What is the main purpose of your work on the mission field? Understanding this purpose gives your ministry a direction that you can keep coming back to.

## **Don’t Rush!**

It’s easy today in our consumer driven society to seek answers, and make our own decisions about where we think God has called us. Waiting on God’s timing is hard, but he will make it apparent when he wants you to go.



### **How Will You Reach These people?**

What skill or tool will you use to reach these people. Ex: TEFL, Business, Social Justice, Children's Ministry

### **Is the Lord Calling You Towards a Missions Degree?**

There are tons of degrees available to get before going over seas. You could get a degree associated with missions, or you could get a degree in something else.

### **Does He Want You to do an Internship Overseas?**

A way to know if you are called to an area is to do an internship overseas. It's also nice to do an internship before you commit somewhere for a certain length of time.

### **Will You Get a Job?**

You could support your mission financially by getting a job overseas. For example, you could teach English in a school.



### **Will You Raise Support?**

Support raising takes a lot of time and effort, but it can be effective because you are relying on God for finances and he always comes through.

### **Specific People Group:**

If God calls you to a people, know where those people are. For example: if you want to work with the Muslim community, know that Muslims live not only in the Middle East, but they are flooding into Europe.

### **Understanding Unreached People Groups:**

You should have a general understanding of unreached people groups. Where they are, what you need to reach them, etc.

### **Where Do You Fit Historically on the Mission Field?**

Understanding the history of missions helps you to understand your own role.



# Working With Others

Very rarely God calls people onto the mission field alone. Working with an organization or team is common on the mission field. Although, working with other people is not as easy as we would like it to be. It tests out patience and our faith. But, if we are able to work well with other people, you can get so much accomplished.



### **Good Teamwork Skills:**

God created us individually and uniquely and we are able to bring so many different skills to the table if can humble ourselves and work together

### **Conflict management:**

The enemy wants to break apart your team because he knows the power you have as a unified group. Knowing how to maturely handle tense situations will benefit your group in the long run.

### **Learn How to Put Your Will Before Your Emotions;**

The mission field is not easy. When we're tired, stressed, or homesick, we have to learn not to let our emotions control what we do.



### **Being Patient With Opposed Parents:**

Having your parents say “No” when God says “Go” can be one of the hardest obstacles when going on the mission field. Also, these situations are more common than one would think. Learning patience with upset parents is essential this area of going on the mission field.

### **Good Communication:**

Whether it’s logistical or you are feeling homesick, it’s important to always let your team know where you are.

### **Equality in Job Skills:**

In order for an organization to be successful, there are so many jobs that need to be accomplished. Just because one person may be working with locals all the time, does not mean the person doing accounting is not impacting the community.



### **Leadership Skills:**

When working with a ministry, you will most likely be given important leadership roles. Jesus was a servant, even when he was a leader. Studying his concept of servant leadership will help us to impact those we are leading, as well as grow ourselves.

### **Networking:**

Getting a multitude of contacts with different contacts. So if you run into an issue, you have an assortment of people who can solve it.

### **Following Others:**

How can you be a respectful and Christ-like follower?

A silhouette of a hiker with a large backpack walking on a trail at sunset. The hiker is on the left side of the frame, walking away from the viewer. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky with some clouds. The hiker is wearing a dark shirt, shorts, and a large backpack. The overall mood is contemplative and adventurous.

# Personal Habits

God has gifted everyone with a unique character. Understanding how He has shaped you, and what He has gifted you with will aid you when you're a missionary.



### **Christ-Like Character:**

Does your character and attitude reflect Christ? If not, what can you do to improve that?

### **Spiritual Vibrancy:**

Have an active and passionate relationship with Jesus, and not just know and understand God. Rather, be actively pursuing Him through prayer.

### **Know Yourself:**

What are your strengths and weaknesses, and how can God use those overseas?

### **Choose Joy:**

Things fall through; travel plans do not work out. Instead of staying bitter, learn to embrace positivity. Don't let the enemy bring you down!

### **Time Management:**

Being a full time missionary is very time consuming. Learning how to strategically plan out your day and adding time for the Lord will benefit you on the field.



## **How Has God Created You? Specifically For Your Calling?**

Having a heart for a group of people is essential for being a missionary, but what can you personally bring to the mission field?

### **Living in Humility:**

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.”- C.S Lewis. Many times on the mission field our own desires must be second to what will actually work in a situation or what is best for the ministry.

### **Develop Perseverance:**

This includes trusting God, but you cannot give up the work God has asked you to do when things get hard. Trust that He has brought you to this area and He knows you can do it!

### **Goal Setting:**

Learn to set goals for yourself so you can get little things done.