

GROUP DYNAMICS

Getting to know each other = Some of us know each other very well. Others maybe a “hi” or “hello” at church. Some may be meeting each other for the first time. For Darya ... she will meet most of us for the first time upon our arrival at the airport. So I would like each of you (or by couple) to provide a picture of choice and 4-5 short sentences about yourself. What you do (did), hobbies, trip expectations, etc. I will put this together as a single document and it will ONLY be provided to the tour group and Darya. Example ...



Suzanne & Mark Beck. Married over 38 years. Suzanne retired from the University of Central Missouri in January 2022. Mark retired from the military. Suzanne enjoys reading and Mark enjoys wood working. We have 3 Children and 3 grandchildren.

SAFETY: If you or your friends or relatives have any safety concerns, put them aside. Please know that Israel is absolutely safe for tourists and continues to be absolutely beautiful at the same time! Any concerns will quickly disappear upon arriving. Safety of tourists is the number one priority in Israel! Safety within our group as we travel is absolutely our top priority. Recognize that we are “our brother’s keeper”.

Small Groups = (FOOT STOMP!) I am asking that each you form smaller “sub” groups within our large group. As we travel and get tired we need to keep watch for each other. When we get a on the bus I will NOT take roll call. I will ask “is everyone here?” I need each of you to get eyes on each member of your small group and say yes. If “NO” then speak VERY LOUDLY to ensure everyone knows we have a lost sheep. If you need to go somewhere “quickly” (i.e. emergency bathroom break) let someone in your group know. We will NOT lose anyone. One team. NO ONE GOES OFF ON THEIR OWN!

NOTE: Two Person Concept should be in place for ALL travels. Never go by yourself!

Teamwork = Bottom line ... we need to look out for each other. Masada will be hot and humid ... watch for dehydration. Our walk through Via Delarosa will be through narrow crowded streets. Some of our sites have rocky trails and a couple steep steps. Lend a hand ... keep a look out ... stay together ... be kind. Individually this trip will fail. As a whole team moving forward ... this will be an amazing trip! Teamwork!

Ideas = Ideas are always welcome. However, 2 minutes before an event, or with hindsight ... may not be helpful. I truly want YOU to have an experience of a lifetime. This tour has been established through many of hours of planning and consideration. Please always think of this as OUR tour first.

Schedules = We are on an EXTREMELY tight schedule on every site, every day, the entire trip. It is IMPORTANT to be on time. The military person within me says if you are not 5-10 minutes early, you are late. Many times, to the point of exhaustion, you will hear me say we need to hustle, please be quick, hurry, etc. Many of the sites we will visit, you could spend days investigating and learning about our biblical roots and our past. But we would miss seeing, touching, smelling, and hearing other sites. That

one “extra” photo, “quick” purchase can cause the entire group to be late to the next event. Please use good judgment in your walk through the Holy Land, keeping the “Group” as a higher priority than your individual desires. Consider first how your choices may affect the group. The clock is our taskmaster.

Sites, Cameras, and Pictures: Set your cameras for the date and time in Israel. This will help you later if you decide to make a photo album of where you were. You can also take the first picture of the entrance sign to help. I would also suggest bringing a small note pad for jotting down notes throughout your trip.

Burps = Forrest Gump said it best ... “Stuff Happens”. No amount of planning will eliminate every bump in the road. So when a burp happens ... and it will, let Darya, Sid and myself handle it. I assure you that we want to make this the absolute best traveling and learning experience you will ever have. We will make the best decision we can for the group as a whole to rectify the problem. Please relax and remain calm, let the stress fall upon my shoulders.

Bathrooms ... never miss an opportunity to relieve undue stress on your body. However, be quick about it. We have more events on the schedule than normal tours. Which means we must be efficient and effective getting on and off the bus, bathroom breaks, and our walks. Sometime we will come across single stall bathrooms. In this case, typically men are faster ... enough said on that ... but when all the men are done, have two men stand guard and let the ladies use the men’s bathroom. We are going to Israel to see the holy sites and tour the land ... not their bathrooms. Efficient teamwork is critical.

Final Words = This is a learning tour. It is meant to provide as much learning as possible. Darya will be teaching as much as 8 to 10 hours a day. Even on the bus, talks will continue using the bus microphone at every spare moment. It is recommended you have a pen and notebook with you at all times. Obviously 44 sheep in the wilderness can get a bit “smelly” at times (physically and mentally). Remember we are people of faith. Be kind to each other.

We are privileged to have a guide who has already sacrificially and tirelessly sought to create and prepare the absolutely best experiences you can have. She will amaze you with endless knowledge and details. She will constantly ask you if there are any questions. Please keep questions and comments to what is being taught. Try to avoid tangents, inconsequential tiny details, and ask yourself if the question embellishes the direction of the teacher and builds on it so it is mutually beneficial to all to hear. On the other hand, absolutely do NOT be silent if you have an honest question that requires further explanation.