

STICKS AND STONES MISSION TRIP

A How-To Guide for Churches

MISSION OVERVIEW

Theme: David and Goliath - "These Five Stones Will Launch You Into Your Destiny"

Core Message: Reminding people in developing countries that they have a divine destiny ordained by God, just as David's single stone launched him into his destiny.

Target: All ages - children, youth, adults, and families in rural communities

THE FIVE STONES FOUNDATION

Biblical Foundation

Based on 1 Samuel 17 - David's victory over Goliath using five smooth stones from the brook.

The Five Transformative Stones:

Stone #1: PURPOSE - You have been chosen by God to walk a designated path

- Scripture: Ephesians 2:10
- Message: You are not an accident; you are God's masterpiece created for good works

Stone #2: PRESENCE - You never walk the path alone; God will be with you

- Scripture: Romans 8:38-39
- Message: Nothing can separate you from God's love

Stone #3: POWER - You will be empowered by the Holy Spirit as you walk

- Scripture: Luke 24:49b
- Message: God clothes you with power to get the job done

Stone #4: PASSION - Your gifts will enable you to walk with confidence

- Message: Knowing Jesus personally increases passion and spiritual confidence

Stone #5: PRAYER - Your prayers will provide strength for every single step

- Scripture: Jeremiah 33:3, 1 Chronicles 4:10

- Message: Like Jabez, your prayers can make you stand out
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PREPARATION PHASE

Materials Needed

For 1,000 Bracelets:

- 1,000 leather cord strips (adjustable length)
- 5,000 lava stone beads (5 per bracelet)
- Divider beads or spacers
- 1,000 two-sided instruction cards (English/Spanish)
- Slip knot materials/tools

Sling Materials:

- 2-3 authentic shepherd's slings
- Hard foam golf balls (safe for target practice)
- Optional: materials to make additional slings

Humanitarian Supplies:

- Rice and beans for distribution
- Adult hygiene packs
- Children's candy
- Jump ropes
- Tug-of-war rope
- Parachute for games
- Prescription glasses for eye clinics

Pre-Trip Preparation

Sermon Development:

- Adapt the "Sticks and Stones" sermon series for your context
- Prepare Spanish translations

- Train team members on the five stones message
- Practice sling demonstrations

Team Training:

- Each team member should understand the five stones
- Practice bracelet application technique
- Learn basic Spanish phrases
- Rehearse children's games and activities
- Train on sling safety and technique

Card Production:

- Design two-sided cards with five stones explanation
 - Print in both English and Spanish
 - Include Scripture references
 - Make cards durable for outdoor distribution
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MINISTRY IMPLEMENTATION**Core Activities****1. Bracelet Ministry**

- Place bracelets on everyone you meet
- Explain each stone's meaning
- Give instruction card
- Pray with recipients
- Target: All ages, all locations

2. Sling Training & Demonstrations

- Focus on Jr. High and High School students
- Teach proper sling technique
- Use team members as voluntary human targets (safe distance)

- Connect to David and Goliath story
- Incorporate into church services as illustration

3. Church Services

- Deliver "Sticks and Stones" sermon series
- Use sling as sermon illustration
- Distribute bracelets to congregation
- Include altar calls and prayer ministry

4. School Ministry

- Visit local schools
- Share five stones message
- Conduct sling demonstrations
- Distribute bracelets and cards
- Engage with students and staff

5. Village Outreach

- Visit remote villages (especially near borders)
- Distribute rice and beans to families
- Share the five stones message
- Pray with families
- Leave bracelets as lasting reminders

6. Specialized Ministry

- Prison ministry with five stones message
- Drug rehabilitation centers
- Eye clinics with prescription glasses
- Hygiene pack distribution

Children's Engagement Activities

Games and Activities:

- Jump rope competitions
- Tug-of-war games
- Parachute games
- Candy distribution
- Bracelet ceremonies
- Simplified five stones teaching

Age-Appropriate Messaging:

- Use simple language for younger children
 - Focus on "God has a special plan for you"
 - Make it interactive and memorable
 - Include parents when possible
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DAILY STRUCTURE EXAMPLE**Morning:**

- Team devotions using five stones theme
- Prepare materials for the day
- Review target locations and objectives

Daytime Activities:

- Village visits with rice/bean distribution
- School presentations
- Sling training sessions
- Bracelet distribution

Evening:

- Church services with sermon
- Community meals
- Team debriefing under pavilion

- Preparation for next day
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LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Spanish Translations Needed:

Stone #1: El Propósito "Has sido escogido por Dios para caminar por un camino designado"

Stone #2: La Presencia "Nunca caminas el camino solo. Dios estará contigo"

Stone #3: El Poder "Serás fortalecido por el Espíritu Santo mientras caminas"

Stone #4: La Pasión "Tus dones te permitirán caminar con confianza"

Stone #5: La Oración "Tus oraciones te darán fuerza para cada paso"

Team Preparation:

- Provide English copies to all team members
 - Ensure key team members can communicate basic concepts in Spanish
 - Prepare simplified versions for children
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LOGISTICS AND SAFETY

Safety Protocols:

- Establish safe distances for sling demonstrations
- Use only foam balls for target practice
- Supervise all sling activities
- Ensure proper instruction before allowing student participation

Distribution Strategy:

- Prioritize children and families in greatest need
- Ensure equitable distribution of food supplies
- Track bracelet distribution to avoid duplication
- Coordinate with local pastors and community leaders

Follow-Up:

- Leave materials with local pastors for continued ministry
 - Provide Spanish copies of sermon materials
 - Establish relationships for future trips
 - Document impact and testimonies
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MEASURING IMPACT**Quantitative Metrics:**

- Number of bracelets distributed
- Number of people who received food supplies
- Church services conducted
- Schools visited
- Families reached in villages

Qualitative Indicators:

- Testimonies and stories
 - Local pastor feedback
 - Community response
 - Team member transformation
 - Long-term relationship building
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REPLICATION NOTES FOR OTHER CHURCHES**Adaptable Elements:**

- Adjust bracelet quantity based on team size and trip length
- Modify humanitarian aid based on local needs
- Adapt sermon content to your theological context
- Scale activities to match team capabilities

Essential Elements to Maintain:

- The five stones core message
- Bracelet distribution with explanation cards
- Combination of spiritual and humanitarian ministry
- Sling demonstrations tied to biblical narrative
- Focus on divine destiny and purpose

Budget Considerations:

- Calculate costs for bracelet materials
- Budget for food distribution
- Account for eye clinic supplies if included
- Plan for translation and printing costs

CONCLUSION

The "Sticks and Stones" mission model provides a powerful, memorable way to share the Gospel while meeting practical needs. The combination of the tactile bracelet reminder, engaging sling demonstrations, and compassionate humanitarian aid creates multiple touchpoints for ministry impact.

The five stones message is biblically sound, culturally adaptable, and personally applicable to people of all ages and backgrounds. By following this guide, other churches can replicate this effective ministry model while adapting it to their specific context and calling.

Remember: "These five stones will launch you into your destiny" - and they can launch your church into powerful cross-cultural ministry as well.