



How to Start Adults on Mission

Missions Discipleship for Adults

Adults on Mission is a coed missions discipleship group for women and men over 18 years old. Adults on Mission prepares men and women to work together to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to hear God's call.

Most Adults on Mission groups are activity-based, so the groups can be formed to meet an identified need in your community or when an existing small group decides to become involved in missions. Groups can also be formed around natural networks or affiliations (such as professions) or around life issues (such as parenting or retirement).

The goals of Adults on Mission are to learn about missions, pray for and give to missions, and disciple others to live on mission for Christ.

How to Start

- 1. Pray.** Involve your church leadership in seeking direction for starting and leading Adults on Mission.
- 2. Determine the focus.** Consult with women and men in the church to choose what your focus will be.
- 3. Identify leaders.** Select a group leader and others who are willing to lead and provide training.
- 4. Choose resources.** Review the materials and talk to others about the options available.
- 5. Order resources.** Place orders at wmu.com/adults or call 1-800-968-7301.
- 6. Check the calendar.** Select a meeting time and location.
- 7. Promote.** Promote 6–8 weeks prior to your first meeting using personal invitations, email, social media, and print format.

Contact your local Baptist association, your state WMU office, or national WMU for training opportunities.

To learn more, visit wmu.com/adults (click on “Adults on Mission”).

For additional information, contact national WMU adult consultant Linda Clark at lclark@wmu.org.

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Adults on Mission Leaders

A leader for Adults on Mission seeks to involve the men and women in their church to share the good news and minister to the needs of others. An Adults on Mission group leader is responsible for promoting missions involvement through the group and for leading to plan, conduct, and evaluate the work of the group.

What leaders are needed?

Adults on Mission has a simple leadership base.

- A leader is needed for each group.
- More than one group leader can work together to accomplish plans.
- Other leaders may be involved as needed for one-time events or short-term activities.
- Adjust the leaders needed for Adults on Mission to meet the needs of your church.

What does an Adults on Mission group leader do?

Specific responsibilities include the following.

- Communicate the purpose of Adults on Mission.
- Lead the group to set goals and carry out action plans for missions experiences.
- Guide adults in developing their leadership potential.
- Prepare and work within the Adults on Mission budget.
- Provide resources and materials.
- Keep records and report activities.
- Serve on the Adults on Mission planning team or WMU leadership team, if the church has these.



Key Elements of Adults on Mission

Adults on Mission functions primarily through informal small groups that seek to accomplish God's mission purpose in the world. Adults on Mission groups are characterized by several key elements.

- Project-oriented
- Missions ministry based
- Combination of learning and doing
- Not focused on meetings
- Flexible (times to gather, needs met, etc.)
- Engaging and experiential
- Team-based with everyone using their gifts and skills as they work together.

Adults on Mission groups influence the world for Christ through hands-on missions experiences. Whether short- or long-term, international, national, state, or local, people are touched by the gospel message. Adults on Mission participants experience growth through missions discipleship.



Options for Adults on Mission

Adults on Mission engages adults of all ages in making disciples of Jesus who live on mission. Through Adults on Mission, men and women have opportunities to learn, pray, and do missions while using their talents and spiritual gifts to fulfill the mission of God. Several options are open in forming Adults on Mission groups. Leaders have the ability to customize their group to fit the size of the church and its mission strategy.

- An Adults on Mission group might exist for the church year or a calendar year, or it might be ongoing in the church. A group may exist for less than a year if the group's purpose is to meet a specific need for a particular time.
- The focus of an Adults on Mission group may center around one of the WMU missional characteristics, such as learning about missions or praying for missions. For example, if the focus is on prayer, the group can use the prayer feature in *Missions Mosaic* to guide prayer activities and use Prayer Patterns in praying for missionaries listed on their birthdays.
- An Adults on Mission group can also focus on doing missions and telling about Jesus through hands-on missions projects. Their involvement can be through one-time projects or ongoing ministries. This could be involvement in ministries in their own community, local association, state convention, or in another part of North America. Adults on Mission groups may choose to participate in international missions efforts through missions trips and other supportive projects.
- Another option for Adults on Mission groups is to place a focus on giving support to missions. This could be through the weeks of prayer for North American and international missions and in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. Resources for ideas include *Missions Plan Book*, *Missions Mosaic*, and *Missions Leader: WMU Planning Guide*.
- Adults on Mission groups may be formed based on interests of those who participate. This could be based on life phases such as retirees or on missions projects of interest such as feeding ministries or a community project.



Planning for Adults on Mission

The success of your Adults on Mission group hinges on the type and depth of planning involved. Planning is a process that takes time, but it will increase the effectiveness of your Adults on Mission group.

Keep several things in mind as you make plans.

- What are the goals for the Adults on Mission group to accomplish?
- How do the plans connect with the mission statement of your church?
- What are the missions experiences, projects, or activities that will help the group accomplish its goals?

Planning Tips

- Surround your plans with prayer. Pray for the Adults on Mission group to accomplish God's purposes for His glory.
- Include those who participate in Adults on Mission in making plans for the group. People have more of a connection when they have been involved in the plans.
- Make overall plans for the year, and determine the length of time to make specific plans, whether quarterly, six months, or the entire year.
- Use *Missions Plan Book*, *Missions Mosaic*, and *Missions Leader: WMU Planning Guide* as resources in planning for your group.
- Consider associational, state, and national WMU activities, projects, or events as you choose missions experiences for the group.
- Map out specific activity plans with the date, time, leaders needed, supplies, and publicity.
- Schedule activities or events on the church calendar.
- Evaluate and revise plans as needed.