

— Am I Ready —

FOR MISSIONS?



PASSION

VISION

PURPOSE

How Do I Know if I'm Ready for Missions?

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you.

Luke 14:28-29

Jesus said a lot of radical things during his time on earth, but in Luke 14, he settled in for a moment of plain common sense: People who jump into things before they're ready frequently live to regret it.

In the missions world, we like to celebrate passion, risk-taking and people who refuse to listen to the naysayers. But all of that works best when we've prayerfully looked at where we are in life and what roadblocks we might face as we head out on our journey.

How to Use This Assessment

The questions on the following pages are designed to help you assess your missions readiness. As you answer them, we invite you to be brutally honest, praying through each one and discussing them with a mentor, pastor or TEAM missions coach when you're done.

As a flawed human being, you'll never be fully ready for mid- to long-term missions. But we hope that by identifying strengths, weaknesses and circumstances, you'll be able to make wise decisions regarding them and, ultimately, serve God with a healthy perspective on life and ministry.

How is your spiritual health?

Christ told us the only way to bear fruit is to abide in him. Yet one of the biggest challenges missionaries face is not losing sight of God in the midst of unfamiliar cultures, loneliness and all the work they're doing for him. Use these questions to see where your spiritual foundation may be vulnerable.

1. What does time with the Lord look like for you?
2. Right now, what in your life shows that you are growing as a disciple and bearing fruit?
3. What does your engagement with your local church look like?
4. With whom in your life can you honestly and deeply share about your journey of faith?

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

How is your church health?

God's call to missions rarely (if ever) comes to individuals in isolation from the church communities they worship, serve and minister in. If God is calling you to serve abroad, it's likely that others in your church community have sensed God calling you in this direction as well. Answer the following questions, and then sit down with a trusted mentor, pastor, elder or friend to see if God brings insight through the body of Christ.

1. Read Acts 13:1-3. When and how does Saul and Barnabas' missionary call come? What is the church's response?
2. How are you serving in your church right now?
3. How has God used your local church to call you to missions?
4. Who in your church might sense that God is calling you abroad? Have you invited them into your life as you discern God's leading?

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:3

How is your missional health?

A missional mindset doesn't just begin when you reach the field. Your commitment to sharing Christ should be growing and visible in your life right now. Let the questions below get you thinking about your attitudes toward living on mission in your local context and how your actions demonstrate them.

1. What does discipleship look like in your life right now? Who's investing in you? Who are you investing in?
2. How do you engage with nonbelievers in your everyday life?
3. What is your definition of a missionary, and where do you find it in the Bible?
4. How do you define success in living on mission?
5. How have you invested in other cultures?

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

1 Peter 2:9

How is your physical health?

The availability and quality of medical care can vary widely from country to country, and some assignments require much more physical activity than others. Measure your medical health and the needs you will have abroad to help determine if and where international ministry is an option.

1. What habits and practices do you employ to take care of your body?
2. What healthy habits do you need to add, and which unhealthy habits do you need to kick?
3. What are your physical and medical limitations?

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

How is your financial health?

Some people imagine life abroad to be a free-spirited escape from all financial worries. But as a missionary, your finances will likely grow more complex as you add travel costs, ministry budgets and foreign currencies to your regular concerns. Understanding your current financial standing will help you face these challenges with confidence rather than fear.

1. What do you think the Bible says about fundraising?
2. What steps are you taking to maintain a balanced budget and live within your means? How well are they working?
3. What debts or expenses might hinder your freedom to serve God with abandon?
4. What are your thoughts and feelings toward fundraising?

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

How is your mental health?

Qualities like resilience, a sense of humor, a sense of perspective and good boundaries are all worth striving for in missions. Establishing those qualities and a healthy pattern of living now will help combat burnout and ensure longevity on the field. Use these questions to evaluate your psychological health and identify potential weaknesses.

1. What do your rhythms in work and rest look like?
2. How do you feel when things don't go according to your plans?
3. What potential stressors at home might be magnified on the field?
4. What is your recent track record of saying "yes" and "no"? Do you find yourself overcommitted?

*You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.*

Isaiah 26:3

How is your relational health?

Conflicts and difficulties will arise on the field, and your ability to handle them with kindness, flexibility and a sense of personal responsibility will be crucial to healthy teamwork. Take a moment to look into how you relate to others.

1. What does healthy conflict look like?
2. In what parts of life do you tend to be a leader? When do you tend to follow?
3. What intimate relationships do you have? What do they look like?

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love
and good deeds.*

Hebrews 10:24

As you continue to think about these questions,

we invite you continue praying over them, too. Praise the Lord for the things he's revealed to you, ask for clarity on the things that still seem hazy and continue to seek his wisdom on what your next steps should be.

These kinds of decisions are usually best made with the support and insight of brothers and sisters in Christ, so invite your church to join you as you seek the Lord. And if you want more guidance on how to wisely approach missions, be sure to get in touch with a TEAM missions coach at team.org/missionscoach.

Ultimately, remember that God uses broken vessels to proclaim his name and bring him glory. At home or abroad, God will use you for his service, and he will be faithful to complete the good work he has started in you.