

# THE ISM

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# VOLUNTEER GUIDE



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## **Navigators Mission Statement**

To advance the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.

## **Navigators International Student Ministry (ISM) Vision Statement**

To come alongside students from places where the gospel is hardly known, introducing them to Jesus. Teaching and equipping these new believers so that when they return home they can do the same. To support them as they spread the Good News among their families and friends, and embrace and encourage those they reach, leading to physical and spiritual generations of disciples.

## **International Friends**

We are a community for international students to connect, explore, lead & grow together.

## **Why do we reach the world?**

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

### **Galatians 3:7-9**

The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

### **John 3:16-17**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

And 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."

### **Revelation 7:9-10**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

## Why it matters: ISM Statistics

There are over 3.6 billion unreached people in the world today and 88% of them live in the 10/40 window in the 31 least reached countries. As Americans, we may think that most people have heard the gospel in some form or at least met a Christian, but that's not the case. Recent worldwide research found:

- An estimated 81% of all Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists worldwide do not know a Christian
- Asia is the most isolated continent with less than 20% of the more than 4.5 billion people claiming to know a Christian
- 50 of the largest unreached people groups live in 21 countries. At University of Alabama alone, 11 of these 21 countries are represented as college students here!

Dr. Tom Phillips (in *The World at Your Door*) says,

*"It is perhaps the most practical and strategic way for the average American to have a long-term impact on the unreached people of our world. Few American Christians will go to live in the 10/40 window countries, yet the majority of these Americans live within a few minutes of a student from the 10/40 window."*

# What can you do?

p  
r  
a  
y



# Developing your Impact Prayer List

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## Scripture Prayers

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” **Philippians 1:9-11**

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” **Colossians 4:2-6**

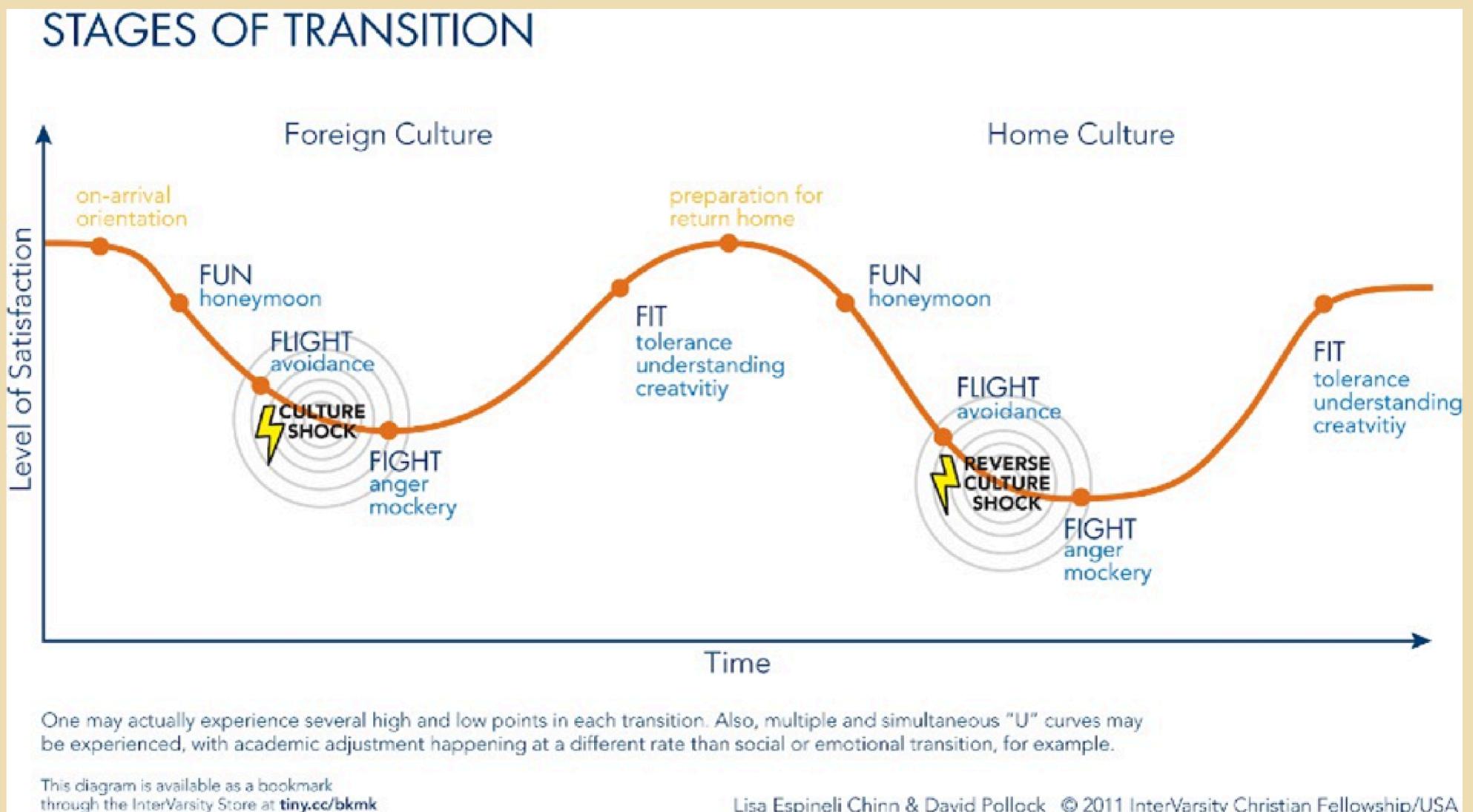
## Other Paul Prayers

- Ephesians 1:15-20; 3:14-21; 6:18-20
- Colossians 1:9-12
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 2:16-17; 3:1-5
- Philemon 4-6



# h o s p i t a l i t y

# Welcome through hospitality



## How can we help at each stage?

- Fun stage
- Flight stage
- Fight stage
- Fit stage

## How can we show hospitality to the students? (What are the needs of international students?)

- Physical/practical needs
- Social
- Emotional
- Spiritual

### **Other ways to show hospitality:**

- Ask their name, try to learn their preferred name
- Do some study on the country where they are from before you first meet
- Seek to serve generously & support their transition to USA/college

### **Four things to do when having students for a meal:**

- Be aware of dietary restrictions
- Serve cooked vegetables
- Buffet or potluck
- Explain table etiquette

### **Four things to keep in mind:**

- Fellowship over food is important
- Some cultures (Asian) make noise when they eat
- Some cultures eat with their hands (Africans and S. Americans)
- Dessert is not considered a necessary part of a meal in most other non-Western cultures.  
Fruit may be served as a part of the meal.



listen & learn



their story

# “How Western are you?” Self-Assessment

1. Do you believe that it is good to be goal oriented and have specific goals that you can obtain?

Yes No

2. Do you think that there is more than one way of solving a problem & that creative solutions to problems should be encouraged? Yes No

3. Do you believe that a competition business environment is best improving performance of companies and producing the best products? Yes No

4. Do you believe it is okay to move many times if moving brings you better opportunities and a brighter future, even if it is far away from your extended family? Yes No

5. Do you believe that it is good for children who marry to live separately from their parents?

Yes No

6. Do you think that you can make decisions for yourself (such as purchases, job choices, where to live, etc.) without having to consult others? Yes No

7. Do you think a person should not have a higher social standing just because they are older?

Yes No

8. Do you believe that privacy is important and therefore, except for family and close friends, people should check first with you before stopping by your house? Yes No

9. Do you think that it is better to keep an appointment with a friend and be on time rather than stop to chat for an extended time with a friend who happens to stop by? Yes No

10. Do you believe that working children do not necessarily have to send financial support to parents who are not in need? Yes No

11. Do you think it is intrusive to ask someone how much money they earn? Yes No

12. Do you think that everyone's opinion should be heard in a group decision? Yes No

13. Do you believe it is better to be direct and share with someone your concerns even if it might make them uncomfortable so you can have a better relationship? Yes No

14. Do you think that it's better to be self-reliant rather than be dependent on others for solving your problems? Yes No

15. Do you think that adult children should choose their spouse rather than their parents or other family members? Yes No

## Scoring # Yes Answers How Western

**15** You are thoroughly Western.

**10 – 14** You are very Western.

**5 – 10** You are a mixture.

**1 – 5** You are either in a state of denial, live in another culture, recently came from another culture to live in the USA, or have rejected Western culture.

Culture is like an iceberg...



## **Differences in Three Important Values**

- Time
- Goals
- Openness

## **Differences in Communication**

- Indirect communication: Generally homogeneous and collectivistic. People already know and understand each other quite well-much can be assumed about one another. The goal is maintaining harmony and saving face.
- Direct communication: More heterogeneous and individualistic. Less is known about others in a culture where people prefer independence, self-reliance, and a greater emotional distance from each other. The goal is getting and giving information.

## **Tips for Intercultural Communication**

### **As the Speaker ...**

- Speak carefully to be understood.
- Avoid idioms, slang, and pop-culture references unless they have come to you to explain them. Use jokes, sarcasm, and humor sparingly.
  - You can become their cultural informant (but not expert)
- Speak at a slower pace; this will greatly increase understanding
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Be gentle when communicating directly.
- Establish credibility, rapport, trust, and permission before discussing deeper level needs.
- Remember, love is culturally defined.

### **As the Listener ...**

- Listen intentionally, attentively.
- Ask clarifying questions.
- Wait patiently for a response.
- Invite your friend to ask you about words or phrases he or she does not understand.
- Respect and allow there to be differences in opinion.

### **Biblical Example: Acts 17:22-27**

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.”

### **Things to Avoid:**

- Avoid assuming things about your new international friends. They have much they can teach you. Come with a learning posture.
- Avoid viewing your international friends as a project or ministry. International students need true friendships, and so do you!
- Know the limits of your involvement
  - Financial, visa, academic, or psychological problems should be directed to the schools’ international student advisor.
  - You are not required to spend more time than you feel led to spend with these students. Not always, but sometimes, students may ask more of you than you feel comfortable giving. Please feel the freedom to pass these students’ requests on to us.
- Not being honest or following university policies

### **Other Cautions/Suggestions:**

- Be very careful about pictures posted to social media (some of these students come from countries where they may be monitoring their activities)
- WeChat & WhatsApp - Almost all of our Chinese students use the messaging app “WeChat” or WhatsApp. If possible we would recommend using one. It is a great low-labor way to connect with the students and keep connected throughout the week (by sending encouragement, saying hello, and inviting them to dinner, etc). You can use their local number as well.

# spiritual conversations



# and storytelling

# 43 Spiritual Conversation Starters

The key here is to begin conversations and then to listen to the heart of the one we are talking with. Sometimes it is hardest bringing up the Gospel with our friends. We just need to keep asking questions that will reveal who they are.

1. Where are you in your spiritual pilgrimage?
2. In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?
3. What single thing would you like to make absolutely certain you do (if at all possible) during your lifetime?
4. How do you think a person can keep from becoming a workaholic?
5. What character can you imagine yourself to be? (any period of history)
6. What are you reading that is not an assignment or required by your work?
7. How do you know you'll go to heaven when you die?
8. How are you growing personally?
9. In a conversation with someone who has never heard about God, what would you say about God from your experience?
10. How would you describe your father and his impact on your life?
11. Tell me about your mentor and his/her impact on your life.
12. What do you think would probably surprise most people about you? Why?
13. What is your greatest strength, and what are you doing to develop it?
14. Why do people do what they do? What are the assumptions you make about people?
15. How do you handle pressure? When the pressure is really on, what do you need from your friends?
16. Has anything ever happened to you that was dramatic, personal or spectacular enough to cause you to be certain there is a God who is both infinite and personally caring?
17. What do you consider to be two major turning points in your life?
18. What is something you consider to be a great personal success? Why was it so significant?
19. What is the key to maintaining balance in your life?
20. What are 2 or 3 major truths upon which you have based your decision-making?
21. Tell me about two of your life-long friends and why they have such an impact on your life. What made you choose them?

22. Have you dealt with the question– “How much money is enough, and what do I do with the rest?”
23. How would you describe your mother and the impact she has had on your life?
24. In your opinion, who was/is Jesus Christ?
25. If you could know God personally, would you be interested?
26. How would you define materialism, and how do you deal with it in your life?
27. What have you found to be the best way of absorbing disappointment, rejection, distress, and discouragement?
28. When you get to heaven, what will be the first three questions you will ask God?
29. If you were to inherit a million dollars today, and couldn't spend it on your own business or keep it for yourself, what would you do with it and why?
30. What do you find most attractive about Christianity/the person of Christ? What do you find least attractive about Christianity/the person of Christ?
31. Do you consider yourself a seeker of the truth?
32. What is your spiritual background?
33. Have you ever read the Bible?
34. Have your views on religion changed since you started college? How?
35. Have you ever discussed what Biblical Christianity is?
36. Why do you think you feel the way you do toward Jesus Christ and his message of love and forgiveness?
37. What is your philosophy of life based on?
38. Do you believe what you've been brought up with?
39. Why do you think Christianity isn't relevant to your life?
40. If Christ was who He claimed to be, how would that affect your life?
41. What are you living for? What do you value most?
42. If your questions could be answered in a way that would satisfy you, would you then believe in Christ?
43. The Kennedy questions: First ask–“If you died today, do you know for sure you'd go to heaven?” Then ask–“If you died and stood before God and He asked you ‘Why should I let you into Heaven?’ What would you say?”

# Sharing Your Story Cross-culturally

## Sharing Ourselves Intro

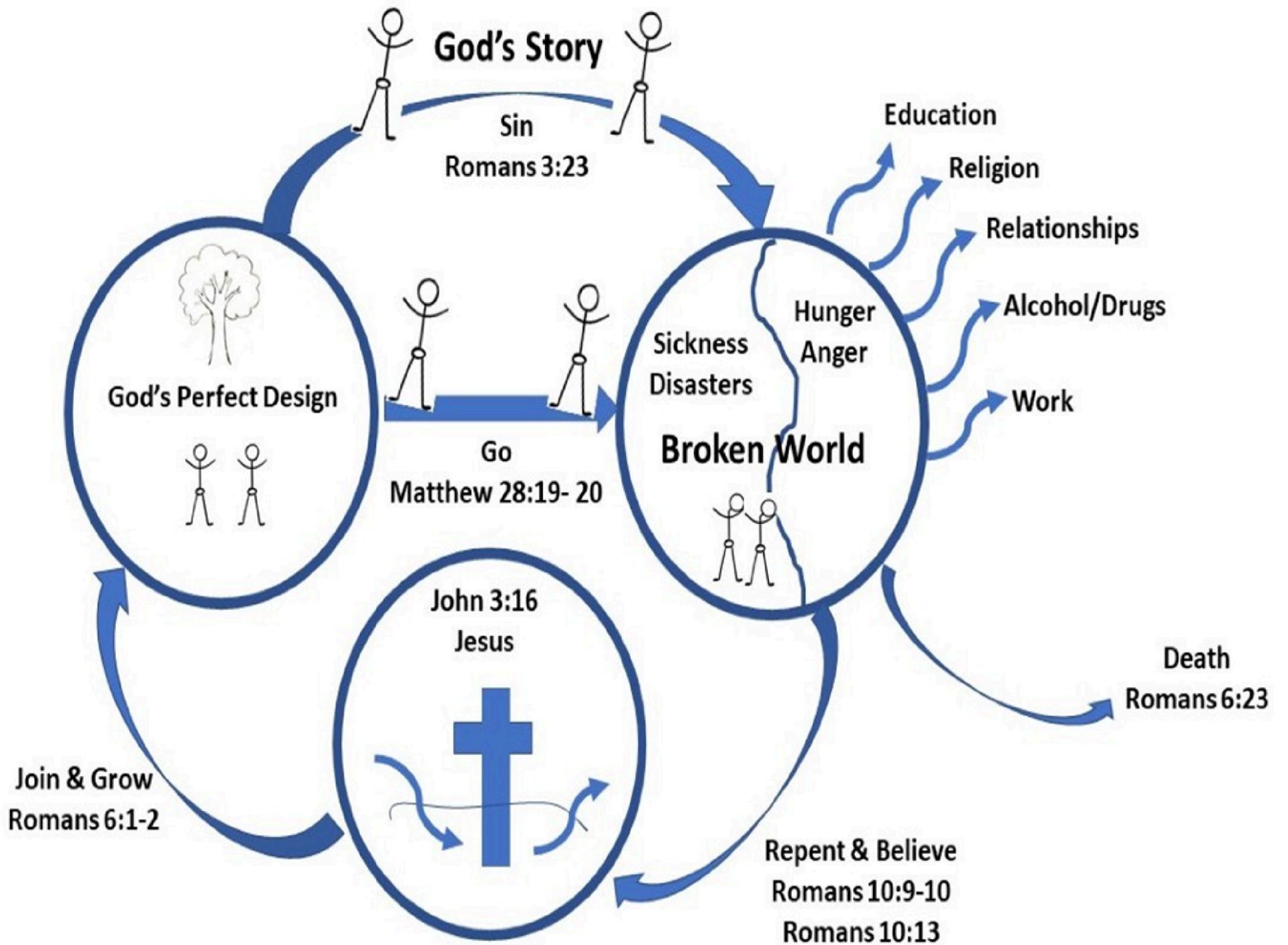
“Jesus shared his life along with his teaching. We should share openly with our friends about our relationship with God, briefly mentioning our joys, struggles and answers to prayer. If we have developed trust with them, our authentic sharing will provoke curiosity. It is crucial that our friends see how faith affects our approach to life’s struggles. People will respond to our stories when they are not yet interested in the entire gospel story. As we build trust, we should pray for opportunities to share how we came to Christ and how that has changed us. If we have prayerfully entered the lives of our friends, the Spirit will help us identify aspects of our experience that speak deeply to them.” (p.141 *Crossing Cultures with Jesus*)

## Tips for Sharing Your Story

- Prayerfully consider your audience. What values do they pursue or experiences do they run from? Ask God to show you what in your story will speak deeply to them.
- Briefly describe your life before Jesus was important to you.
- What events, conversations, and people helped you learn more about Jesus? Be specific about what attracted you.
- Describe how you decided to trust in and make Jesus your leader. Use everyday words and avoid language that only Christians understand.
- How has knowing Jesus changed your life? Be specific.
- End with a challenge for your audience to take a next step toward Jesus.



# Three Circles Illustration



Watch video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W8ynRMr59k>

# Reading the Bible with a Friend

Download “God’s Story” App -see <https://www.m28global.org/mobile-app.html>

Use “God’s Story Shortlist”

Read the passage

Discuss:

- Is there anything you did not understand?
- What did you like or not like about this passage?
- What does this passage tell us about God [or Jesus or the Holy Spirit]?
- What does this passage tell us about people?
- What does this passage mean?
- If this is true, how should it change the way you live?

## **Biblical Example: Acts 8:26-39**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south[d] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

*“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.*

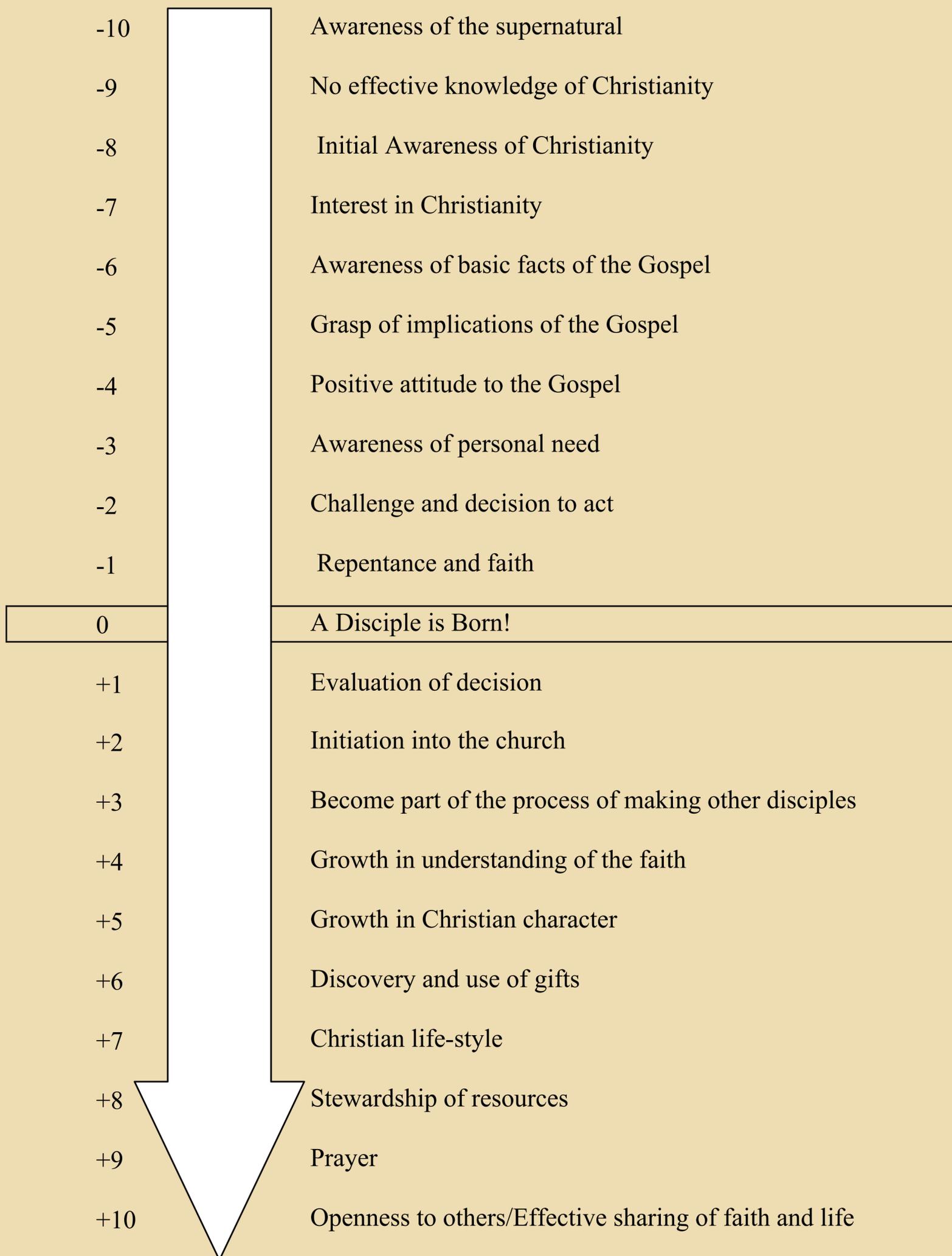
*In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”*

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

# Engel Scale of Spritiual Awareness

Developed by James F. Engel (missiologist at Wheaton College)

**Directions:** Use this to help you think about where a student is at spiritually and what might be the next step to help them take the next step closer to Jesus.



# Sharing the Gospel Case Studies

What factors might you consider and what approach would you take in sharing the Gospel with a ...

**Case 1:** Chinese Atheist (Does not believe there is a God.)

**Case 2:** Iranian Muslim (Believes the N.T. Gospels are corrupt. The Quran has replaced it.)

**Case 3:** Indian Hindu (Believes there is no “one way” to salvation.)

POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO CASE STUDIES ABOVE:

## CASE 1: CHINESE ATHEIST

- Chinese are educated through the Marxist system of education where religion is ignored. Though most Chinese call themselves atheist, many of them are open to the gospel
- May not believe that Jesus Christ probably ever existed and may believe that the Bible is a collection of myths. May benefit from apologetics and evidence of the existence of Jesus and the reliability of the Bible.
- Focus the conversation on having a relationship with Jesus Christ rather than a “religion”
- Educate yourself about China’s history and Christianity in China as well as Chinese culture
- The Chinese openly share with those whom they perceive to be “insiders,” but they remain reserved and cautious toward “outsiders.” Take your time to build a long-lasting, trusting friendship with him/her.
- Avoid putting him/her in a situation in which they feel that not accepting the gospel message means not accepting you. The Chinese put a high value on harmony and “saving face.” They want to save face and also help you save face.
- Be sensitive to the fact that for them to choose to follow Christ may result in hardship and persecution.
- Bible Study: Start from the book of Genesis or do a Bible study on the character of God. Define sin as a relational problem: broken relationship, needs a mediator
- Salvation as restoring relationship and honor as a child of God



## CASE 2: IRANIAN MUSLIM

- Research about Iranian history, present political situation, and culture.
- Know that the vast majority of Muslims in this world are warm, friendly, hospitable people who would not consider harming others.
- Hospitality is a universal language for Muslims. Invite him/her as a guest to your home.
- Never offer a Muslim alcoholic beverage or pork products.
- Ask about their lives and family, their home country, and what they miss. Ask what challenges they face living in the West and if they have experienced any discrimination.
- Muslims love to talk about spiritual matters.
- Best to work one-on-one, men with men, women with women
- Start by talking about beliefs we have in common (i.e., Judaism and Christianity and their prophets were originally given by God; the Bible was originally sent by God; Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, performed many miracles, is the Messiah, etc.)
- Ask what he/she thinks of the prophet Jesus
- Watch the “JESUS” film or invite them to a reading/discussion of a “biography of the prophet Jesus.”
- The Gospel of Luke is ideal for sharing with Muslims.
- Seek to understand the religious background of your Muslim friend: Sunni, Shiite, Sufi, or secular.
- Emphasize a personal relationship with a loving God, assurance of forgiveness, and assurance of eternal life.
- Take time to build your relationship. Think long-term evangelism. Pray for wisdom and grace and right timing in sharing the gospel.



### CASE 3: INDIAN HINDU

- Hindus are relationship oriented. Therefore, friendship and lifestyle evangelism are crucial.
- Hindus place vital importance upon family and their culture. Ask about their family. Be prepared to befriend an entire family and to share your family with them. Model what a Christian home and marriage looks like.
- Bring up how we have or are experiencing God at work in our lives. They are comfortable with this because they see the spiritual aspect as an integral part of daily life.
- Avoid using terminology of “Christian” or “Christianity” (negative associations as a foreign religion, with lower caste, and former colonial rule). Focus on being a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Share testimonies because they illustrate that Westerners are not born into Christianity. Many Hindus will welcome our offers to pray for them aloud to Jesus about their needs and concerns.
- There are many gods in Hinduism that have domain over different aspects of students' lives, but the one God of the Bible is so powerful he is over all aspects of life. The creator, sustainer, provider, protector, savior, and conqueror of death. (power aspect of the gospel)
- Often students from a Hindu background are fearful to give up their worship of other gods, because of the negative effect it may have on their lives. Pray against these strongholds and fear. Share scripture verses about the names of God, such as Jireh (The provider), miracles performed by Jesus, how God controls nature, such as the parting of the Red Sea.
- Hindu friends are more likely to be swayed by evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives rather than our words.
- Do not criticize their gods or beliefs or condemn the caste system and such practices such as idolatry and ritualism. You will not win Hindus to Christ this way.
- Demonstrate the God of the Bible as a personal, loving God who desires to draw us into a closer relationship with himself and who has devised a plan of salvation that liberates us from endless, ultimately futile attempts to achieve it on our own.
- Study the Gospel and focus on the Person of Jesus Christ – a sacrifice for all mankind, a mediator, etc.
- Ask questions about Hindu beliefs and your student’s personal beliefs. Exchange thoughts and questions.



# Volunteer Agreement

## **What we hope for from volunteers:**

We would like to have volunteers who would share our vision of loving these students where they are, developing trust through friendship, and eventually, if the opportunity arises, sharing what they believe about Jesus with the student. Our hope and prayer is that anyone volunteering and serving alongside our team would have a heart of prayer, patience, and humility in regards to what ministry with these international students will resemble. We believe strongly in building trust over a period of time before discussing spiritual things unless the student initiates. Lastly, please just let us know for planning purposes if or when you would be attending one of our events.

## **What volunteers can expect from us:**

Volunteers can expect us to encourage and assist them, where possible, in building relationships with these students. We are here to serve and love these students and consequently assist you as you serve these students with us (2 Corinthians 4:5). We have events at least twice a month, oftentimes more, and would love to have you come alongside us!

## **Acknowledge Navigators Statement of Faith**

Our statement of faith is the core foundation for our ministry. We believe:

- That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- In one God, the Creator; eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- That Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and that He was and remains true God and true man.
- That God created Adam and Eve in the divine image; that they sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that, as a result of Adam's sin, all human beings are now born with a sinful nature and stand guilty before God.
- That the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
- In the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
- In the blessed hope of the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- That all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
- That the Holy Spirit indwells and gives spiritual life to all believers, enables them to understand biblical truth, empowers them for godly living, and equips them for service and witness.
- In the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

## **Abide by Evangelism Code of Ethics**

When working with international students, it is very important that you respect their culture and beliefs. Do not force yours onto them! This only serves to widen the culture gap, cause mistrust between internationals and Americans, and break relations with the university you work on.

### **InterVarsity Code of Ethics for Christian Witness**

As Christians called by the Living God, we seek first of all to honor him and his ethical standards in all our private and public lives, including our efforts to persuade others to believe the good news about Jesus Christ.

As Christian evangelists, we seek to follow the mandate, motives, message, and model of our God who is always pursuing and reclaiming those who are lost in sin and rebellion against him.

We believe all people are created in God's image and therefore endowed with the capacity to be in relationship with their Creator and Redeemer. We disavow any effort to influence people in such a way that depersonalizes or deprives them of their inherent value as persons.

Respecting the value of persons, we believe all people are worthy of hearing the gospel of this loving Lord Jesus Christ. We equally affirm the inalienable right of every person to survey other opinions and convert to or choose a different belief system.

We believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and affirm the role and goal of the Christian evangelist. However, we do not believe that this justifies any means to fulfill that end. Hence, we disavow the use of any coercive techniques or manipulative appeals that bypass a person's critical faculties, play on psychological weaknesses, undermine relationship with family or religious institutions, or mask the true nature of Christian conversion.

While respecting the individual integrity, intellectual honesty, and academic freedom of all other believers and skeptics, we seek to proclaim Christ openly. We reveal our own identity, and purpose, our theological positions, and sources of information, and will not be intentionally misleading. Respect for human integrity means no false advertising, no personal aggrandizement from successfully persuading others to follow Jesus, and no overly emotional appeals that minimize reason and evidence.

As Christian evangelists, we seek to embrace people of other religious persuasions in true dialogue. That is, we acknowledge our common humanity as equally sinful, equally needy, and equally dependent on the grace of God we proclaim. We seek to listen sensitively in order to understand, and thus divest our witness of any stereotypes or fixed formulae that are barriers to true dialogue.

As Christian evangelists, we accept the obligation to admonish anyone who represents the Christian faith in any manner incompatible with these ethical guidelines.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Rides** - rides to events, grocery stores and medical appointments

**Attending events** - to invite and build relationships with students you meet

**Participating in Dinner and Discussion nights**- attending and participating

**Thanksgiving Community Dinner**- invite 2-6 students over for a Thanksgiving meal at a date and time that works for you

**Hosting:** If an individual or family enjoys hosting and would like to offer their home for a special large group event such as a fall festival, lake day, or Christmas party, etc. that would be wonderful. Often international students never have the chance to step in an American's home.

**Friendship Partners:** This program invites local believers to commit to be a friend with an international student for the academic year. This cross- cultural exchange program asks that you meet together at least once a month starting at the end of September based on their own schedule.

**Furniture Assistance** - one of the most practical ways to help and build trust with an international student is by helping them find and receive furniture. Most students arrive with little to no ability to find and obtain furniture.

## Other tips:

- Inviting them to church
  - You can take them to your church, but be honest and share expectations, explain what is going on, there is no pressure to give during offering, etc.
  - However, also encourage them to go to a church that has services in their native language.
- Getting them a Bible
  - Give them a gift of a Bible in their native language or bilingual if you can. If you are reading it together, give them an English Bible
- If they decide to follow Jesus- let us know and follow up with them!

## Suggested Resources:

- Everyinternational.com
  - Getting Started in International Ministry: Entering Multiple Cultures
  - Getting Started in International Ministry: Establishing Trust
  - Getting Started in International Ministry: Connecting the Gospel to Life
  - Growing in International Ministry: Building Friendships Across Cultures
- *Friendships with Internationals* Booklet
- *Crossing Cultures with Jesus* by Katie Rawson
- *Saturate* by Jeff Vanderste