



Introduction

A Note Before You Get Started

Dear Leader,

*Welcome to **be•coming•us**: Enlarging the Circle to Welcome Everyone. We have been praying for you!*

As you prepare to lead a group through our four-part video series and discussion guide, here are few tips to help your group get the most out of your time together.

Show the teaser to increase interest in the study (time: 3:08).

As you begin

This section is to be used as an ice breaker or to help the group become familiar with the topic. Look through the section for the video you are going to view ahead of time, so you can choose what questions/activities best fit the group - or use the questions/activities as a springboard to come up with your own ice breakers. The better the group members know each other, the easier it will be to encourage one another to “make the circle bigger.”

Watch the video

The time is given, so you can know what to expect time-wise, and the name of the speaker is listed so you can reference them by name during the rest of the discussion.

After watching the video

There is a lot to do! Sometimes there is a quiz, sometimes an activity. There will always be an opportunity for discussion and to dig deeper into the Word or the world of international students or those with refugee status.

You aren't expected to do every activity or question; pick which ones would best fit your group. Don't forget to push outside your own comfort zone as well! Making the circle bigger will require everyone to stretch and grow.

Prayer points

These are just a few ideas for prayer in your group! Prayer connects our tangible world with the spiritual. Please have someone keep a list of prayer needs and requests. Feel free to pray for specific people groups or countries that are going through turmoil. Pray for your group and church to rise up and connect with those from other cultures in a unique way. The list could go on and on!

Rise up for next week

It's great to study and pray together, but it's also important to motivate each other to act. The activities and questions in this section are aimed at helping each other make a step toward making the circle bigger - even in small ways. Pick something or brainstorm other things that your group could do - whether individually or collectively - to get involved with international students or those resettling near you.

Keep going

Just because there are only four parts to this series doesn't mean your group has to stop meeting when it is over! Get together regularly to pray for international students and those resettling in the U.S., countries and people groups, your community, our nation and the world. Continue to share ideas and activities will help your group open up to another culture - meet for dinner at an ethnic restaurant, go to an ethnic fair or festival, have a party with culture-specific food and music. You might find someone from another culture who would love to come and talk about their home and share a meal with you. The possibilities are endless.

Visit the website

The website, www.theriseproject.com, will have more ideas and resources so don't forget to check that out. It also has other video links to watch, books to read, and even sermon outlines to be used in a church setting, if desired.

Share it

Feel free to share this study with others that you know! It can be downloaded or streamed online and makes it easy for a group to gather and understand some of what they can do to make the circle bigger for everyone.

