

WELCOMING
INTERNATIONALS

playbook

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chapter one

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Why Reach Internationals

article from reachinginternationals.com

One of the great challenges for Christian missions in the 21st century is how to reach the world's leaders. This is especially difficult when one considers the large number of countries that are currently closed to missionaries.

God, in His infinite wisdom, has provided an amazing opportunity to reach the future and present leaders of these nations. God has sent hundreds of thousands of international students from many lands to study right here in the U.S. Many of these students come from the most influential families of their countries.

Imagine what an impact these internationals could have on their countries:

- Christian judges could potentially stop persecution.
- Christian business persons could pay a livable wage for the desperately poor, lifting many out of abject poverty.
- Christian politicians could fight against injustice and bring social reform.

Most importantly, all could bring the gospel back to their home countries and share the great news of Christ with those who may otherwise never have an opportunity to hear!

Some years ago, Mark Rentz offered an insight to the readers of Newsweek that is even more true today. "What a great irony it is," wrote Rentz, "...that we alienate on our own soil the citizens of nations we journey great lengths to influence... The next wave of world leaders is here. Influence the world; go out and make a foreign friend" (Newsweek, "Diplomats in Our Backyard," 2/16/87, p. 10).

Newsweek is not the only publication that has recognized the tremendous poten-

tial of internationals studying in our land. Here's what the Washington Times said about the future impact of Mainland Chinese who study in America. "Never before in human history have so many young talents, coming from one country in ever increasing numbers, studies in another. Can this unprecedented phenomenon pass through history without notable impact?" (Washington Times, "China's Future Molded at U.S. Colleges," Chong-Pin Lin, 2/17/95, p. A18).

That there will be a notable impact is not the question. But what will that impact be? Will it merely be more secularization of the world with the babble of Western media? Or will it be a great influence for the life-changing message of our Lord and Savior? We do not know how long this door to the world will stay open. We must act now to reach these students with the love of Christ.

Aliens Have Landed!

written by Dan Waterman

What are we going to do about it?

Aliens have invaded the United States! Millions respond with complete apathy. This could very well be a headline of the newspapers in most of the major cities in the United States.

The aliens we are talking about do not have pointy ears and green skin. Often, though, they are treated as if they do. These aliens are the thousands of immigrants, international students, and refugees the USA receives each year. They are lonely, scared, yet excited and longing to fit into this culture so new to them. Many of the countries they come from place hospitality as one of their highest values, and as for hospitality to foreigners, it goes with saying—it is essential.

Our Biblical Responsibility

You can imagine their surprise when they arrive in a country like the United States and instead of being treated as visiting royalty, they are ridiculed, insulted, or even worse, ignored.

Even as Christians, we are often guilty of the very ones who are ignoring the aliens in our land. This goes directly against very clear commands from God in the Bible: "When the alien lives in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were

aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:33–34).

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are alien, for you yourself were aliens in Egypt" (Deut. 10:18–19).

What is Wrong?

I have spoken across Canada challenging people to go as missionaries overseas. Inevitably someone will stand up and say quite smugly, "Doesn't missions begin in our own backyard?" To his surprise, I often shout a loud "Amen!" and say, "Yes, let's begin with those God directed us not to ignore: the widows, the orphans, the aliens (immigrants, refugees, international students), the homeless, the hungry, and the prisoners."

If there was uncomfortable shifting in the seats, the room now sounds like a game of musical chairs. Why the guilt? Because there are no excuses. They are in our backyards and we are accountable to God for them. Regretfully, we live in an age when we can piously give to the building fund, sit on a committee for evangelism, and sing in the choir, while ignoring our Pakistani neighbor. There are literally thousands of alienated people waiting for some genuine love and concern.

The Story of Tim

Here is one example from my experience. One day, while at the University of Alberta, a friend and I decided to go sharing the gospel with some people on campus. We sat down with a young man from Hong Kong named Tim. As the conversation continued, Tim broke into tears.

Sobbing, he told us how glad he was to talk to us. We were the first Canadians that had ever talked to him—he had been in the country two years. Sure, he has talked his professors and to store owners and salesman, but were the first ones to talk to him who were not already so obliged.

I went and visited Tim's home, if you could call it that. It was a room the size of our washroom. A mattress on bare cement, a dresser, a hot plate, and a television were all it contained. There were several other Chinese students in the basement who shared his toilet facilities. Tim was not a person given to weeping, but he cried again when we had him over for Christmas dinner. He was so glad to be there! He tried a knife and a fork for the first time, and did a good job. Not only did he enjoy himself, but it was one of the best Christmases our family ever experienced.

Tim also became part of the Bible study I was leading on campus that year. He and Lu, a Ph.D. student from Burma, never missed a study. I often wonder how many international students go home every year without meeting an American who really wanted to talk to them and how many go home without hearing the name of Jesus.

"Amen, brother! Missions does being in our own backyard!" The question is, do you even see the backyard around you?

RESOURCES

1. [International Students Inc. \(ISI\)](#). This organization trains Americans to meet the needs of international students. Their website has a vast amount of resources to get you started. Here's some answers to basic questions people often have when starting to reach out to international students: [Seven Questions on Getting Involved in Internationals Ministry](#).
2. [The World at Your Door](#) by Tom Phillips, W. Terry Whalin, and Bob Norsworthy. This book has practical advice on welcoming internationals.
3. [An Overview on the 5 Major World Religions](#).

TIPS

1. Don't do it alone. Always do this in community. Internationals need to see Christ-centered fellowship, relationships, friendships, etc. (Luke 10:2)
2. Be in prayer, asking God to help you find and grow your new relationships.

2 chapter two

GETTING OUT THERE

Ways to Meet International Students

from reachinginternationals.com

It's usually very easy to meet international students and visiting scholars on your the university campus. Some of these ideas are quite simple and others require more planning. As always, under gird all of your efforts with prayer and realize that the key to meeting people is to be willing to take the initiative. Some new international students are more reserved than we might expect. Don't simply wait for internationals to come to you—step out of your comfort zone and go to them!

Here are 10 ideas to help you get started:

Pick students up at the airport.

If the university's international student office is willing to accept your help, offer to pick up new international students at the airport and bring them to campus. You can also contact international student clubs on campus (most are organized according to nationality or continental grouping) and volunteer to help transport new students from the airport. You might also be able to provide temporary housing in Christians' homes. (Be sure to give these hosts a list of tips on the best ways to show hospitality to internationals.)

Set up a campus welcome table.

At the beginning of the year, set up a welcome table in some high-traffic area on campus, complete with a banner that says something like, "Welcome New International Students." At this table, offer a free gift bag to all international students including such items as: post-it notes, a pen, a mechanical pencil, a Bible, a granola bar, an invitation to your weekly meeting, a local map, etc. Ask those who stop by your table if they would be willing to fill out a simple registration form to learn about activities you are sponsoring during the year.

Sponsor a welcome picnic or welcome dinner for new international students.

To publicize your event, put up fliers around campus and provide some to friends who can invite new internationals—for instance, faculty members and/or internationals you know from the past. At your event, be sure to use contact cards or a sign-up sheet to help you contact people in the future.

Watch for university-sponsored welcome events that are open to the public.

Many schools sponsor welcome events for the very purpose of encouraging the public to meet new international students.

Attend activities being sponsored by various international student clubs on campus.

Find them by watching the campus newspaper and checking websites (visit your university's Student Organization website). Go alone or take along a friend and see who you are able to meet!

Sponsor a weekly conversation club.

Start a "Coffee House" on campus (or off-campus) where international students can practice speaking English with Americans. This will require a core group of Americans who are committed to taking part each week.

Help an international student get around.

If you see someone who looks lost and you think the person may be an international student, walk up and say, "Can I help you find your way?" (This is especially appropriate during the early weeks of a school year.) If possible, don't just give directions, but walk the person to his or her destination.

Offer to be a language partner.

Many schools offer programs that match internationals with Americans for the purpose of helping the international to practice speaking English. This can be a very rewarding activity, but it is also one that may require a long-term commitment (at least a semester), though generally the time commitment per week is quite short (1 or 2 hours per week). If your school does not have a program like this, check whether or not your city has an English Language Institute.

Be a friend.

This may seem obvious, but whether or not you live on-campus, simply stop by the rooms of international students and introduce yourself. Express genuine interest in their countries; let them tell you why they came to study in the U.S., and spend some time getting to know them. And when you visit the dining hall, keep an eye open for students who are sitting alone. Many who are eating alone are international students who would enjoy some company.

Learn to play ping-pong, badminton or cricket.

These are among the sports that, depending on their nationality, many international students enjoy. If you can find a location where internationals play these sports, it is likely they will enjoy having you learn and play along with them. If your campus has an international dorm or an on-campus recreation center, these would be good places to begin looking.

RESOURCES

1. [Operation World](http://operationworld.org). Operation World's website (operationworld.org) has great information about every country in the world and how to specifically pray for them. They also have a book you can purchase.
2. [6 Ways — Welcome](#). This video shares examples of others reaching out to Internationals.
3. [International Conversation Cafe](#). Helpful discussion guides for helping students learning English outside a classroom.

TIPS

Once you've met an international student, get to know them. Genuine friendships with international students will be the best way to transition into sharing the gospel with them. Make a simple goal for yourself as you begin your friendship with an international student: find out three things about them as a person.

Some simple questions to ask them could be:

Why are you in America?

What country are you from?

What is your field of study or occupation?

**More questions in the following chapter!*

Before you spend time with them again, take what you've discovered about them and learn a little about it! Visit Operation World's website to learn about their country. This will show them you care and also help you to ask them better questions.

3 Chapter three

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Your Best Tool: Questions

written by Rebecca Martin, [The Traveling Team](#)

Beginning a friendship with an international student is really the same as beginning a friendship with an American. Internationals, just like Americans will know whether or not you genuinely want to be their friend, or if you are simply viewing them as some sort of “project.” Remember that our God is a relational God. He values relationships! John reminds us that, “We love because he [God] first loved us... And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” (1 John 4:19,21 ESV) With this in mind, loving your new international friends is essential.

One of the best ways to learn and care about your new friend is to ask them intentional questions. Be willing to listen and learn about their religion and beliefs. Ask them questions about their home country and their families. Ask them what they enjoyed doing in their free time back home. Ask them what made them decide to study in America. Ask them what they like about America, what they don't understand about America, and what they want to do while they're in America. Learn about them as people!

As you ask them questions and learn about them, they will also ask you similar questions. If you take the initiative to ask about an international student's religious beliefs, culture and interests, this will open up the same sorts of conversations on your end and may be a great bridge of mutual “sharing” of what your beliefs are.

As you begin to really learn about your new friend, you will be establishing a relationship that is more than just surface level. This is really learning about the person, from the inside out, knowing their heart, and understanding their thinking and culture. This is the point at which you can begin to have a real influence on them. Trust will begin to be built and your friend will feel accepted and less like an outsider.

Taking the time to develop this type of a relationship will pay rich dividends. In many cultures, trust is built slowly over time. By allowing for such a process of trust-building, you will increase the eventual likelihood of developing quality and quantity in your ministry.

RESOURCES

1. Intentional Questions to ask:

Culture

- What do you like to do for fun at home?
- What is “cool” in your country right now?
- What is the weather like in your country?
- What are the schools like?
- What is eating out in your country like?
- What are your favorite restaurants?
- What is transportation like?
- How involved are people in government?
- Is it more expensive to live in America or in your country?
- How do people greet each other in your country?
- What is it like getting a job in your country?

Religion

- Is religion/spirituality important in your country?
- How often do you go to your religious center? (Mosque, temple, etc.)
- How is your religion involved in your every day life? (Reading a holy book, prayer, worship, etc)
- What has been your experience with Christians before?

Family

- What is a normal family size in your country?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters? How close are you with them?
- What is your home like?
- What is marriage like in your country?
- What is love?
- How involved are your parents in your every day life?
- How has it been trying to stay in touch with your family?

Other

- What do you miss about home?
- What are some things you really want to do while you’re in America?
- What made you want to study in America?
- What are your impressions of America and Americans?
- What is the hardest part of living in America for you?
- What surprised you the most about coming to America?

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chapter four

CULTURAL CONTEXTS

'Merican Culture

written by Tanner Callison, [The Traveling Team](#)

America: land of the free, home of the brave, and a temporary home for many international college students.

If someone asked you to quickly sum up of all of American culture in a few sentences, could you? It's not an easy task. When it comes to explaining something as complex as culture, maybe it is just better to experience it! Think about it. When someone is trying to learn another language there is only so much that a book can teach. The best way to truly learn a language is to go out and just do it. Now, I promise that this is not a Nike commercial, it is something much better, much more fun, and can have eternal results.

When your friends begin to ask questions about America, just show them! Take them to a sporting event. Take them to your family's home. Take them Black Friday shopping! It would be much too difficult to try and explain football with words and a pen. Instead, why not take them to a football game and let them see for themselves! (Side note: most people will think you are talking about soccer when you say football.)

Explaining America is a much easier task when you understand the context from which the other person is coming from. So, when your new friend is asking you about America, you can also use that as an opportunity to ask them what things would be like in their home country. It is an exciting and fun exchange to see how things differ from one part of the world to another.

Story

One day I was walking around campus and I saw a guy who looked like a fish out of water. As I walked past this guy he seemed to want something, but he didn't speak up, so I continued walking. A couple of minutes later, when I was close to my car,

I turned back and saw that this guy had given up walking and had just sat down on the curb. So, I pulled up, asked him if he needed help and he explained that he needed a ride to his apartment. He had taken the wrong bus and was completely lost in a town that he had been in for less than ten days.

This was the start of a great friendship. As I got to know this guy I found out that he was a language student from Saudi Arabia and came to my town to learn English. He was bewildered to know how much I knew about his people, and was astounded when I applied what I had learned in the classroom and began to chat with him in Arabic.

As our friendship developed, I got to teach him about America by taking him shopping at Wal-Mart and the mall. Going on errands with him like this were great ways to help him out with his physical needs, teach him about America, and develop a mutual trust and friendship.

My friend and I continued to grow close and he even came home with me for Easter. This was a great opportunity to show what an American family is like and how holidays are celebrated. Easter was also a great time to explain the holiday and the significance it had in my life! Jesus was risen!

Closing

Simply put, when it comes to teaching international friends about America and helping them, just treat these friends as true friends! If they are your friends, then out of the overflow of your heart you will help them understand the culture in which they now live by taking them to fun events, giving them a ride, and letting them meet your family! The opportunity to talk about Christ travels best along the lines of friendship.

RESOURCES

1. [Typical Experience of an International Student](http://reachinginternationals.com) (article from reachinginternationals.com).

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chapter five

LET THE PARTY BEGIN!

International Welcome Party

adapted from an article on reachinginternationals.com
and a resource by Launch Global

One great way to develop relationships with internationals is by spending quality time with them in relaxed social situations like parties and dinners. This will allow you to develop and cultivate better friendships with your new international friends.

There are two main types of parties you could host with international students. One would be something called a Matthew Party, which would have the primary purpose of spending social time with lost friends. Another option for a party would be one that has a clear, spiritual purpose.

Matthew Party

A Matthew Party is an event where you can invite your lost friends and allow them to experience the difference in a community of believers. It is important that you are not outnumbered, because seeing Christ-centered community in action is the goal behind this gathering. A Matthew Party can be a dinner, a game night, bowling, ice skating, some sort of cultural activity, etc. The important thing is allowing your lost friends to spend time with a group of believers.

Matthew Parties are based off of Jesus' own ministry, as found in Luke 5:29-32.

“And Levi [Matthew] made him [Jesus] a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’ And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

Spiritual Gatherings

Another good type of party to host would be one that has a clear, spiritual purpose. You could bring in a guest speaker, or present the spiritual topic yourself. Topics could include, “The True Meaning of Christmas” which could be coupled with a Christmas themed party, or “My Faith Journey” which could fit in well with a birthday party.

In these situations, your international and lost friends should know in advance that the evening will include some significant spiritual content. For example, you can simply explain that you would like for them to attend a Christmas party where they will experience American cultural habits surrounding Christmas, as well as have the opportunity to hear what Christians believe about Christmas.

Regardless of the goal of your event, whether it is cultivating friendships or exposing your friends to a Christian witness, be sure to bathe the time in prayer and try to help people have fun!

RESOURCES

1. [Full article on throwing dinners and parties](#). This includes practical considerations when hosting a Matthew party.
2. [The Jesus Film](#). There are several videos about Jesus on this website that might compliment your party well. They are also translated into many languages across the world so that you can share with your international friends in their own language. There's also a Jesus Film app you can download for your smart phone!
3. [Henna Party](#). A great way to mobilize your Christian friends. Throw a party where you can learn to make henna and then use it to share the gospel!

6 chapter six

SHOW ME

Entering Their World

article from reachinginternationals.com

Put yourself in their shoes. When was the last time you felt like an “outsider”? When a new group that you somehow entered would not accept you or allow you into their inner circle? You likely experienced this a few times as a child or a teenager—especially if you moved to a new school where the relationships were already developed and the friendship lines were already drawn.

Most of us hated the feelings that accompanied that situation. We felt lonely, fearful, and disapproved of by the very ones we needed to accept us—our peers. Those were awkward and difficult days.

Your international friend is probably going through similar emotions and thoughts as they feel like the outsider on your campus. They are from another country, and are comfortable with a different lifestyle and culture. You, as their friend, can help them with this!

Commit now to intentionally accepting cultural differences that do not contradict God’s ways. As with friends in your own culture, you can appreciate an international’s thinking as valid yet perhaps imperfect. Such imperfection does not necessarily make it wrong. Commit also to taking the role of a learner or servant. Choose to learn others’ customs and beliefs, and to be a servant to meet the needs of Internationals.

One of the best ways you can learn and serve them simultaneously is by asking your international friend to show you things that are completely normal to them. Ask your friend to cook food from their country for you one night. You might need to take them to buy ingredients they might need. Or, ask them if they would like to go to a restaurant that serves the type of food they eat in their country. Be bold and ask them to order for you! After all, the locals always know what’s best!

Some campuses may have clubs for different international groups. These groups often put on shows during important festivals or holidays of their home countries. Ask if you can learn the dances or other types of productions they will showcase. And then ask if you can perform with them! You will strengthen your friendship while also embracing their culture, and they will love you for it!

You could also have your friend suggest a book from their country that has been translated into English and discuss it. This could be especially helpful if your international friend wants to practice speaking or reading English.

You could also go to watch or play in a game of a sport that is popular in your friend's country. The opportunities are vast!

As you allow your international friend to share their culture with you, your friendship will grow. For a moment, your international friend will feel less like an outsider. Instead, as you are sitting on the floor, eating with your hands a meal you've never even heard of, you will become the outsider. And because you have committed to being a learner and a servant, you will be totally OK with that! And your friend will love that they get to share a piece of who they are with you!

RESOURCES

1. [Foreign to Familiar](#) by Sarah Lanier. This book talks about the differences in cultures across the world, including individualism vs. collectivism, hospitality, and privacy. The author shares her own experiences abroad, pointing out some of the subtle, but important, cultural values behind people's actions. This is a really helpful book in being more understanding and sensitive to cultural differences of people from other countries.

2. [The Compact Guide to World Religions](#) by Dean Halverson. Great book on the major world religions, helping you to better understand what your foreign friends believe while also helping you see the difference between their religious beliefs and Christianity. Also a great resource to help you better share Christ with others!

7 chapter seven

SPEAKING OF JESUS

Initiating Conversations to Share Christ

article from reachinginternationals.com

Discussions about styles of outreach tend to be a waste of time. Many turn into disputes between two opposites. Matt, a supporter of “friendship evangelism,” pushes the idea that “we must earn the right to share the gospel by building a relationship with a non-Christian.” To him, any other approach is insensitive. But his friend Jenna claims that “friendship evangelism is too slow and is actually deceitful.”

Who’s right in this debate? Probably both Matt and Jenna are right...and both are wrong. But neither approach—in its extreme form—is biblical. We believe there is an unnecessary divide between “friendship evangelism” and “initiative evangelism.”

Most experienced in ministry agree, the ideal form of evangelism—especially in ministry to internationals—is initiative evangelism that is combined with warmth and friendship:

- International students are intelligent and perceptive. Even if you don’t declare your faith, they will pick up certain cues from your values and speech. Don’t hide your faith.
- But don’t feel that you must emphasize your faith in your first interaction. To do so would be counter to social norms for talking with someone you just met. Instead, build common ground as you talk about each other’s families, interests and work. Check out Jesus’ interaction with the woman at the well in John 4. Notice that he began the conversation by asking for a drink of water.
- Many Chinese and Japanese are relatively open to discuss Christian faith while Muslims or Hindus may be cautious or even distrustful. Your friend’s cultural background may affect the degree to which you can share spiritual truth early in the relationship.

- Avoid talking only about the gospel. Non-Christian internationals need to see that you are a well-rounded person with a variety of interests. And they need to see how your faith influences your overall life.
- Remember that internationals have many needs. You can't discover these needs or meet them if you never talk about things beyond the gospel.
- When you do talk about the gospel, interact with respect and warmth. You probably won't see much impact if you talk in a "preachy" manner—dominating the conversation and speaking too forcefully.

Build a friendship that is unconditional. You will probably spend more time with internationals that place faith in Christ than those who have not yet done so. But never choose to end a friendship with someone because he or she has not yet believed.

Spiritual Conversations

With these tips in mind, consider the importance of spiritual conversations. Talking about spiritual things is an effective way in which to begin the transition between a normal conversation and sharing the gospel with your international friend. The goal of spiritual conversations should be to gauge your friend's spiritual interests, convictions, and their knowledge of Jesus.

Transitioning into spiritual conversations can be as simple as asking questions to learn about their religious beliefs and convictions. As you discuss your friend's religious views and interests, your religious beliefs will naturally come up as well. You can also discuss questions and misconceptions about Christianity or their religion. Be sure not to get into arguments, rather take a learner's approach and kindly explain why you believe what you believe.

People's religion or beliefs are often the closest things to their heart. They will talk about it, as long as an attitude of tact and interest is present. As you learn about your friend's religion, retain what you are learning. Recalling their religious beliefs and discussing them with grace will show your friend that you really do care about them as a person.

RESOURCES

1. [Understanding My Friend's Worldview](#). This article is a good resource to understanding more about worldviews, including our own, which will help aid in sharing about Jesus.

8 Chapter eight

IN THE WORD TOGETHER

Simplified Bible Study

written by Rebecca Martin, [The Traveling Team](#)
and adapted from a resource by [Launch Global](#)

One of the most strategic ways to share the gospel with an international student is by reading the Bible with them or doing a Bible study with them. For many international students, this will be their first exposure to the Bible or the truth about Jesus.

As you have spiritual conversations with your international friend, Jesus and the Bible will naturally come up. Mention to your friend that you would like to teach them more about Jesus, or read through part of the Bible if they would be interested. If they say yes, follow up with them by setting up a time to do a simplified Bible study.

Simplified Bible studies or the Discovery Bible Study Method are simple ways to introduce international students to the Bible, get them reading the Bible, and discussing their questions and thoughts about what they have read. This form of studying the Bible works very well in one-to-one settings as well as in small groups.

A simplified Bible study puts a great emphasis on the passage of scripture, rather than on a lot of extra content and questions. This form of Bible study introduces the participants to the truths of the Bible and focuses on scripture rather than human opinion. You and your international friend will read a passage of scripture together and then you will lead them through a discussion involving observations and questions about the passage.

How to Lead a Simplified Bible Study — Outline

The following is an outline for how you can lead a small group in a Simplified Bible Study. But, if you are having a Simplified Bible Study with just one of your international friends, that is fine too!

Here's what it can look like:

1. Ask the group: What are you thankful for, and what has stressed you out this week? (Have everyone share.)

Say: Let's see what the Bible teaches us today.

Read through the passage two times.

2. Ask for someone to retell the passage in their own words, as if they were going to tell a friend who was not there.
3. Ask the group whether or not they agreed with the person's retelling. Was there anything they added that maybe shouldn't have been?

As long as the group doesn't miss a key part of the passage, continue. If they miss something, read the passage again. If someone says something that isn't in the passage, ask them, "Where did you find [what they said] in this passage?"

Reread the passage if necessary.

4. Ask: What does this passage teach us about God? (Have multiple people share.)
5. Ask: What does this passage teach us about people? (Have multiple people share.)
6. Ask: If we believe this passage is from God, how must we change? (Have everyone share.) This should be something very specific that you can say "yes" or "no" to during your next small group meeting, in order to give them accountability.
7. Ask: who are you going to share this with before we meet again? (Have everyone share.)

During the beginning of your next small group, ask accountability questions:

1. Did you do what you said you would do this past week?
2. Did you share with the people you said you would share with this past week?
3. Before we read the next passage, can someone retell the passage from last week?

From Creation to Christ: Guided Discovery Bible Study Reference List

<u>Genesis 1:1-25</u>	<u>The Creation Story: God Created the World</u>
<u>Genesis 2:4-24</u>	<u>The Creation Story: The Creation of Man</u>

Genesis 3:1-13	The Fall: The First Sin and Judgment
Genesis 3:14-24	The Fall: Judgment of a Sinful World
Genesis 6:1-9:17	The Fall: The Flood
Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6	Redemption: God's Promise to Abram
Genesis 22:1-19	Redemption: Abraham Offers Isaac as a Sacrifice
Exodus 12:1-28	Redemption: The Promise of a Passover
Exodus 20:1-21	Redemption: The Ten Commandments
Leviticus 4:1-35	Redemption: The Sacrificial System
Isaiah 53	Redemption: Isaiah Foreshadows the Coming Promise
Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20	Redemption: The Birth of Jesus
Matthew 3, John 1:29-34	Redemption: Jesus is Baptized
Matthew 4:1-11	Redemption: The Temptation of Christ
John 3:1-21	Redemption: Jesus and Nicodemus
John 4:1-26, 39-42	Redemption: Jesus and the Woman at the Well
Luke 5:17-26	Redemption: Jesus Forgives and Heals
Mark 4:35-41	Redemption: Jesus Calms the Storm
Mark 5:1-20	Redemption: Jesus Casts Out Evil Spirits
John 11:1-44	Redemption: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the dead
Matthew 26:26-30	Redemption: The First Lord's Supper
John 18:1-19:16	Redemption: Jesus Is Betrayed & Condemned
Luke 23:32-56	Redemption: Jesus is Crucified
Luke 24:1-35	Redemption: Jesus Conquers Death
Luke 24:36-53	Redemption: Jesus Appears and Ascends
John 3:1-21	Redemption: We have a Choice

RESOURCES

1. [Bibles in Other Languages](#) from Biblica. It might be helpful to print out an English version of what you are reading and also a print out of their own language.
2. [The Hope Video](#). A chronological overview of God's redemptive story from Genesis to Revelation. You can watch this video together as you go through the scriptures, breaking it up by watching the chapters corresponding to what you are reading or simply watch from beginning to end. This video is also available in multiple languages and can be watched online or purchased.

9 chapter nine

GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Evangelism

adapted from an article by Mark Driscoll

Evangelism is the speaking and showing of the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to people who do not yet know Him. Evangelism is the natural overflow of a life lived in joy as a worshiper of God. Sadly, evangelism is often portrayed as something that Christians must do as a duty, rather than something that they get to do as a delight.

As Christians, our love for Jesus and people should cause us to delight in speaking and showing the transforming power of Jesus' grace at every opportunity.

Regarding evangelism, it is Jesus Himself who set an example for us as The Evangelist. In Luke 19:10, Jesus explained His earthly mission in evangelistic terms saying, "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." In calling His first disciples, "He said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!'" (Matthew 4:19). Among His final words after the resurrection and just prior to His heavenly ascension, we read in Matthew 28:18-20, "Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" Therefore as we "go" to work, school, the grocery store, and elsewhere, we are to assume that Jesus is always with us, preparing people to hear the gospel because His work of evangelism has not ceased, but has expanded to include us.

Evangelism and Welcoming Internationals.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Romans 10:14)

Your international friends will never become believers of Jesus if they never have an opportunity to hear the gospel. As their friend, you have the great joy and privilege to share the gospel with them. This is the best news that your friend could ever hear, and you get to share it with them!

There are many ways to share the gospel. You can share your personal testimony with your friend, explaining how God changed your life when you repented and decided to follow Jesus. Your story is true, unique, and powerful! Your story can easily show the basics of the gospel: God is perfectly holy, sin separates man from God, Jesus died for man's sin; anyone who believes, turns from their sinful nature, and trusts Jesus as their only God can be reconciled to God through Jesus' sacrifice. Show your friend how each of these truths is incorporated into your story. This will make the gospel personal as well as make it come alive to your friend.

Another way to share the gospel would be through the use of a tool such as the [Four Spiritual Laws](#) or the [Bridge](#). You can share scriptures with your friend. You can simply share the gospel verbally during a conversation.

After you have shared the gospel with your friend, it's time to present them with a decision opportunity. This simply means being bold and asking them if they want to place their trust and follow Jesus as their only God. This can seem really awkward, especially because once you ask your friend, you need to stay quiet and give them time to respond. But, as awkward as it seems, this is when the Holy Spirit will really work! You've done your part. You've shared the gospel and asked your friend if they want to accept it. Now, you just have to trust the Holy Spirit to work and transform your friend's life.

After sharing the gospel with your friend, continue to be their friend regardless of what they say. If they reject the gospel, that's OK! Continue to love them, and you will probably get to share with them again in the future. Keep praying for them! God is mighty and the Holy Spirit can transform their life! If they say yes, that's great! Continue to love them and help them to begin their growth as a believer in Jesus! Keep praying for them as they begin their journey in following Jesus.

RESOURCES

1. [The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus](#). This book explains all the major themes of God's Word from beginning to end. You can find it in a variety of languages.
2. [All that the Prophets have Spoken](#). This book takes a look at the Word of God from the perspective of a Muslim reader. With an awareness of what Muslims believe about key prophets, the book examines what the Scriptures say about these men and connects them with the core message of the Bible.

10 Chapter ten

DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual Disciplines

written by Rebecca Martin, [The Traveling Team](#)

Your international friend has become a believer! Praise the Lord! Now what?

Just like any new believer, your international friend needs guidance and assistance in what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This means that they need discipleship and to learn how to implement the basic spiritual disciplines into their lives. Your friend has gone from being dead in their sins to being made into a new creation through the grace of God, the sacrifice of Jesus, and the regenerate work of the Holy Spirit. As a new creation, they are at the start of a journey of spiritual growth. Through discipling them, you will be able to help your friend to grow spiritually, learn to love Jesus more, and take ownership of their Christian life.

The following is a good starting point for helping your international friend learn to implement spiritual disciplines into their lives. Talk through these basic spiritual disciplines, and make specific goals with them regarding how they can implement each into their lives!

Making Christ Central to Life

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17) As a new creation, making Christ central to your life is an act of your will. God creates within you the desire to do what he wants you to do in order to express his lordship in your life. Some acts of God are internal. Even these internal acts of obedience such as attitudes, habits, motives, senses of values, and day-to-day thoughts, will eventually reveal themselves in relationships with other people. The proof of your love for God is demonstrated in your obedience to Him.

How You Relate to God (The Word and Prayer)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

As God speaks to you through the Scriptures, you can see his principles for life and ministry, learn how to obey, and become acquainted with the Christ who is worthy of your unqualified allegiance. A vital personal intake of God's Word is essential for health and growth.

Spending quiet time alone with God and his word regularly will allow you to grow in this area. Reading the Word, meditating on what it says and what it means for you, and memorizing the Word will allow you to not only spend time in the presence of God, but will allow you to, "grow up into salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:7) Prayer is a natural response to God as you hear Him speak to you through His Word. It is sharing your heart with the One who longs for your companionship and who cares about your concerns. Prayer unleashes the power of God in your personal battles and in the lives of those for whom you pray.

How You Relate to Others (Fellowship and Witnessing)

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Learning from and encouraging others creates a chemistry pleasing to God. God has directed Christians to build each other up through interdependence and loving relationships with each other. Gathering together for corporate worship, small group Bible studies, and one-to-one discipleship are practical ways in which to engage in fellowship.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

The natural overflow of a rich and vibrant life in Christ should be sharing with others how they too can have this life. God has given believers the privilege and responsibility of reaching the world with the Good News of Christ.

RESOURCES

1. [31 Day Challenge](#). Student Mobilization's 31-day personal quiet time guide.
2. [B90X](#). Student Mobilization's 9-week personal quiet time guide.
3. [Guidelines on Prayer](#). Student Mobilization's 20-verse guide on how to pray.

11 chapter eleven

REPRODUCING

Sharing Their Faith

written by Rebecca Martin, [The Traveling Team](#)

Your international friends who become believers will be just like your American friends—they will be hesitant to share the gospel at first. You have the unique opportunity to help them to grow in this area of their Christian walk! Remember, it is a process to grow in boldness and evangelism.

Train Them

The first thing you should do with your friend is train them in how to practically share the gospel. Begin by walking through scriptures to lay a Biblical foundation for why believers share the gospel (Bible study on evangelism, link in resources).

Next, walk through a tool with your friend that will enable them to clearly share the gospel with anyone. We recommend using The Bridge illustration. The best way for your friend to learn The Bridge is by copying the illustration as you share it with them. Then, have them share it with you to get immediate practice.

Model for Them

Evidence of conviction for evangelism, accompanied by application of this conviction in your life is one of the best motivators for your friend to also gain a heart for evangelism. Show your friend that evangelism is a regular part of your Christian life by bringing them with you when you go to share the gospel. People do what people see!

Allow your friend to observe you sharing the gospel. You don't have to pressure your friend into sharing yet—just let them watch. Allow them to observe you sharing the gospel with another international if possible.

Accompany Them

Now it's their turn! Go with your friend while they share the gospel! Observe them as they share the gospel with a friend and encourage them. But, don't take over for them. It's normal to have a little bit of trouble the first time sharing the gospel. But, let them work through it. This will allow them to gain more confidence for a later time, and will prepare them to share the gospel when you are not with them.

After they share, encourage them by pointing out specific things that they did well while sharing the gospel. Then, constructively point out a few ways in which they can improve. Then, encourage them again. You want them to want to continue to share the gospel!

RESOURCES

1. [The Fishless Fisherman](#). A short video parable on evangelism by Living Waters.
2. [How to Share the Bridge](#). An article from [Student Mobilization](#) on how to share the gospel with a simple illustration.
3. [Bible Study on Evangelism](#). An article from [Student Mobilization](#) to help Christians have a better understanding of evangelism.

12 Chapter twelve

MOBILIZE THEM

Every World Christian a Mobilizer

written by Todd Ahrend, [The Traveling Team](#)

In the airport in Dubai, on our way back from a trip through the Middle East, my wife and I had a short but life-altering conversation. After seeing the needs overseas, we asked each other the question, *“Do we want to be the missionaries, or do we want to multiply the missionaries?”* In other words, what is the best and most strategic thing that we can do for the millions of unreached people of the world in this season of our life? We decided the investment we were making in mobilizing laborers for the world was the best place we could leverage our lives for the Great Commission.

“Christians need conversion to missions as much as a sinner needs conversion to Christ.” —A.T. Pierson

If I could be a student again, I would. It is one of the most strategic places I can think of. Students are the future of the Church. One of the most powerful things you might do for the evangelization of the world will happen during your time as a university student. You can be the difference maker at your campus; in turn your campus will be the difference maker in the Church, and the Church will be the difference maker in the world. You can be a mobilizer. Dr. Ralph Winter, founder of the U.S. Center for World Missions comments, "Here is a tragic fact: Only about one out of a hundred 'missionary decisions' results in actual career mission service. Why? First, because few parents, pastors and friends really encourage anyone to follow through on that kind of a decision. But what if that number could double to two out of a hundred? The effect would be explosive!"

Mentoring others and multiplying your life is a powerful way to invest your life. Some believe they can't make a difference because they may not have a large platform or ability to be a great communicator, but that is not the best way to impact the world. If you spoke to 100 people a day for 33 years, that would be over a million people

that you impacted. However If you mobilized one person every year and taught that person to do the same, doubling every year from 2, 4, 8, and so on; then after 33 years you would have mobilized over 6 billion people. In other words, the workers are plentiful, but the mobilizers are few!

Standing before a crowd of college students, Dr. Winter challenged them, saying, "Suppose I had a thousand college seniors in front of me who asked me where they ought to go to make a maximum contribution to Christ's global cause. What would I tell them? I would tell them to mobilize. All of them." How in the world can this former missionary say this with a straight face—trying to talk people into delaying becoming missionaries? Because the need to sound the alarm is so great. Wouldn't it be strategic to awaken one hundred sleeping firemen rather than to throw your own little bucket of water on the huge fire yourself? Some will go as pioneer missionaries. Still others will be able to stay back from the field and assist this entire U.S. mobilization process to succeed.

A mobilizer, in simplest terms, is one who multiplies, disciples, or mentors in missions.

Phil Parshall, missionary, author and mobilizer, said it this way, "Someone must sound the rallying call. Those who desire to see others trained, prepared and released to ministry are known as mobilizers. Mobilizers stir other Christians to active concern for reaching the world. Mobilizers are essential. To understand the role of mobilizers, think of World War II as a parallel. Only 10% of the American population went to the war. Of those, only 1% were actually on the firing lines. However, for them to be successful in their mission, the entire country had to be mobilized!"The Traveling Team has a vision to raise up mobilizers at every university, within every ministry. We are not calling students to join an organization but a movement and a vision.

Did you know that every major missions movement in history has been launched and fueled by university students? One student from Cornell University, John R. Mott, never served as a long term missionary, but became one of the greatest missions mobilizers in history. Mott led the movement known as the Student Volunteer Movement which lasted from the 1890s to the 1940s. They mobilized 100,000 students to give their lives to God's global cause. But it has always started small. Five students at Williams College sparked a similar movement in 1806. Seven student athletes from Cambridge traveled and mobilized thousands of students to go to China with Hudson Taylor. Peers influence peers. The potential of a few college students, who catch a vision to mobilize at their campus, has left a massive ripple effect in the world in the past. I think they will again in the future. If you were standing on the shore and saw a boat full of people sinking, what would you do to get involved? Would you dive in and try to save one or two? Or would you turn and awaken the sleeping lifeguards on the shore? The Traveling Team believes that the

campus is a potential launching pad for laborers for the harvest. What if God used you to awaken these hundreds of potential World Christians? The ripple effect of your mobilization could result in raising up numerous missionaries, launching them to the ends of the earth.

Every story has a catalyst character.

If that character is removed from the story, the ripple effect is devastating. What would the ripple effect be if you were missing from the story right now? Would it impact your campus or the world as a result of your absence? Jesus was the most influential catalyst character in our history. Jesus' ministry mainly took place within one hundred miles from his hometown, but he mobilized and equipped a few others, commissioned them with a charge to disciple all nations and to be his witness to the ends of the earth. Jesus was more of a mobilizer than we realize at times. Paul was clearly a pioneer missionary, but we see his heart to mobilize in the forefront of his mind in many of his letters to the churches. The letters to Ephesus, Galatia, and even Romans were heavily focused on God's plan to include the Gentiles in his offer of salvation. Paul called others to join him in ministering to the nations, giving them Biblical evidence from the Old Testament (Rom. 15:8-12) and giving them a look at the state of the unreached world (Rom. 15:19-24). Paul was involved in the discussion and decision of the Church in Acts 15 to become intentional about sending out missionaries to the nations. Paul was planting churches but he was mobilizing the entire Church to embrace God's purpose toward all peoples.

Not Location, but Lordship and Lifestyle

Mobilization is not about getting people to change their location, but about Lordship and a lifestyle that matches God's heart. You may already be in a great position to come along side others in your campus ministry or church as a servant and help be a catalyst for missions vision. We all know people who are still unconvinced or uninvolved and you can be a loving voice of truth, helping them catch the vision just like you did. Missions is like the "gospel" for Christians. What if in your Bible study you began to teach on the biblical theme of God's heart for the nations? What if in your church small group you began to lead a prayer time focused on the world? What if you volunteered to lead a two minute missions moment at your large group meeting each week? What if in your one-to-one time with other students you disciplined them through some of the material from The Traveling Team's website? What if you planned to go short-term to the unreached and invited four to five others to come with you one summer?

Habakkuk 2:2 says to "Write down the vision, make it plain, so that the herald may run with it." We have developed tools and resources on our website around making these missions concepts simple or "plain," so that you can herald it and run with it on your campus. This is our next step to challenge you. Will you take the baton and

run with it in mobilizing your peers? We want to provide you with tools, coaching and resources to pass on your missions vision to others. You are the hope of your campus; the campus is the hope of the Church, and the Church is the hope of the world. Ezra 7:10 says, “Ezra set in his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel.” Before you spread it out, you have to start living it out. You are never finished growing as a World Christian, but we want to help you develop so that you can lead others. The Traveling Team has developed three more steps to help you keep growing. We would love to coach you through 1) Learning more 2) Adding more laborers to the cause and 3) Multiplying your vision into another mobilizer.

RESOURCES

1. [World Vision Illustration](#). [The Traveling Team's](#) simple and easily transferable illustration used to cast world vision.
2. [Xplore Study](#). A 7-lesson Bible study from [The Center for Mission Mobilization](#). Useful for small groups or a one-on-one setting to grow world vision. Great for internationals.
3. [Think Home](#). A workbook by Lisa Espineli Chinn for international students before they return home published by [InterVarsity International Student Ministry](#).