

# **Friendship Partner Training Workshop**

## **Study Notes**

*Friendship Partner Training Workshop*  
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## Friendship Partner Training Workshop

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# Introduction



## Introductory Letter and Instructions

Dear Trainer,

I am excited to put this manual in your hands. This project is the result of many years of learning how to equip local churches to partner with ISI to reach **all** the international students in your city. It has a balance of the basics of hospitality and cross-cultural sensitivity with a practical approach to evangelism. Our desire is that each participant comes out of this workshop confident to begin his or her new relationship with an international student friend.

On the following page, you will find a form, a copy of which should be given to the church representative(s) where you're planning to do the training. Discuss this with them so they are clear about what your needs are as well as how you intend to serve them.

The registration form needs to be completed at the time of registration and copies given to the pastor (or pastors if more than one church is participating). Another copy should be sent along with the report of funds received to the Volunteer and Recruitment Services Supervisor at the Home Office. If there is significant travel involved, the church should cover your expenses. **All monies go to your personal or city account.**

This is a workshop! The intention is that you would keep the attendees as involved as possible in the process—through video, visuals, stories, role-play etc. As you will notice, the schedule is very tight in order to keep it interesting and complete it in three hours. **It will require you to practice before teaching it.** I've included a timeline along the way so you can keep to the schedule. Please start and stop on time! Even if people are straggling in, start on time! Release people on time (or a few minutes early) and take extra questions afterward.

Training can be done on Sunday, Saturday, or weekday evenings (both morning and “generic” checkpoints are listed). Find out what works best for other ministries in your area or in a particular church. However, it should be done in **one** sitting, as you'll never have all the same people there if you spread it over two or three sessions. If you have a large church, you'll need to offer it more than once (even if it means inviting them to another training in their area at a different church).

Our goal is to introduce **all** the international students in an area to the claims of Jesus Christ in such a way that they can make a clear decision to say “yes” or “no” to Him. We can accomplish that by mobilizing the churches in your area.

I'm excited to work with you to help you succeed in this monumental opportunity! Please call me or write if you have any questions.

That the nations may worship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teri Crowell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'T' and 'C'.

Teri Crowell  
National Director of Training



## ISI Friendship Partner Training

ISI considers it a privilege to work with your church in the mobilization of your people for effective worldwide outreach. Friendship Partner Training will enable them to feel comfortable and confident in ministry with their new international friend. In order for the training to go as smoothly as possible, here are some guidelines we've found to be helpful.

ISI will provide:

- ◆ Quality training in vision, hospitality, cross-cultural sensitivity, and friendship evangelism.
- ◆ Participant's manuals for attendees.
- ◆ Quality literature for purchase.
- ◆ Assistance in locating international students.
- ◆ Follow-up training in evangelism, discipleship, and world religions.
- ◆ Follow-up assistance in building a strong international student ministry team in your church.
- ◆ Follow-up for your students when they leave your area.

Your church will provide:

- ◆ Publicity regarding the training.
- ◆ Sound system, TV and VCR (adequate for the size of the group), large screen video projector (to run PowerPoint presentation), overhead projector, and screen.
- ◆ Refreshments for break time.
- ◆ Volunteers to staff registration table and book table.
- ◆ Coverage of trainer's expenses (if traveling from out of town).
- ◆ Honorarium as appropriate.
- ◆ Registration fee of \$10/affiliate/per person or couple. \$15/non-affiliate. (This can be paid by the church or by the participants.)

Date of Training: \_\_\_\_\_

ISI Staff (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Checklist of Materials for Trainer to Take to Training

- This Friendship Partner Training manual
- PowerPoint Presentation or set of overhead transparencies
- Friendship Partner Training Participant's manual (trainer's copy and copies for anticipated number of participants).
- Friendship Partners with ISI* (55-minute video)
- Knowing God Personally* tract (enough for each participant to have one)
- Friendship Partner application (enough copies for everyone)
- ISI Materials Order Forms: for Affiliates/Associates, and for general public (enough for each participant to have one; the latter are for participants who are not associates and who do not come from affiliated churches).
- Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone (a copy to show)

Friendship Partner Training Set of ISI Materials (to show), which includes:

- The Compact Guide to World Religions* by Dean Halverson
- The World at Your Door* by Tom Phillips and Bob Norsworthy
- How to Survive in the US*
- Jesus* video (in English) and companion study guide (*Who is this Jesus?*)
- Seven of the "How to" booklets (*How to Share the Good News with Your International Friend, How to Share the Good News with Your African Friend, ... Muslim, Japanese, etc.*)
- Two examples of the country profiles
- Two examples of the religion profiles

Also have 10–25 (depending on the anticipated size of the group) copies of the following publications for sale. (Experience has shown that people are unlikely to purchase profiles, as they don't yet have a student. This is why we give them order forms to order later. They tend to buy books, so limit your "sales displays" to these few items.)

- The World at Your Door*
- The Compact Guide to World Religions*
- How to Survive in the US*
- Operation World* (if possible)



## Materials Order Form

Quantity	Title
_____	<i>Friendship Partner Training</i> Participant's Manuals
_____	<i>Knowing God Personally</i> Tracts
_____	<i>ISI Materials Order Forms</i> for Affiliates/Associates
_____	<i>ISI Materials Order Forms</i> for general public use
_____	<i>Compact Guide to World Religions</i>
_____	<i>The World at Your Door</i>
_____	<i>How to Survive in the US</i>
_____	Jesus video and study guide
_____	<i>Becoming a Friend with an International Student</i>
_____	<i>How to Share the Good News with Your African Friend</i>
_____	<i>How to Share the Good News with Your International Friend</i>
_____	<i>How to Share the Good News with Your Japanese Friend</i>
_____	<i>How to Share the Good News with Your Muslim Friend</i>
_____	<i>How to Study the Bible with Your International Friend</i>
_____	<i>Reaching Students from the People's Republic of China</i>
_____	<i>Preparing Your International Friend for Life Back Home</i>

### Country Profiles

_____	Hong Kong	_____	Japan
_____	India	_____	Indonesia
_____	Pakistan	_____	Malaysia
_____	South Korea	_____	People's Republic of China
_____	Thailand	_____	Taiwan

### Religion Profiles

_____	<i>Animism</i>	_____	<i>Islam</i>
_____	<i>Buddhism</i>	_____	<i>Judaism</i>
_____	<i>How Can We Know the Bible...</i>	_____	<i>Marxism</i>
_____	<i>Hinduism</i>	_____	<i>Secularism</i>
_____	<i>World Religions Overview</i>	_____	<i>Shinto</i>
_____	<i>Is Jesus the Only Way to God?</i>		

*Please fax or mail this copy to ISI Attn: Material Orders  
Refer to order form for pricing.*





## ISI Friendship Partner Training Registration Form

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

8. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

9. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

10. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_







**Field Staff  
Report of Funds  
Received**

Staff Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Training seminars:**

Registrations: Number of couples \_\_\_\_\_ singles \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Attach registration list from seminar)*

Number of Participant's Manuals used: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit to account 500/45150/ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Staff fill in personal or city account to which this should be credited)*

Honorarium enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit to account 500/45150/ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Staff fill in personal or city account to which this should be credited)*

Expense payment enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit to account 500/45150/ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Staff fill in personal or city account to which this should be credited)*

**Literature Sales:**

Income for literature sales enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit to account 500/43110 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Staff fill in personal or city account to which this should be credited)*

I am/am not (*circle one*) returning materials with this report. If materials are being returned for credit to your account, please attach staff order form showing quantities of all materials being returned and marked, "Materials Returned." Your account will be credited as noted on the return form.

**Total amount enclosed with this report from all sources: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*(Please direct a copy of this form and a copy of the registration form to Volunteer and Recruitment Services.)*



## Schedule Summary

*(If you are conducting training at other than the following times, please adjust schedule accordingly.)*

<b>9:00–9:05</b> (:00–:05)	Welcome Personal introduction of trainer and ISI
<b>9:05–10:00</b> (:05–1:00)	<i>Friendship Partners with ISI</i> video
<b>10:00–10:15</b> (1:00–1:15)	Overview of Participant’s Manual Local statistics City-wide vision How you get a student How your church team functions Overview of materials available
<b>10:15–10:25</b> (1:15–1:25)	Break and book table
<b>10:25–10:50</b> (1:25–1:50)	Evangelism, Part 1: (five minutes each subsection) Introduction Spiritual Stages Scale (refer to Participant’s Manual)
<b>10:50–11:17</b> (1:50–2:17)	Evangelism, Part 2: Sharing your testimony Participants role-play (refer to Testimony Outline in Participant’s Manual)
<b>11:17–11:48</b> (2:17–2:48)	Evangelism, Part 4: The <i>Knowing God Personally</i> tract Introduction (10 minutes) KGP Sections 1–3 (10 minutes—two minutes per section, 4 minutes role play) KGP Sections 4–5 (9 minutes—two minutes per section, 4 minutes role play) KGP Sections 6–7 (2 minutes per section refer to Participant’s Manual)
<b>11:48–11:55</b> (2:48–2:55)	Evangelism, Part 5: Follow up and ethics
<b>11:55–12:00</b> (2:55–3:00)	Close: Application Form and Q & A

## Welcome

Time checkpoint: 9:00 (:00)



### Welcome to ISI's Friendship Partner Training!



International Students, Inc. was established in 1953 with our national office currently located in Colorado Springs. We seek to reach international students through friendship evangelism, discipleship, and preparation for ministry when they return to their homeland.

We do this through partnership with churches in cities such as this with the goal of reaching all the students that God has brought to this city. Your city is a key part of this process.



I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I will be your trainer today. (Give a brief bio of yourself).

The first thing we want to do is show a video that over the next hour will introduce you to the ministry and answer many questions you may have as you embark on this new ministry adventure.

### *Show Friendship Partners with ISI Video*

Time Checkpoint 10:00 (1:00)



Please take your manual and let's look at some resources that are available to you.

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Trainer: Take 4–5 minutes to highlight what's in the Friendship Partner Participant's Manual.

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Let's take a look at how many people groups have not heard of the Gospel. This shows the predominant religion in each. Interestingly, these are the nations from where we get most of our international students.



Currently, there are over 605,000 international students studying in the US. Ninety-seven per cent of the "least evangelized world" lives in the 10/40 Window. Sixty percent of international students come from the least evangelized world. Seventy percent of all international students will never enter an American home. Eighty percent of all international students will never enter an American church.

## Current International Student Statistics



**\*Number of Foreign Students (including scholars) in US over 600,000**

**Over half of these students come from nations with restricted access to the Gospel.**

**\*Leading Countries of Origin for Students:**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
China	51,001
Japan	46,406
Republic of Korea	39,199
India	37,482
Taiwan	31,043
Canada	22,746
Thailand	12,489
Malaysia	12,142
Indonesia	11,557
Mexico	9,641



**\*What Foreign Students Study, 1998/99:**

<b>Field of Study</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Business and Management	102,083
Engineering	72,956
Math and Computer Sciences	48,236
Social Sciences	40,062
Physical and Life Sciences	37,055
Fine and Applied Arts	31,486

\*Source: *Open Doors, 1998/99*, Report on International Educational Exchange, Todd M. Davis, Editor



In our city, there are \_\_\_\_\_ students and \_\_\_\_\_ campuses.

Currently, we are reaching \_\_\_\_\_% of those students. We are partnering with \_\_\_\_\_ churches in the city with the goal of reaching **all** the international students that God has brought to our city.



The biggest question most of you probably have at this point is “How do I get a student?” In our situation, it works like this...

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Trainer: describe the process by which they will be assigned a student.

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Please call within one week of receiving your student’s name, as she will probably already have been waiting several weeks since signing up. You may need to remind her that she signed up for an American friend and then tell her that you’re the one matched with her.

## Local Ministry Profile

Local campus(es):

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Total number of international students:

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Top five nationalities:

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Number and percent currently being reached:

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Churches or organizations ministering to internationals on these campuses:

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Campus attitude toward working with churches:

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**Goal: Reach all students God has brought to our city.**

**Church Team:**



Your church and ISI work together in partnership. ISI provides training, guidance, and resources to make your ministry as strong as possible.

There is a leadership team here at your church led by \_\_\_\_\_ who will assist you in planning group activities. You're not alone, but part of a ministry team having fun doing ministry together.

Time checkpoint 10:15 (1:15)

### **Break**



We're going to take a ten-minute break. During the break, I'd encourage you to go to the book table and avail yourself of some resources. *The World at Your Door* will give you a good overview of the ministry. *The Compact Guide to World Religions* is an excellent resource for the layperson on world religions, and *You Have a Friend in the US* is a booklet you'll want to purchase for your student. You can also pick up an order form so that you can order other materials once you are assigned a student. Please see samples on the table.

We will start again promptly at 10:25 (1:25).



# Sharing Your Faith



## Sharing Your Faith

Time checkpoint: 10:25



You are about to embark upon the most exciting adventure of your life—that of sharing Christ’s love with someone who may have never experienced it before! Nothing in the entire world is higher on God’s agenda than introducing the life-changing message of salvation in Jesus Christ to those who are lost. God’s heart beats for the salvation of every person (see Luke 15). As you begin actively to share your faith in Christ with others, your heart will be aligned with God’s greatest purpose in all of history—that men and women from every corner of the earth will have a permanent, intimate, loving relationship with Him! You can be an ambassador for Christ if you will step out as an obedient witness for Him.

### The Priority of Evangelism



It is because of the heart of God that we put such emphasis on evangelism. God strongly desires that people of every tongue, tribe, and nation should know Him and bring glory to Him through their worship.

From the beginning of recorded Scripture, God showed His heart for all peoples of the earth. To Abraham He announced His intention to bless all nations through him: “I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing...and *all peoples on earth will be blessed through you*” (Genesis 12:2, 3). God continued to renew this “blessing with a purpose” to Isaac (Genesis 26:3, 4) and Jacob (Genesis 28:13, 14).

We see the same theme declared throughout the Psalms. For example, Psalm 67 leads us to pray: “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among the **nations**; ...May **all the peoples** praise you; may the **nations** be glad and sing for joy...God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him” (Psalm 67:1–4, 7).

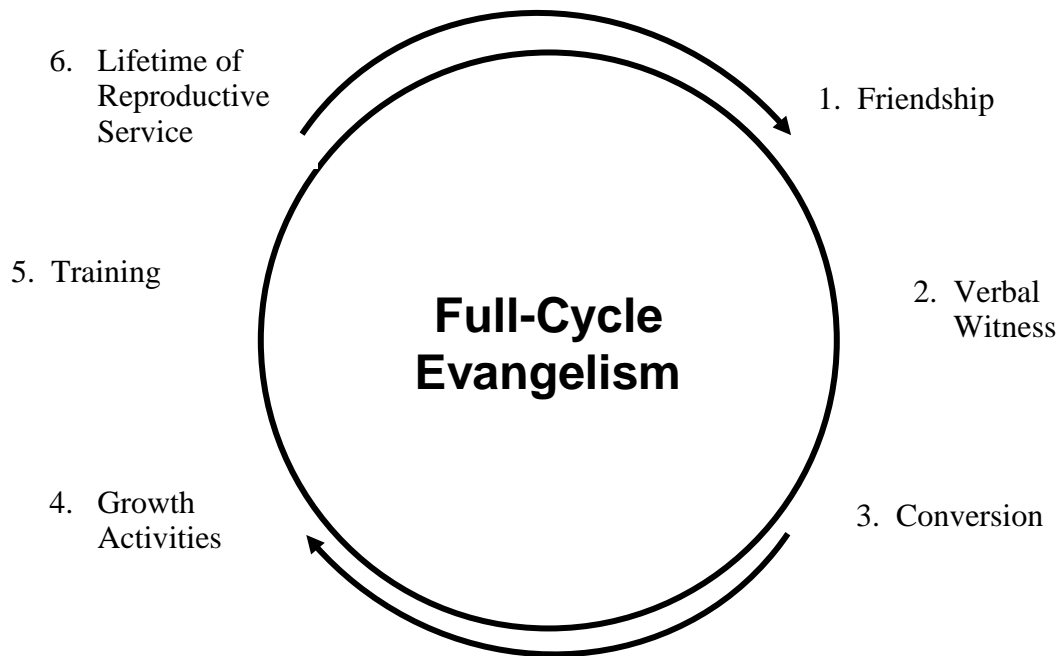
Our Lord spoke the essence of the Gospel to His followers before leaving this earth. Luke reports His words: “The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name **to all nations**...” (Luke 24:46, 47).



## Full-Cycle Evangelism

International Students, Inc., (ISI) exists to share Christ's love with international students and to equip them for effective service in cooperation with the local church and others.

ISI's approach to ministry with international students is what we call "full-cycle evangelism."



God has given you a very special privilege of sharing the truth of Christ's love with the nations—one person at a time!



Former US Senator Bill Armstrong said, “When somebody steps out to help influence the worldview and to share the attitudes of a student from another country, in so doing, it is actually possible to impact the whole destiny of that country through that student.”



Imad was a student in Southern California when another student built a friendship with him. Over the course of a couple of years, Imad trusted Christ. After gaining theological training, he returned to his home country where he has legally established a seminary that is training pastors from throughout the Middle East. Nations closed to traditional forms of missions are being reached because someone befriended a student who returned to do something no outsider could have ever done.



### **The Joy of Introducing Someone to Jesus Christ**

There is nothing more thrilling in the entire world than leading her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! What an incredible joy it adds to your experience in Christ when God uses you to make a difference for eternity in the life of another person!

Unfortunately most American Christians today are fruitless in their witness, never leading anyone to know the Savior. According to scripture, such as 2 Corinthians 5:14–6:2, they lead “abnormal” lives. God’s plan is for every believer to be an ambassador for Christ daily, infecting our world with a passion to know and serve God. If you are missing this aspect of your Christian experience, you are missing one of God’s main purposes for having you live here in this world.

The Apostle Paul said “Everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who will listen” (Colossians 1:28, TLB). For Paul witnessing was not something he had to force himself to do. It was part and parcel of serving God and flowed naturally from his love for the Lord. If leading people to the Lord has not become a regular part of your Christian life, we pray that this training will enrich your life in just this way.

## **Friendship Evangelism**



Friendship evangelism is the key to ISI’s philosophy of ministry. It has two ingredients. One is friendship—without any strings attached. It is loving your student with a natural grace, respect, and kindness that enables your new friend to experience the love of Christ in ways perhaps never before encountered. It is love that, hopefully, creates in the student’s heart a hunger to know Jesus and His truth. But, in any event, it is compassion that is unconditional.



The second ingredient is evangelism, that is, communicating the Good News about Jesus Christ. **Successful evangelism is faithful evangelism! A faithful messenger understands the Gospel and, relying on the Holy Spirit, seeks to communicate the Gospel to the best of his or her ability so that the hearer knows enough to make a decision to say “yes” or “no” to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.** As much as possible, this communication needs to be sensitive to the person, the situation, and any cross-cultural issues. As Paul writes: “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some; I do this for the sake of the gospel...” (1 Corinthians 9:22–23).

Above all, a faithful messenger has a Christ-like attitude of unconditional love toward the other person (Philippians 2:3–8).



Ethel Hatfield became a Christian at 70 years of age. Being grateful for her salvation, she wanted to give the rest of her days to serving the Lord. The Sunday school director at her church could not find a place for her. So, she asked the Lord for opportunities.

One day as she was tending the flowers in her front yard, a Chinese student stopped and visited with her on his way to the university. She invited him in for coffee. Days and weeks passed and their friendship grew. They began to study the Scriptures together. He invited his Chinese friends. Eventually, other Chinese students joined them regularly for Bible study.

Two years later, Ethel Hatfield went to be with the Lord. At her funeral seventy Chinese, including a number of Christians, stood at attention as her casket passed. She knew what friendship evangelism meant!

### **The Spiritual Stages Scale**

Time Checkpoint 10:30 (1:30)



As you get to know your student, you will want to assess where he is spiritually and what his spiritual “felt needs” are. The Spiritual Stages Scale, adapted from a scale by Dr. James Engel and located just after this subsection, will help you in this prayerful assessment.

You can find most of the major religions and other worldviews listed in brackets at the two lowest stages of the Spiritual Stages Scale. For example, most students from China come out of a Marxist, or Communist, background, which means that they do not believe that any spiritual reality exists. So they begin their sojourn in the United States at a minus 10. Students from India and from Japan, probably from Hindu and Buddhist or Shinto backgrounds respectively, start one notch up at minus 9 because of their belief in some sort of spiritual reality. Many Chinese students, who come from countries other than China—such as Singapore and Taiwan, are influenced by Confucianism, which is essentially a secular worldview. But usually Confucianism is blended with Taoism and Buddhism, and therefore most Chinese, apart from those of Mainland China, are found at minus 9.

Students from anywhere might be influenced by Animism or some other form of folk religion (minus 9) if they grew up in a village. However, these same students probably came to cities to attend universities where they might have been exposed to Secularism (minus 10) from the West.

At minus 8 you encounter Muslims, Orthodox Jews, and even a few Hindus. These are people who believe in a single Creator God who is a Person, but they have no knowledge of Jesus as God. Minus 7 and minus 6 take us to nominal Christians who have some sense that Jesus is God but lack a personal relationship with Him. Again, you might meet such a student from anywhere, but Latin America, Europe, and sub-Saharan Africa are likely regions of origin.

The five steps that directly follow all relate to understanding and responding to the Gospel and lead to the joy of conversion.

Beyond that glorious decision for Christ stretch another ten stages marking steps of positive Christian growth for a new believer. In addition, some students come as true Christians already, raised in a Christian home in their country or led to Christ by previous Friendship Partners in another American city. Perhaps these young brothers and sisters in Christ are spiritually immature, a condition that would be indicated by the low positive numbers on the scale. You have a great opportunity to help establish such students in your common faith.

At the top of the chart you will find spiritually mature student leaders who are personally committed to Christian ministry. Many nations, such as the Latin American countries, have strong evangelistic outreaches, but lack specialized ministries, such as those that focus on counseling, youth, or women. God may want to use you to give your international friend a vision and training through your church to make a significant impact on his or her country.

This scale helps us realize that evangelism is just as much a process as it is an event. Seeing the big picture facilitates understanding that someone who is at a minus 10 may take a long time to come to the point of conversion. In contrast, students who have had prior contact with Christians who helped them along this journey may be much closer to making a decision.

The Spiritual Stages Scale assists us in another way. In our results-oriented American culture it is easy to think mistakenly that we are not successful in our witness unless we “score a touchdown” by leading someone to pray “the sinner’s prayer.” But our job is not that of conversion. That is the work of the Holy Spirit! Neither is it our responsibility to move students upward on the chart, say from a minus 9 to a minus 6 or even just to a minus 8. As the left-hand column entitled “God’s Initiative” illustrates, spiritual progress is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our task, pictured by the parallel column entitled “Christian’s Responsibility,” is to discern where the student is on his spiritual journey and facilitate the process of spiritual growth in him.

A final and critical use of the Spiritual Stages Scale is to use it as a prayer guide concerning your student. Ask God to show you where your student is spiritually. Ask Him what you should do to help the student. Ask the Holy Spirit to move him forward toward the next level of spiritual awareness.

Remember that successful evangelism is faithful evangelism. Your success is simply to be used by God in the spiritual cultivation process to help a person move in a positive direction in his relationship with God. Relax! You prepare the soil. Enjoy the process and pray for the Spirit of God to move in your student’s life. Then be sensitive to opportunities that will allow you to plant the seed of the Gospel and cultivate and water the crop. And who knows? God may grant you the privilege of harvesting the new life that God produces in that student (1 Corinthians 3:5–9).

## Spiritual Stages Scale\*

*\*Adapted by Dean Halverson and Howard Killion from the Spiritual Awareness and Growth Scale by Dr. James F. Engel*

God's Initiative	Christian's Responsibility		International's Response
<p>Witness of the Spirit</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">↑</p> <p>Gives spiritual life</p>	<p>Ministry outreach</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">↑</p> <p>Christian fellowship</p> <p>Personal growth</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">↑</p> <p><b>Harvesting</b></p> <p>Cultivating and watering the crop</p> <p>Planting the seed</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">↑</p> <p>Preparing the soil</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">↑</p>	<p>+10</p> <p>+9</p> <p>+8</p> <p>+7</p> <p>+6</p> <p>+5</p> <p>+4</p> <p>+3</p> <p>+2</p> <p>+1</p> <p>-1</p> <p>-2</p> <p>-3</p> <p>-4</p> <p>-5</p> <p>-6</p> <p>-7</p> <p>-8</p> <p>-9</p> <p>-10</p>	<p>Vision for future ministry</p> <p>Effective outreach to others</p> <p>Development in Christian leadership</p> <p>Growth in total stewardship</p> <p>Recognition and use of spiritual gifts</p> <p>Understanding and application of Bible doctrine</p> <p>Growth in Bible study</p> <p>Conceptual and behavioral growth</p> <p>Adoption of Christian identity</p> <p>Assurance of salvation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conversion: New Creation in Christ because received Him as Savior</b></p> <p>Repentance</p> <p>Decision to act</p> <p>Recognition of personal sin problem in relation to God</p> <p>Positive attitude toward the Gospel</p> <p>Understanding fundamentals of the Gospel</p> <p>Positive attitude toward the God who has made Himself fully known only through Jesus [Biblical Monotheism: Christianity (but no personal relationship with Jesus)]</p> <p>Understanding that God made Himself fully known only through Jesus</p> <p>Belief in a Creator God with personal attributes, but no belief in Jesus as God. [Non-Biblical Monotheism: Judaism, Islam, some forms of Hinduism]</p> <p>Belief in a spiritual reality but not in a single Creator God who has personal attributes [Monism, Pantheism, Polytheism: Hinduism (most forms); Jainism; Sikhism; Buddhism; Shintoism; Taoism; Zoroastrianism; Animism/Voodoo/Santeria; New Age; Native American religion; Wicca; Druidism; Gaia; Astrology; Mormonism]</p> <p>No belief in any spiritual reality [Secularism, Atheism, Agnosticism: Scientism, Neo-Darwinism, Marxism, Confucianism]</p>





## Stages of Relationship with Your Student



### Stage One

Your relationship with your student, particularly if she is not a follower of Jesus, will probably begin at what we might call (surprise!) the First Stage:

You extend genuine friendship to your student and find ways to serve her in her practical needs.

You invite your international friend to your family events and join her at her national holiday celebrations. You show interest in her country, studies, work, family, beliefs, problems, and needs.

### Stage Two

As trust builds between you and your student, your relationship shifts to a Second Stage:

She trusts you to treat her with respect and sensitivity to her feelings, beliefs, and needs. She can open up and be herself, express herself honestly, and talk about personal issues.

### Stage Three

But because Christ is central to your life, you hope and pray that your relationship moves to a Third Stage:

Your international friend is willing to learn from you about Christian beliefs and experience.

As you spend time with your student, ask God to provide natural leads into a discussion of your student's spiritual interests or needs. People from most non-Christian cultures are curious and interested in the topic of religion. Many Americans view the topic of religion as taboo in light social conversation and feel uncomfortable when it is seriously introduced. However, internationals often welcome such discussion. Indeed, you may be pleasantly surprised to find how quickly your student wants to move on to the second and third stages. But if she shows a reluctance to talk about spiritual matters, be patient. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the sensitivity to assess accurately your relationship with your international friend and her "felt needs." May God grant you the right words to say and the right times to say them, in respect and love, to help someone far from home and maybe far from God.

Before going on to offer suggestions on how, in a natural way, to bring out your student's interest in spiritual matters, we need to clear away obstacles that can get in the way of sharing our faith.

## Common Barriers to Witnessing

Time Checkpoint: 10:35 (1:35)



**Why do you think people don't share their faith?** There are a number of reasons why American followers of Christ today shy away from verbalizing their faith. In a survey taken at a Billy Graham evangelism training event, participants shared their greatest obstacles to witnessing. More than 50% said, "fear of how the other person would react," was their number one roadblock. More than 25% said, "not knowing where to start," was their greatest hindrance.

These obstacles have been conquered countless times by individuals who have taken the time and effort to learn a simple presentation of the Gospel. With a little practice, you can share with others confidently. In fact, it is proven that Christians who have received training and have practiced sharing their faith with a tool like *Steps to Peace with God* or the *Four Spiritual Laws*, have a greater sense of freedom and confidence sharing their faith with unbelievers than those who have never taken the time to learn.



Dr. Timothy Beougher, in his helpful booklet, *Overcoming Walls to Witnessing* (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association), cites five obstacles that most of us need to break through in order to find freedom in our witness and see it become a lifestyle. These are the barriers of **fear, ignorance, apathy, introspection, and busyness.**

**1. The Barrier of Fear**—I'm afraid of being rejected or turning the person off!

- ◆ It is not unusual for disciples of Christ to struggle with fear in one form or another.
- ◆ Fear often comes from Satan and has no substance in reality.
- ◆ Fear does not let us off the hook from obedience to God.
- ◆ Our fears must give way to the more pressing need of a person who is lost and must be introduced to Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Fear can be a great reminder that we cannot witness apart from God's power.

**2. The Barrier of Ignorance**—I don't know what to say or if I can answer the questions!

- ◆ The message of Christ is simple and you can master it.
- ◆ You know more than you think. Your experience of Jesus alone is a great message!
- ◆ Familiarity with simple tools such as the study guide to the *Jesus* video and the tract *Knowing God Personally* can help you communicate the Gospel clearly.
- ◆ God loves to use ordinary people; you don't need to be a theologian to share Jesus.

**3. The Barrier of Apathy**—I'm not really interested in witnessing; let the professional ministers and missionaries do that!

- ◆ Prayer for the lost will develop in you a burden for witnessing (Romans 9:2–3).
- ◆ Studying what scripture says about the lost will allow God's Word to speak to you.
- ◆ Since these may be the Last Days, your time may be short (James 4:14).
- ◆ God calls us to obey with our will, not our emotions.
- ◆ Spending time with lost people will give you a sense of compassion and urgency.

**4. The Barrier of Introspection**—I really need to get my own act together before I talk to other people!

- ◆ The claim that you must be perfect before you can witness to another is a lie.
- ◆ One of the great descriptions of evangelism is “just one beggar showing another beggar where to find bread.”
- ◆ Sinners are the only people God uses to witness for Him.
- ◆ When we are weak is the time that God can use us in the greatest way (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- ◆ Salvation is God’s work, not ours!

5. **The Barrier of Busyness**—I’ll witness when I have more time; right now I just have too many other things going on!

- ◆ We give our time to the things that are the most important to us.
- ◆ You refuse to listen to the lie that you don’t have time.
- ◆ You can simply decide to make evangelism a high priority.
- ◆ Commit time in your schedule to be with non-believers with whom you hope to share the Gospel.
- ◆ Ask another brother or sister to hold you accountable to witnessing opportunities.

## Opening a Conversation about Spiritual Topics and the Art of Listening

Time Checkpoint: 10:40 (1:40)



As mentioned above, in your early meetings with your student you will want to give him the chance to talk of many things about himself, his family, and his country. It is in the cordial exchange of personal information that friendships can develop. The Participant’s Manual lists useful questions as “Conversation Starters,” under topics such as “Family,” and “Education.” There is also a topic on spirituality.

In order to understand where your student is spiritually, you will need to get into conversations with him about spiritual matters. Your friend might be prompted to ask about your beliefs after observing you thank God for your meal or after you explain how God answered prayer and strengthened you in some trouble. Your student’s questions or expressions of deep personal concern (Stage Two in the subsection above) are the best place to open the topic of spiritual needs and God’s solutions.



But if your student does not provide an opening, then you need to ask spiritual questions yourself. **What are some questions you might ask?** Inviting him to tell you about his family provides a natural springboard to religious matters. You can ask some of the following questions:

- ◆ “What is the religious tradition of your family?”
- ◆ “What is your concept or belief about God?”
- ◆ “What is your perception of religion in this country?”
- ◆ “Where are you on your spiritual journey?”
- ◆ “Do you know what Christians believe?”

Your student may respond to these questions with enthusiasm and great detail. In this case you will probably have opportunity to ask follow-up questions. Indeed, he may ask you, in turn, about your religious beliefs. If so, give answers appropriate to the level and extent of interest. Don't overwhelm the student with an hour-long presentation. It is much better to err on the side of brevity. If he truly wants to know more, and he senses a friendly atmosphere, he probably will ask additional questions.

If your student responds with very short answers or shows discomfort or lack of interest, move the conversation on to other matters. But, hopefully, you will at least have a few clues about the level of your student's spiritual development according to the Spiritual Stages Scale.

As you make these inquiries, ask the Holy Spirit to give you spiritual insight.

Three words of caution:

**First, your student may be reluctant to open up about spiritual matters in the presence of another international, particularly from his home country or religious background.** Your student may feel freer to answer your spiritual questions candidly within the context of private conversation.

**Second, be sure not to challenge or attack your student's religious beliefs or background.** Many students will tend to be non-religious even though they call themselves Muslim, Buddhist, or Hindu. But they may perceive challenges to their religious backgrounds as challenges to their cultural heritages. Consequently, they may feel compelled to defend belief systems to which they are not really committed. You should be secure enough in the Lord to invite your student to teach you about his religion. In doing so, you not only extend respect to your friend, but you also give yourself the chance to understand him better.



**Third, many students come from countries where religion and culture are one.** They may see the United States as a Christian nation the same as they would see Saudi Arabia as a Muslim country or Thailand as a Buddhist nation. So they may assume that all Americans and American ways are Christian. The question listed above, about what your student perceives about religion in America, may allow you to explore this issue with him.

## Prayer Power

Time checkpoint: 10:45 (1:45)



Knowledge of methods and skills is helpful, but without the working of God Himself, our efforts will not amount to much. As Solomon put it: "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). It is therefore critical that we rely on God and align ourselves with His work. This we do through prayer. We have already indicated how essential prayer is to the spiritual ministry of friendship evangelism and how the Spiritual

Stages Scale should be used as a prayer guide. We would now like to provide two more important means of exercising prayer power in your ministry.



First, prayer is recognizing and following through on our dependence on God for spiritual results. Dr. Katie J. Rawson, an authority on international student ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, offers the following list as an excellent guide for praying throughout the whole process of leading an international student to Christ.

- ◆ Pray to meet people who are searching for God (Philip in Acts 8).
- ◆ Prayer walk: pray near or inside places where people live or meet (Joshua 6:1–20).
- ◆ Pray for boldness and a clear message when sharing (Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:4).
- ◆ Pray for the sowing, watering, and reaping process (Matthew 13:1–23).
- ◆ Pray to understand the obstacles to conversion for your friend (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).
- ◆ Pray to understand what God is doing in your friend's life (John 5:19).
- ◆ Pray with fasting.
- ◆ Pray beforehand and have others pray while you are sharing your faith.
- ◆ Pray in agreement with one or two prayer partners (Matthew 18:19–20).
- ◆ Pray that the enemy's power to blind would be bound and that your friend would see the glory of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6).
- ◆ Pray for God to give you sensitivity to where your student is emotionally, culturally, and spiritually.
- ◆ Pray that God will move in the heart of your student to give her a desire to know Christ. (The simple fact that God has brought the two of you together is an indication that God is working.)
- ◆ Pray for discernment as to the point at which there should be openness to the Gospel.
- ◆ Pray that God would give you a love for and commitment to your student.

The above list is not a collection of topics for prayer in the hearing of your not-yet-believing student. But the **second important prayer focus is indeed to pray with your student**. This kind of prayer is appropriate at any point in the student's spiritual journey and can be used by God as a means of evangelism. Frequently, we pray for those we desire to trust Christ. But how often do we ask those around us how we might pray for them in order that they may see God answer prayer in their lives? As Howard Tryon powerfully shares in his book, *Praying for You*, this may be one of the most effective tools in pre-evangelism that we could use.

Begin by asking your student how you might pray for her. Faithfully pray for that request; then follow-up next time by asking for an update. Ask if there's anything else for which she'd like you to pray. Continue this as your student begins to see God answer your prayers, give her spiritual insights, and move in her heart.

As you combine your prayers with the student with your faithful private prayers for her, pray for God to draw your student to Himself.

Expose her to other believers that she might see the life of Christ manifested in the lives of many others beside yourself.



Several years ago a study was conducted among Muslim converts asking about their conversions. These were the most common reasons given for their final decision to follow Christ:

1. Unexplained answers to prayer.
2. Unexplained acts of love by Christians.
3. Being exposed to multiple Christians and seeing the consistency of love.

The average was seven years from the time of first introduction to the Gospel before belief.\*

*\*Source unknown*

## Sharing Your Testimony

Time checkpoint: 10:50 (1:50)



Giving your testimony is appropriate after you get to know your student and you've enjoyed some spiritual discussions together. These conversations will help you to know whether your student has a genuine interest in your experience with Jesus and is not simply being polite. Your student might be at any point along his spiritual journey and still be truly interested.

Guidelines for your testimony:

- ◆ Make it sound conversational; write it out the way you speak.
- ◆ Avoid religious cliches, and keep your religious language simple.
- ◆ Be able to tell your story in three minutes; simplify.
- ◆ Don't preach! Tell your personal story. For example, "When I was 16, I was really having trouble getting along with my parents/teachers. I had no interest in church or Christianity. But there was this girl/boy whom I liked who invited me, etc."

Emphasize benefits you have experienced from receiving Christ, benefits you think your student might find attractive for his own life.

- ◆ Make sure the steps to a decision are clear.
- ◆ Practice several times until it is memorized and clear.
- ◆ Get others to critique it for you.
- ◆ Expect a response!



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**Trainer:** Have participants fill out the Testimony Outline in their Participant's Manual. Tell participants they have four minutes to fill out the outline. Explain that they should feel free to adapt the outline to fit their story. Then have them pair up. One partner should take three minutes to give his or her testimony and then take an extra minute to allow the listener to give feedback. Then have them reverse roles for another four minutes. Total time: 13 minutes.

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## Testimony Outline

(Feel free to adapt it to fit your story.)



### Before I Trusted Christ

- ◆ What was life like that your audience can relate to?
- ◆ What did your life revolve around the most?
- ◆ How did those areas begin to get you down?

### How I Trusted Christ

- ◆ When was the first time you heard the Gospel or were exposed to a dynamic Christian?
- ◆ What were your initial reactions?
- ◆ When did your attitude begin to turn around? Why?
- ◆ What were the final struggles that went through your mind just before you accepted Christ?
- ◆ Why did you go ahead and accept Christ anyway?

### After I Trusted Christ

- ◆ What specific changes has Christ made in your life? Give illustrations.
- ◆ In what ways are you motivated differently now? Why?

### Student's Response

Conclude by asking for a response from your student; ask a question such as:

- ◆ “Have you had any experience similar to this? Is so, would you please tell me about it? If not, would you like to?”
- ◆ “What do you wish God would change in your life?”
- ◆ “Would you like to know how God can make a difference in your life as He has in mine?”



## Inviting Your Student to Church

Time checkpoint: 11:10 (2:10)



As the relationship with your international student deepens, eventually it will probably be natural and appropriate to invite her to come to church with you. However, remember several things:

1. Your student may not know what it means to “go to church with you.” She just might think you are inviting her to go and look at a Christian building or place of worship. She might not understand that you are referring to a meeting. Inviting her to a “church service” is even less clear. This is Christian jargon. Rather, invite her to a “Christian worship meeting.” This is language she can understand.
2. Ask your student only when you sense that she will feel comfortable about being asked. Don’t press her. For students with little spiritual interest, Christmas and Easter are good opportunities to invite them to church to see how American Christians celebrate these holidays. For students with more interest, any Sunday would be fine. However, realize that the whole idea of attending a Christian worship meeting may be undesirable for some students. Put yourself in their place: Would you, as a Christian international student, want to visit a ceremony or meeting at a mosque or Hindu temple? Of course, you could have very good reasons for going. But you could have reasons that are just as valid for not wanting to go. Your student friend may have similar reservations about attending a meeting at a Christian “temple.” So don’t put pressure on her to feel obligated to go, and do be prepared to accept graciously a possible negative answer. You can ask again further down the road.
3. Invite your student to come with you to **observe** a Christian worship meeting where you regularly attend. She is more likely to agree to go with you out of an interest to observe Christian worship as a part of American culture than out of spiritual interest. That is OK! She may also agree to go just because she wants to please you, her caring American friend. Thus, an agreement to go does not necessarily indicate spiritual interest.
4. Let the student know what is appropriate to wear and how long the meeting will last. Don’t assume she will also want to attend Sunday school or other church activities before or after the worship meeting. Remember, her main objective in being in the US is probably academic and she takes her study time very seriously.
5. Explain ahead of time aspects of the worship meeting that might surprise or puzzle your student. Explain, for example, that the offering is an act of worship for regular attendees and that guests are not expected to contribute. If communion is planned, help your student understand the symbolism of the bread and the grape juice, and what is signified by the eating and drinking of these items. Assure her that it is suitable for her, as a visitor, not to participate. Offer explanations for baptisms, baby dedications, dramas, altar calls, etc. Also, go ahead and explain the meaning of the phrase “a church service” and how it differs from the phrase “Christian service.” Your student is likely to hear both of these phrases at the meeting. **Preparing your student friend in advance will help her feel more comfortable and understand more of what**

**happens. This, in turn, will build her respect for and trust in you.** Be prepared to answer questions.

6. If your church has the practice of identifying and welcoming visitors during worship meetings, tell your student what she can expect to happen and ask how much she wants to get involved in that. If she really doesn't want to have any public attention brought to her, make sure that you make the necessary arrangements with the pastor and the ushers ahead of time so that your student's desires are respected. If your church doesn't do a particularly good job of greeting visitors before and after worship meetings, call some of your church friends ahead of time to seek you out and greet your international friend. **It is important for your student to meet other Christians, so that she understands that other Christians are kind, not just you.**
7. Attending a church worship meeting once or even several times may not bring a non-Christian international—or American for that matter—to a full understanding of the Gospel. Feel free to pray that the Holy Spirit will work for such comprehension in the heart and mind of your student, but don't depend on church attendance as the primary way for this to happen. However, you can count on her observation of a church worship meeting at least to give her some perspective on both American culture and the Christian faith. Attendance can also spark or fan spiritual interest and lead the student to ask some good questions. Do keep in mind that any question is a good question; there are no "dumb" questions. Be prepared to respond with honesty, respect, and clarity. Give a short answer to see if that satisfies first, before launching into a huge lecture. Don't preach to the student and let her respond in her own way. You may ask what she thought about the meeting or if she has any questions. But don't press her if she seems reluctant to talk about it.
8. Don't assume anything or expect any particular response. The student's observations, thoughts, and comments may be totally different from what you would have anticipated. On the one hand, though "church" is something special and meaningful to us, it may be just another American cultural activity to observe for her. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit may move in her heart in a remarkably quick way. The key is to be sensitive to your student.
9. Prayer is **so** important. So pray before you ask the student, pray before you take her, pray during the meeting, and pray afterwards!
10. Don't be defensive if the student seems negative or asks questions that seem to challenge the church or Christian faith. Some common questions are:
  - ◆ Why are there so many different churches?
  - ◆ How can you know the Bible is true?
  - ◆ Do you really believe Christianity (or Jesus) is the only way to God?
  - ◆ How do you feel about other religions?

Be truthful but cautious as you answer these questions. Don't get in too deep with your answers unless the student asks for more. Keep it simple! Sometimes it might be advisable to ask the student what she means by her question. For example, if she asks where the preacher came from, this may be an inquiry about his place of birth rather than about his

worldview or spiritual origin. Also test the water in your responses so that you can be honest while still showing sensitivity and respect for the student and her background.

The second and third questions above are dealt with in the last two chapters of ISI's *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. These chapters can also be purchased as separate ISI religion profiles.

## ISI's Evangelism Pathway and Useful Resources

Time checkpoint: 11:12 (2:12)

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Trainer: Refer participants to pp. 27–29 in the manual for more detailed information about ISI's Evangelism Pathway.

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*The following materials, designed with cross-cultural needs in mind, make up ISI's Evangelism Pathway.*



- ◆ *Knowing God Personally*, a tract that presents the Gospel in simple but attractive graphic format
- ◆ *Who Is This Jesus?*, a four-lesson study guide for the *Jesus* video (both student and leader's versions)
- ◆ *Discovering God*, a five-lesson inductive Bible study, Book One of the Discovering God Series
- ◆ *How Will They Hear?* by Dick Daeschner, a six-lesson deductive Bible study
- ◆ *Meeting God* by Paul Champoux, a more extensive, six-lesson inductive Bible study (both student and leader's versions)



ISI's Bible Studies for Discipling New Believers

- ◆ *Growing Strong to Serve*, by Paul Champoux, a 12-lesson inductive study (both student and leader's versions)
- ◆ Books two through four of the Discovering God Series, each with five inductive lessons:
  - ◆ *Walking with God*
  - ◆ *Putting God First*
  - ◆ *Sharing God with Others*



From Other Sources: Tracts, *Jesus* Videos, Apologetics Books, and Bibles in Other Languages

- ◆ The *Jesus* Film Project; P.O. Box 72007; San Clemente, CA 92674-2007, or call 1-800-432-1997. You can also check the current availability of *Jesus* videos through ISI by calling 1-800-ISI-TEAM.
- ◆ World Bible Translation Center, [www.wbtc.com](http://www.wbtc.com). This source has inexpensive Bibles in seventeen different languages, including a new translation of the complete Bible in the simplified Chinese script of Mainland China.
- ◆ Many other useful sources are listed in the “Foreign Language Literature and Bible Suppliers” section at the end of the Participant’s Manual. Among the most valuable are these:
  - ◆ American Bible Society
  - ◆ International Bible Society
  - ◆ Multi-Language Media

We desire for you to be involved with other ISI ministries here in the city.

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Trainer: You will need to have a list of available opportunities and local newsletter available at this time.

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We find that it generally takes multiple exposures to the Gospel from a variety of believers for a student to understand the Gospel and be willing to make a decision.

## **Sharing the Words of Life: The *Knowing God Personally* Tract**

Time checkpoint: 11:17 (2:17)

ISI has produced an evangelistic tract entitled, *Knowing God Personally (KGP)*. Designed especially for witnessing to internationals, *KGP* is being used by many to lead students from all over the world to Christ. The following twelve subsections will familiarize you with this effective tool and give you a chance to practice using it. As you allow God to equip and employ you in this way, an exciting new supernatural dimension will become a part of your everyday experience with Christ! You will begin to help change the world, one person at a time!

## ***KGP* Introduction, Section 1: Brainstorming the Gospel**

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**Trainer:** Show slide and read this question, “What does a person need to know in order to be saved?” Take answers.

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Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ used to ask this question at every evangelism-training event. Here’s a list of the responses that he usually got:

- ◆ There is a Creator God who made everything.
- ◆ This God wants to have a close personal relationship with every person.
- ◆ People are sinful.
- ◆ People are lost because their sin has separated them from a holy God.
- ◆ God loved the lost so much He gave His Son to die for people’s sin.
- ◆ Christ rose from the dead.
- ◆ Forgiveness is available as a free gift to every man and woman.
- ◆ We must repent.
- ◆ We must invite Jesus into our lives and willfully receive Him.
- ◆ We must be born again spiritually.
- ◆ We must be willing for Jesus to be our Lord as well as Savior.
- ◆ Those who receive Jesus are made the children of God.
- ◆ God’s salvation is by grace through faith in Him alone.
- ◆ You cannot work for your salvation.

## ***KGP* Introduction, Section 2: Overview of the *KGP* Tract**

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**Trainer:** Distribute to each participant a copy of the *Knowing God Personally* tract.

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Research shows that people who witness regularly do so because at some time in their Christian lives they learned to share the Gospel by using a tool like the *KGP* tract. They became comfortable and confident in using it with others. Mastering this evangelistic tool with God’s help will enable your volunteers to become powerful instruments in God’s hands to introduce others to Him.

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**Trainer:** Show the main sections of the tract by having the whole group thumb through *KGP* quickly from cover to cover.

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The *Knowing God Personally* tract is divided into seven sections. The first five sections demonstrate five key truths:

- ◆ God is the ultimate source of everything.
- ◆ God’s desire for us is to know Him forever.
- ◆ Our problem is a broken relationship with Him.
- ◆ God’s solution is Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Our response is to receive Christ.

The final two sections focus on the decision:

- ◆ How to Receive Christ
- ◆ Assurance of Salvation

### ***KGP* Introduction, Section 3: Using *KGP* to Follow Up in a Developing Relationship**



The *KGP* tract is mainly a tool to be used to help a student come to a point of decision for Christ. While God can use the tract to lead someone to Himself in virtually any circumstances, it is **designed to be used chiefly in the context of your friendship with a student**. This is someone you have spent time getting to know. She has probably learned something about your faith through your use of one or more of the tools we have introduced to you today. Now she indicates that she has a personal interest, or you sense that she is genuinely seeking God. This tract will help your student clarify her understanding of what it means to become a believer. Through this tract the Lord can use you to bring your student to a decision to receive Christ.

In earlier subsections you practiced sharing your testimony. You also became familiar with other means of evangelism such as asking spiritual questions, inviting your student to church, praying with her, showing the *Jesus* video, and conducting a Bible study with her. Now you can follow up by asking a question that leads to the *KGP* tract. Here are some suggested questions:

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**Trainer:** Direct participants to the Participant's Manual that has follow-up questions leading to the tract. Explain that you will be giving them the opportunity to use one of these questions in a few moments.

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“Would you be interested in reading together a small booklet that:

- ◆ has the information that has really changed my whole life?”
- ◆ could help you experience the meaning in life that God has given me and many others?”
- ◆ presents in a clear way the heart of the Bible?” (Bible study)
- ◆ shows how a person can know Jesus/the God of the Bible?” (*Jesus* video/Bible study)
- ◆ demonstrates how you can have a life like Jesus?” (*Jesus* video/Bible study)

### ***KGP* Introduction, Section 4: Basic Guidelines for Sharing *KGP***

Once your student friend has agreed to read through the *KGP* tract with you, you will want to make certain arrangements if possible.





- ◆ **Find a place where you and your student can be alone** so he will not feel self-conscious or fear others listening in on the discussion. A private conversation will be less subject to distractions and interruptions.
- ◆ In our matching process we try to make sure that Friendship Partners are matched with students of the same gender. But **if for some reason, there is no one of the same gender who is equipped and available to go through the tract with the student, then you should meet with the student in a public setting that yet offers privacy.** Such locations include a public library, a hotel lobby, a restaurant, a mall, or a park. It should be a place where acquaintances of the student are not likely to happen by.

As you go through the tract, there are also a few helpful things to keep in mind.



- ◆ **You and *KGP* together are far more powerful together in God's hands than the booklet all by itself.** Resist the temptation to just give the booklet away. Take time to read it with your student and explain it to her.
- ◆ **Remember it is the Holy Spirit who changes your student's heart.** Even as you begin to share the booklet, pray silently that God will open your student's heart and mind to the truth.
- ◆ **Avoid being rigid and impersonal.** Share the booklet naturally, adding your own illustrations and pausing to explain as needed.
- ◆ **Show your kindness and love as you present the booklet to your student.** Be warm and friendly as you share God's message of reconciliation.
- ◆ **Speak with confidence.** You are sharing the best news anyone has ever heard.
- ◆ If you sit opposite each other, **hold the booklet so that it is facing your student.**
- ◆ **If possible, have your student read the tract aloud part by part.** But if he is too uncomfortable about his English, then you read it to him. In order to do this you must sit alongside him with the tract between you so that he can follow along.
- ◆ **Seek feedback and listen carefully as you go along.** Ask your friend, "what does the tract/Bible mean when it says...?" and "what do you think about this?"
- ◆ As you read along through each section it is good to **have a pen or pencil** with you so that you can **underline key words and phrases.**
- ◆ **Use your Bible or New Testament**—which you should carry with you all the time—**to refer to other passages** not in the booklet as God lays them on your heart.

### Sharing the *Knowing God Personally* Tract

As you begin to share the *KGP* tract, ask the Holy Spirit to give you guidance about your student's religious or spiritual perspective. Hopefully, you have given God plenty to work with, including prior conversations with your student, the parts of *The Compact Guide to World Religions* that relate to your student's background, the Spiritual Stages Scale introduced previously, and, most importantly, concentrated prayer times. These will help Him give you the insight you need.

Ask God to enable you to communicate sensitively and clearly the key concepts of each of the booklet's seven parts. Be sure not to skip any portion of the tract, as each is important for a clear understanding of the Gospel.

Also ask the Holy Spirit to bring clarity and openness to your student as He illuminates her heart and mind. Ask that she will be able to understand the main point of each of the booklet's seven parts and that she will take every one of them to heart.



## ***KGP* Section One: God is the Ultimate Source of Everything**

Time Checkpoint: 11:27 (2:27)

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**Trainer:** While you display the first section slide, tell the participants to open the tract to that section. Ask them to identify the key phrases.

---

### **Key Phrases**

- ◆ God
- ◆ Ultimate source of everything
- ◆ In the beginning
- ◆ God created the heavens and the earth
- ◆ God created man in His own image
- ◆ All things were made
- ◆ God's invisible qualities have been clearly seen from what has been made

---

**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the main point of this section.

---

### **Main Point**



**God made everything, including us, and He made us special.**

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**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the transition to the next section and when to use it.

---

### **Transition to Next Section:**

There is no printed transition. But the information in section one begs a significant question: Why were we made? For what purpose?



## ***KGP* Section Two: God's Desire for Us Is to Know Him Forever**

Time checkpoint: 11:29 (2:29)

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**Trainer:** While you display the second section slide, tell participants to turn to that section. Ask them to identify the key phrases.

---

### Key Phrases

- ◆ God loves you
- ◆ Wants you to know Him
- ◆ Forever
- ◆ Wants all people to be saved
- ◆ God loved the world
- ◆ Gave His one and only Son
- ◆ By believing in Him (the Son)
- ◆ Anyone can have whole and lasting life
- ◆ Personally

---

**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the main point of this section.

---

### Main Point



**God made us to have a loving, personal relationship with him.**

As you share this section with your student, you build from section one. You can say something like this: “In the last section we learned from the Bible that God created us for a purpose. We learn from this second section what that purpose is! How exciting! God’s main purpose for creating us is so that we would know Him. We get to know Him by having a personal relationship with Him. Isn’t that amazing? The God who created everything wants to have a personal relationship with each of us!”

---

**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the transition to the next section and when to use it.

---

### Transition to Next Section:

“But we have a problem” located at the bottom of the right-hand side of the section, is the transition. Wait until you are sure your student understands the key ideas of the second section. Then point to this statement and tell your student something like this: “Even though God’s purpose is for all people to know Him, we have a problem that prevents this.” Then a nice way to quicken your student’s interest is to ask (before turning the page) “What do you think this problem is?”



**KGP Section Three: Our Problem Is a Broken Relationship with God**

Time checkpoint: 11:31 (2:31)

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**Trainer:** While you display the third section slide, tell participants to turn to that section.

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### Key Phrases

- ◆ Our problem
- ◆ Broken relationship
- ◆ He did not force us to love and obey Him
- ◆ Gave us a will
- ◆ Chose to go their own willful way
- ◆ Results in our relationship with God being broken
- ◆ All have sinned and fall short
- ◆ Your sins have cut you off from God
- ◆ Tried many ways to make themselves acceptable to God
- ◆ Without success
- ◆ God, holy

---

**Trainer:** Ask participants what are the two main points of this section. Treat other responses as “other key concepts.”

---

### Main Points



**Our problem is that going our own way (sin) has broken our relationship with God.**

**We can never heal this broken relationship by our own efforts.**

Explore with your student **the chasm illustration**. The chasm represents the separation from God that our sin produces. The word “unholy” signifies our sin, two examples of which are “lying” and “stealing.” The black incomplete bridges labeled “ethics,” “philosophy,” etc. represent our attempts to get back to God through our own efforts. But as the illustration shows, none of the bridges actually reach God. They all fall short. He is holy and we are not, and there is nothing that we can do about it by our own efforts. To say that God is “holy” is to say that He is completely good and right, without fault.



Because virtually all other religions are works-based in one way or another, your student may have difficulty understanding **the main point of this illustration**: that **self-effort is the basic sin that separates us from God**. The Bible teaches that there is absolutely nothing that we can do to pay for our own sin. No amount of good deeds, self-denial, self-cultivation, meditation, education, achievement, or alternative religion can bridge the chasm of trying to go to God by our own way. **Our efforts are not the solution; they are part of the problem.**

---

**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the transition to the next section and when to use it.

---

### Transition to Next Section:

The transition is provided in section three: “But God has provided a way to restore your relationship with Him.” **Your student needs to feel the weight of the bad news of part three** before moving on to the good news. Emphasize the following two points:

- ◆ This is God’s way, not ours.
- ◆ Since the universe demonstrates that God is so powerful (section one) and the Bible shows that He is so loving (section two), it makes sense that He would have a solution to our problem.

Now before you turn the page, ask this question: “**So what do you think God’s solution is?**” The purposes of the question are the same as for the previous section’s transitional question: to quicken the interest of the student by engaging him in dialogue, and to give you a chance to see how much your student already knows and understands.

If your student gives an answer to your question (whether correctly or incorrectly doesn’t matter), then you can say, “Well, let’s see if you’re right,” and turn to section four. If your student isn’t sure about the answer, you can simply say, “Well, let’s see what the answer is,” and then turn the page. In any case, you create a little suspense.




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**Trainer:** Now that your participants have looked at sections one through three, have them pair up for a role-play. One partner acts as a student. The assumption is that she has just responded positively to a particular evangelistic tool or context. The other partner, taking the role of the American Christian friend, starts the role-play by asking an appropriate follow-up question to move on to the tract. Then the American friend walks the student through the first three sections of the tract, devoting about a minute to each section. The role-play should conclude with the American friend making the transition to the fourth section. Assure the pairs that they will get a chance to reverse roles later. If you are on schedule, then you can give four minutes for this role-play.

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### **KGP Section Four: God’s Solution to Our Problem Is Jesus Christ**

Time checkpoint: 11:37 (2:37)

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**Trainer:** While you display the fourth section slide, tell participants to turn to that section. Ask them to identify the key phrases.

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#### **Key Phrases**

- ◆ God’s solution
- ◆ Jesus Christ
- ◆ Only solution to this problem
- ◆ Final result of disobedience is the penalty of death (separation from God)
- ◆ Dying on the cross
- ◆ Jesus took our punishment on Himself
- ◆ Made the way for our relationship with God to be restored

- ◆ God demonstrates His own love for us
- ◆ While we were sinners
- ◆ Christ died for us

---

**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the main point of this section. Treat other responses as “other key concepts.”

---

### Main Point



**The only solution to the problem of our broken relationship with God is Jesus Christ.**

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**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the transition to the next section and when to use it.

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### Transition to Next Section:

Wait until the student understands what God’s solution is. Then if you are reasonably sure that your student will answer positively, use the transition printed at the bottom of the right-hand page:

“God has provided the way. Will you accept this new relationship with Him?”

### ***KGP* Section Five: Our Response Is to Receive Christ**



Time checkpoint: 11:39 (2:39)

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**Trainer:** While you display the fifth section slide, tell participants to turn to that section. Ask them to identify the key phrases.

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### Key Phrases

- ◆ Our response
- ◆ Receive Christ
- ◆ We must place our trust in Jesus
- ◆ By accepting the payment for our sins
- ◆ Jesus paid for us on the cross
- ◆ If we give our lives to Him
- ◆ We can have a right relationship with God
- ◆ I knock
- ◆ If you open the door
- ◆ I’ll come right in

- ◆ I am the way and the truth and the life
- ◆ No one comes...except through me
- ◆ All who received Him
- ◆ He gave the right to become children of God

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**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the main point of this section.

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### Main Point

**Your student faces the most important decision of his or her life.**

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**Trainer:** Refer participants to the Participant's Manual "Helping Your Student at the Point of Decision" and "Prayer at the Decision Point".

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Ask participants what is the transition to the next section and when to use it.

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### Transition to Next Section

When you believe your student understands the choice he faces, ask the question on the bottom of the right-hand page: "Would you like to take this step today?"

If he hesitates, go ahead and turn to section six and ask the question: "Is there any good reason why you do not want to invite Jesus Christ into your life right now?" If he says, "no, there is no reason," and seems comfortable and ready, then go ahead with section six.

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**Trainer:** refer to Participant's Manual "If the Student Is Not Ready."

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Time checkpoint: 11:40 (2:40)

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**Trainer:** Now that your participants have looked at parts four and five, tell participants to pair up again with their role-play partners. Tell them to reverse roles. The American Christian friend starts the role-play with the transition from part three to part four and walks the student through section four and uses the alternate transition to part five that you had participants write down earlier. The American friend then leads through part five and the transition at the top of part six. The role-play concludes with the student responding that he has no problems with going on. If you are on schedule, you can give three minutes for this role-play. Refer to helps in Participant's Manual.

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## **KGP Section Six: Beginning with Christ**

Time checkpoint: 11:44 (2:44)

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**Trainer:** As a change of pace, ask participants right away what is the main point of this section.

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### **Main Point**



**To confess my sins and invite Jesus into my life as Lord and Savior establishes me in a new relationship with God.**

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**Trainer:** Suggest to the participants that the four “Steps to a new relationship with God” are the key phrases in this section. Lead the participants in reading aloud together these steps. Then ask the participants what the student needs to understand about the following phrases: “rose from the grave,” “receive Him as Lord,” and “a lifelong relationship.”

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If your student has communicated a desire to establish a right relationship with God or to invite Jesus into her life, then take her directly to “Steps to a new relationship with God” in section six. Make sure that she understands each of the steps. Among the things that you may need to clarify are these:

- ◆ Make sure the steps to a decision are clear.
  - ◆ That Jesus not only died on the cross but “rose from the grave.” This may require that you take your student to one of the resurrection accounts. John 20, with its climactic record of doubting Thomas’ recognition of the risen Christ in verse 28, is particularly good. You might also find useful Paul’s list of most of Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances in 1 Corinthians 15:3–7, including one to five hundred people “at the same time, most of whom are still living...” (verse 6). Your student needs to understand that if Jesus were still dead, He could not come into her life as Lord and Savior.
  - ◆ That receiving Jesus as Lord means to invite Him to come in and take control of her life.
  - ◆ That establishing a “lifelong relationship” with God means that by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, she has received His life in her. This life is forever. This relationship with Him continues not only throughout this earthly life but beyond the grave. Your student will be with God in heaven forever.
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**Trainer:** Direct participants to the Participant’s Manual “When the Student Is Ready.”

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### **If the Student Is Not Ready**

- ◆ Demonstrate how you can have a life like Jesus (*Jesus* video, Bible study)
- ◆ Don’t push or crowd him.



- ◆ If he is open, gently help him sort through his objection(s).
  - ◆ Assure him that this is a very big step and that it is good that he wants to be sure before he takes it.
  - ◆ Remind him that this is a decision that affects his life forever, including life after death.
  - ◆ None of us knows for sure if we will be alive tomorrow. So he needs to be sure that he is delaying for a good reason.
  - ◆ Assure him that you will continue to be his friend regardless of whether he receives Jesus or not.
- 
- ◆ Encourage him to take the tract with him and review it on his own.
  - ◆ Offer to meet again to answer any additional questions he may have.
  - ◆ Provide other helpful literature or a Bible for his further investigation.
  - ◆ Invite him into a seeker Bible study or an opportunity to watch the *Jesus* video with you.
  - ◆ Pray for him daily. As to whether or not you should pray openly with him about his decision, this depends on your sense of where he is spiritually.
  - ◆ Be prepared to go ahead with Section Six whenever your student is ready.
  - ◆ Also be prepared to learn that he has received Christ on his own. In this case, rejoice with him, review Section Six to make sure he has made a genuine decision, and take him through Section Seven to help establish and launch him in his new-found relationship with the Lord.

If the student says there is no good reason not to invite Jesus into her heart:

- ◆ Make sure the steps to a decision are clear.
- ◆ Ask her if she would like to do so right now.
- ◆ Direct her to the example prayer at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ Explain that prayer is just talking to God, simply telling Him what is in her heart.
- ◆ Encourage her to pray in her own words. Just make sure that her commitment includes all the elements of the example prayer.
- ◆ If she hesitates, suggest that she say the words of the example prayer. You can even offer to say each part of the prayer first and have her repeat it afterwards. But stress that the words are not a magic formula. It is the understanding and commitment of her heart that is important.

### **Transition**

After your student prays the sinner's prayer, say something like this:

“Now that you have made this most important decision of your life, let me tell you what God promises to do for you.”

### ***KGP* Section Seven: God's Assurance Through His Word**

Time checkpoint: 11:46 (2:46)



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**Trainer:** While you display the seventh section slide, tell participants to turn to that section. Ask them to identify the key phrases.

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### Key Phrases

- ◆ Everyone who calls
- ◆ On the name of the Lord
- ◆ Will be saved
  
- ◆ By grace you have been saved
- ◆ Through faith
- ◆ It is the gift of God
- ◆ Not from yourselves...not by works
- ◆ Did you sincerely ask?
- ◆ He has promised
- ◆ Whoever has God's Son has life
- ◆ I have written this
- ◆ That you may know you have eternal life

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**Trainer:** Ask participants what is the main point of this section.

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### Main Point



**We can be confident in our new relationship with God because His promises are sure.**

Time checkpoint: 11:48 (2:48)



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**Trainer:** Display slides “Immediate Follow-Up Guidelines” and “Additional Follow-Up Guidelines.”

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### Fighting Doubt in the New Believer

While a new believer can be very excited about his decision, he can also be very vulnerable to one of the great tactics of the enemy—doubt. Your new brother in Christ may wonder whether he was truly sincere in his commitment, he may have renewed questions about what he was doing, or he may become alarmed by the implications of his decision.

The best answer to this challenge is immediate follow-up. This is the purpose of section seven. It gives the new believer a basic assurance from God's Word that God really has come into his life.

Tell the new convert that:

- ◆ It is common to doubt the reality of his salvation, especially at first.

- ◆ God says your student can **know** he has eternal life. Review 1 John 5:12–13 printed in section seven. Add verse 11: “God has given us life, and this life is in his Son.”
- ◆ His salvation could not be earned by his efforts and therefore it cannot be lost by his efforts either.
- ◆ Nothing can snatch him out of God’s hand.

However, as Satan did with Eve in the garden, the enemy may plant doubts in the student’s mind about the character of God and the reliability of His Word. This is an ideal time for you to **give your testimony about how faithful you have found God and His Word to be**. Be honest about your times of doubt, but surely, right now, you are confident that your trust in God and His Word is well placed. Tell your student why this is so. (If not, then you have your own issues to sort out with God.)

**Making sure the new believer knows how to walk with God and has help getting started.**

Have the student read aloud to you the steps that are listed under “Walking with God.” For each step give examples from your own walk with God, and help your new brother make plans to put each of these steps into practice. Make an arrangement for you to follow up with your student concerning these steps. Or is there another Christian who would be better suited for this student’s follow up? For example, if you and the student are of different gender, you should probably find someone else to follow up.

An additional follow-up step for your student would be to get him into a Bible study for young believers. The more of God’s Word that can be hidden in his heart, the more he will have the discernment to spot the enemy’s lies. Is this Bible study something you could do with him? See ISI’s resource list for good, easy-to-use follow-up Bible studies available through ISI. If you cannot do the Bible study, perhaps you know someone who would be suitable and available.

If it is not possible for you to make arrangements for the follow-up of the student—for example, he may be moving away—get permission from your student to arrange for some other Christian to follow up with him. Then fill out an ISI Student Transfer or Returnee Form and give it to your international student ministry church team leader, local ISI staff member, or the ISI Home Office. ISI will do its best to see that the student is followed up.

If the student comes from a country or situation where his conversion is a delicate or dangerous matter, assure him that ISI will handle any possible contact with great care. You might need to explore with him whether telling his family of his decision is advisable at this time. For example, if his parents are Muslim, they might react with hostility. Or he may come from a country, such as China, where mail, email, and phone calls, particularly from overseas, are often monitored.

Finally, pray with your new brother in Christ before the two of you part company for the day. Thank God joyfully for what He has done today. Invite your student to pray aloud too, but don’t force him. In your prayer express your love for your student friend, and if you are the one doing the follow-up, tell God how much you are looking forward to learning and growing in Christ together. If follow-up will be handled in another way, be sure to cover

that matter in your prayer. Then commit your student to the care, guidance, and blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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**Trainer:** Take a moment and pray in advance for those students whose hearts God is preparing to make the decision to receive Christ with the help of these Friendship Partners.

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When you have a student who trusts Christ, fill out the Profession of Faith Form that's in your Participant's Manual. Ask your church team to pray with you for the new convert. When the student is ready to leave your city, fill out the appropriate transfer form (also in your Participant's Manual) so your ministry will continue in the student's life.

## **ISI Code of Ethics for Working on Campus**

Time checkpoint: 11:51 (2:51)

### **International Student Advisors**

We respect the International Student Advisor (ISA) and his/her position and responsibilities and will seek to understand his/her role, job expectations, worldview, and university regulations, and to build a mutual relationship of trust and respect.

We will seek to support, assist and cooperate with the ISA in his/her activities that seek to build moral character; academic excellence; and historical, cultural, and social understanding within the limitations of our resources.

### **NAFSA: Association of International Educators**

We will seek to maintain a spirit of harmony in working with the ISA as described by the NAFSA guidelines for community groups.

### **International Students**

We respect the dignity of international students and will seek to understand their ideology without denigrating either the person or his/her views. We believe in their freedom of choice in making intelligent judgments concerning various philosophical and religious beliefs and practices after accurate facts are presented to them, and they have carefully investigated the evidences.

We believe in maintaining honesty, openness and sensitivity in the publicity of any activity and approaches to international students; and we are opposed to the use of manipulation, harassment, pressure, restraint, dominance by nullifying the individual's will, compulsion to listen or act by force or threat, or offering special inducements to affect a change in philosophical or religious beliefs and practices.

## **Community Groups**

We will seek to cooperate with other community groups in serving international students.

## Friendship Partners: Members of a Team for the Sake of Their Students



Time checkpoint: 11:52 (2:52)

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**Trainer:** Some of this subsection will no doubt have been covered earlier in connection with such topics as how your local ministry works and following up with your student. But emphasize here the importance of FP's seeing themselves not simply as individual "missionaries" but as members of a larger effort by God.

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When your Friendship Partner application is accepted, you become a member of a large ministry team. This team consists not only of other Friendship Partners and team leaders at your church, but also similar volunteers at other churches in your city. The team also comprises the local, regional, and national staff of International Students, Inc., and through them, the campus ministries to internationals of other evangelical organizations. Finally, ISI facilitates several ethnically-focused worldwide student ministries, and a Global Follow-Up Network for international students returning home.

This great team is being developed for the sake of your student and the thousands of others just like him. **You can expect the international student ministry team at your church to call you on a regular basis to collect prayer requests and assist you with any concerns you might have with your student.** Your local team will also keep you informed about upcoming church-wide and citywide events for international students and Friendship Partners. Moreover, ISI will notify you about events in your area, such as ISI regional and national conferences and training opportunities. Also, when your student relocates, ISI will put a believer in contact with him or her in the new area.

## Responsibilities of an ISI Friendship Partner



An ISI Friendship Partner befriends an international student by sharing time and attention, respect and concern for the student in order that the student may experience the love of Jesus Christ.

After receiving the name of the matched student, the Friendship Partner (FP):

- ◆ Contacts the student within one week and provides transportation for the first meeting.
  
- ◆ Meets with the student at least once a month and makes at least one other contact (a phone call or letter) every week.
- ◆ Keeps in contact with church team.
- ◆ Participates in his or her church's group activities with other FPs and students.

- ◆ Prays regularly for his or her student and for the international student ministry at his or her church and in his or her city. (In addition, the staff of ISI would be grateful for prayers for their ministry nationally and around the world.)
- ◆ Reports problems and prayer concerns about the student promptly and confidentially to the international student ministry leadership.
- ◆ Fills out and turns in promptly and confidentially to the international student ministry leadership any of the three student information forms (Profession of Faith, Student Transfer, and Returnee) as needed.



To build the friendship with the student, the Friendship Partner:

- ◆ Respects the student and his or her culture and language, customs and beliefs.
- ◆ Asks the student how to pray for him or her.
- ◆ Avoids communicating the Gospel in a manipulative, deceptive, or coercive way.
- ◆ Tells the Gospel and personal testimony gladly if the student shows genuine interest.
- ◆ Encourages the student in his or her spiritual walk if the student is a Christian.





# Friendship Partner Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Language(s) spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Special interests and hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Experiences with people of other cultures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferences regarding a student (this may or may not be able to be granted):

Name, address and phone of pastor and church: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become an "ISI Friendship Partner" and open my heart and my home to an international student, with the help of the Lord and in partnership with International Students, Inc., and my local church:

- A. **I agree to be a friend** with at least one international student for one year, recognizing that the friendship could extend for the duration of his or her stay in this country, and even continue after the student's return home (John 15:15).
  - ◆ Learning as much as I can about his or her country and culture.
  - ◆ Maintaining weekly contact with him or her by phone or letter.
  - ◆ Meeting monthly with my international friend(s) in an activity which promotes our friendship and deepens our understanding of each other.
  
- B. **I agree to be a part of the larger "ISI Team"** working together to serve Christ and the international students (Ephesians 4:11-16).
  - ◆ Participating actively as a member of my church's International Student Ministry (ISM) team.
  - ◆ Taking part in area ISI events that can enhance my relationship with my international friend(s).
  - ◆ Reporting promptly and confidentially to my local ISI team by means of the appropriate form if my student makes a profession of faith, transfers elsewhere in the US, or returns to his or her home country.
  
- C. **I understand that I am an Ambassador for Christ** with the opportunity to actively and sensitively live out and share my faith in my relationships with my international friend(s) (2 Corinthians 5:20).
  - ◆ Praying for my friend's academic, social, emotional, and spiritual needs.
  - ◆ Sharing through my actions and words the impact that Christ has on my life.
  - ◆ Assisting my friend(s) in discovering Biblical truth.
  
- D. **I agree with the ISI Statement of Faith, Code of Ethics, and Approach to Ministry** and agree to minister in like manner.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



