

Seeking Jesus with International Students

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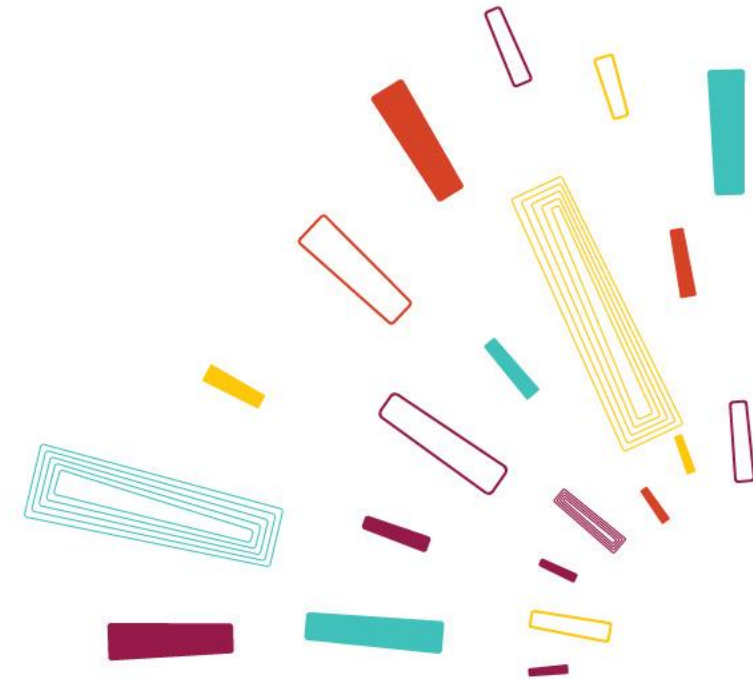
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship



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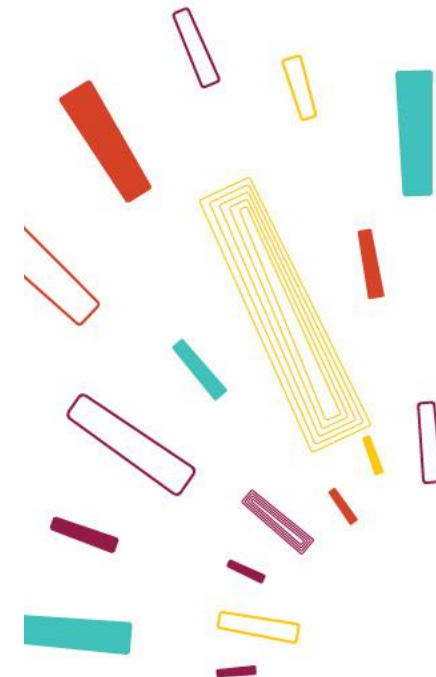
What is God's invitation

- Who is in the room?
- Who is in your life?



A cross-cultural journey

U-Curve of Cultural Adaptation



	Arrival	Adjustment	Academic Season
Spiritual needs	To feel known and cared for	A community of authentic friendships	Opportunities to experience God in scripture, prayer, and community
Practical needs	Receive help with housing, navigating culture, academics,	Develop skills for communication, social interaction & everyday living in new culture	Gains skill to cope with academic and relational challenges
Other	Orientation to campus, culture, city, etc.	Become established in their academics & rhythm of life	Awareness of their own beliefs & values
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Seeking Jesus together with your I-friend





My friend needs to know I genuinely care vs making them a project.

Am I trustworthy?

What does it look like to be trustworthy?

How can you tell when people don't trust you? Make snap judgments about you?

How do I make time for them?

How do I make space for them?

How do I show genuine interest in their life, their story?

Do I ask questions and listen?

What questions can I ask

ACTION STEP

What is one thing you can and will do to build and grow trust?





My friend needs to see Jesus in my life in a way that challenges their stereotypes about Christianity.

How is Jesus real in my own life?

What story can I share?

What struggle can I share?

How can you 'rise up and unapologetically (re-)present Jesus'?

How can my conversations go deeper?

What spiritual questions can I ask?

How can I grow in curiosity about the world and people around me?

How can I serve or show generosity in a practical way?

ACTION STEP

Name one person you could ask: How can I pray for you?

What is one thing you will do this week that would bless and surprise them?





OPEN

WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...

They may need courage to face the places in their lives where they need change. They may need to realize that their worldview needs to change. Maybe the Holy Spirit is showing them that the worldview they have is shifting as they think about Jesus.

They need to become open to the idea that perhaps the "real" Jesus is different than they thought.

WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?

Patience, prayers, and faithfulness: Stay faithful in loving and serving your friend and helping to cultivate "good soil" in your friendship.

Be open to change in your personal life. Tell stories to your friends of ways God is changing you. Invite your friend to join you in serving the poor and underprivileged.

WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?

Watch for complacency. Pray and lovingly challenge them. Think about the rich young ruler story (Mark 10:17-27). You might need to help them reframe their story and help them see God's activity in their life. Acknowledge where you see God's work in their life.

Tell a personal story of when you became open to God changing something in your life. What were internal barriers you had to overcome?

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Consider asking:
What do you think about Jesus? Have you ever had a God experience? Would you tell me about it?

If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be? What keeps you from change in your life?

Share a story of something practical you changed in your life as a result of knowing Jesus.

APPLICATION RESPONSE

Offer to read scripture together (GIG). Help them to imagine themselves in the text. What would you say to Jesus if you were there?

Invite:
Hey you seem curious about Jesus, would you like to read a book together to explore this? (Tim Keller's Reason for God).

Invite them to serve with you in some way.