

JOSHUA EXPEDITION

FIELD GUIDE

Hand to the Plow Ministries
Revive • Evangelize • Disciple

WELCOME

Welcome to your first Joshua Expedition.

Joshua Expeditions are opportunities to get out of the building and get on the trail.

They are not simply hiking trips.

They are opportunities to follow Jesus together, serve others, grow as disciples, and learn to recognize the leadership of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.

Our mission is simple:

Revive • Evangelize • Disciple

THE VISION

Many years ago, the Lord gave us a simple vision.

Joshua stepped out of his tent early one morning carrying a hot drink in his hand.

As he pushed back the flap of the tent and looked up, he immediately noticed something.

The cloud had moved.

Without hesitation, he threw aside his drink and shouted:

“Let’s go.”

That vision continues to shape Joshua Expeditions today.

We are not following a trail.

We are following the Guide.

The trail begins whenever God speaks and His people respond.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

Expect:

- **Fellowship**
- **Prayer**
- **Walking**
- **Ministry opportunities**
- **Conversations**
- **Flexibility**
- **Growth**
- **Unexpected divine appointments**
- **New friendships**
- **Opportunities to serve**
- **Opportunities to encourage others**
- **And a lot of fun**

Expect God to surprise you.

Expect interruptions.

Expect opportunities to pray with people.

Expect opportunities to learn.

Expect opportunities to grow.

Come ready to participate.

Come ready to serve.

Come ready to follow the Guide.

BE WHERE YOUR FEET ARE

One of the simplest principles of Joshua Expeditions is:

Be where your feet are.

Be present.

Pay attention.

Listen.

Notice people.

Notice opportunities.

Notice what God is doing around you.

One of the greatest obstacles to being present is distraction.

We encourage you to use your phones for taking photos so you can capture the memories of this expedition. However, to help everyone stay engaged and immersed in the experience, we kindly ask that you keep your phone in Airplane Mode during the trip. Our emergency number is 941-376-0100. This line will be monitored, and loved ones can reach us there if needed.

Our goal is not isolation.

Our goal is presence.

We want to be fully present to God, fully present to one another, and fully present to the people we encounter along the way.

The conversation taking place around the table may be the very reason God brought you there.

The person standing in front of you may be carrying a burden God wants you to notice.

The divine appointment you are praying for may be happening while you are looking at a screen.

Presence matters.

Emergency communication will always be available through a designated ministry phone carried by expedition leadership.

HAVE THE SKIN OF A LIZARD

Plans change.

Weather changes.

Schedules change.

Ministry opportunities change.

People with the skin of a lizard adapt and keep moving.

We prepare carefully.

Then we hold our plans loosely.

The Holy Spirit is the Guide.

LIFE TOGETHER ON THE TRAIL

We eat together.

We serve together.

We minister together.

Please help us create an atmosphere that reflects Christ.

Practical Ways To Do That

- **Encourage generously**
- **Carry your share of the load**
- **Help without being asked**
- **Leave places better than you found them**
- **Keep a positive attitude**
- **Choose gratitude over complaining**

One Heart. One Purpose. One Lord.

CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

One of the simplest ways we demonstrate Christ's love is through consideration for those around us.

Joshua Expeditions often involve shared vehicles, shared lodging, shared meals, and close interaction with one another for several days.

Because of this, personal hygiene becomes an expression of consideration and respect.

This is not about appearances.

It is about consideration.

The goal is not perfection.

The goal is respect.

We also encourage participants to:

- **Clean up after themselves**
- **Help with dishes and cleanup**
- **Carry their share of the load**
- **Look for ways to serve without being asked**

Servants notice needs.

Servants respond.

QUIET HOURS

Because we often share lodging, we ask participants to be considerate of those who may still be resting.

If you are one of the first people awake in the morning, please move about quietly and respectfully.

Conversations, packing, coffee preparation, and other activities should be done with consideration for those who are still sleeping.

**“If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning,
it will be taken as a curse.” — Proverbs 27:14**

The proverb is humorous, but the lesson is practical.

**Good intentions can still be inconsiderate when they come at
the wrong time.**

**Part of loving one another is simply being aware of how our
actions affect those around us.**

THE EZEKIEL STICK

**One of the unique features of Joshua Expeditions is the Ezekiel
Stick.**

The stick itself has no power.

It is simply a tool that helps begin conversations about Jesus.

The Ezekiel Stick points to:

- **Restoration**
- **Unity**
- **Hope**
- **Fruitfulness in suffering**
- **God’s ability to redeem broken things**

People frequently ask:

“What’s with the stick?”

And that question often opens the door to meaningful ministry.

YOUR ROLE AS A NEW PARTICIPANT

There is no pressure to present an Ezekiel Stick.

There is no script to memorize.

There is no expectation that you become an expert overnight.

**Most first-time participants will simply shadow someone who
has experience presenting Ezekiel Sticks.**

Watch.

Listen.

Observe.

Ask questions.

Notice how conversations develop.

Notice how naturally ministry opportunities arise.

Discipleship is often caught before it is taught.

Joshua learned by walking with Moses.

Timothy learned by walking with Paul.

We learn by walking together.

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

We believe God is already at work before we arrive.

He prepares hearts.

He opens doors.

He creates opportunities.

Our responsibility is not to force ministry.

Our responsibility is to recognize what God is already doing.

Stay available.

Stay attentive.

Follow the Guide.

JOSHUA EXPEDITION PACKING CHECKLIST

Spiritual Essentials

- Bible**
- Notebook or Journal**
- Pen or Pencil**

Clothing

- Comfortable walking clothes**
- Sleepwear**
- Rain gear**
- Jacket or Fleece**
- Shoes & Hiking Boots**
- Extra clothing for the trail is muddy**

Personal Care

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste**
- Deodorant**
- Soap**
- Shampoo/Conditioner**
- Personal medications**

Trail Essentials

- Water bottle**
- Small backpack or daypack**
- Flashlight or headlamp**

Optional

- Trail snacks**