



Video Session #1: Coming to America International Students Joining Us on College Campuses

As you begin

As your group gathers, take time to introduce yourself and make sure everyone has the opportunity to tell a little about themselves.

Take a moment now and have everyone finish this sentence:

"If I could summarize my expectation for this study in one word, my word would be _____."

How many foreign countries have you visited? Who has traveled to the most foreign countries of anyone in your group? What was the most interesting thing about your experience?

Has anyone in the group gone to college? Where was it and what was your favorite memory?

Watch the video

Time: 14:35

Trainer: Greg Swinney—Crossroads International
Student Ministries

Post video quick quiz

What are the top three nations that are sending international students to the U.S. to study?
Answer: China, India, Japan

What percentage of international students never see the inside of an American home? Why do you think this is happening?
Answer: 70%; reasons will vary

Talk it over

Why do you think the U.S. is the number one destination for foreign students?

What did you see in the video that surprised you or that you didn't know before?

Which student did you enjoy listening to? Why? Did he/she say something that particularly spoke to you? If so, what was it?

A student from Japan said in the video, "Please just talk with me." Why do you think some people are afraid to talk to an international student? What are two or three obstacles that get in the way for most people to just start a conversation with a foreign guest?

One international student asked this question to a group of Americans, "How can I make friends with an American? They are always so busy." What do you think about that? How would you respond to the student?

Digging deeper

"Many international students, because they think of America as a Christian nation, are interested in learning something of the essence of Christianity. This interest may be nothing more than cultural curiosity, but it generally results in an openness to consider the gospel as part of the total learning process." (quote by Paul Little)

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?

Read these two Scripture passages together:

Leviticus 19:34— "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." {NIV}

Isaiah 60:3–4b— "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.⁴ Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you..." {NIV}

In your opinion, what makes someone a foreigner or outsider? Why do you think God asks us to treat outsiders like one of us?

Where have you noticed the nations entering your world and your community? At school? The hospital? The grocery store? If you haven't noticed ethnic diversity around you, pay extra attention as you go about your week and see if there is more diversity than you originally thought.

What would it look like if we treated those different than us like part of our family?

Rise up for next week

Share with the group some things you enjoy (cooking, music, movies, shopping) that you think an international student would enjoy as well.

What could you change in your daily routine to give yourself an opportunity to meet people of a different nationality?

List a few colleges and universities in your area. Do you know if there are any international students attending there? Visit the local college or university website. Search their website with the words “international student services” or “international student programs.” Read closely to find any university events like cultural nights or conversation partners. Try to find a place where people can be involved.

Are there any international student organizations in your area? If so, what are they and how can you or your family connect with them?

In many towns there are different kinds of restaurants: Chinese, Ethiopian, Greek, Thai, etc. Each week you could gather enough money to purchase one or two dinners. Ask someone to pick up one of these dinners on their way to next week’s study. Have people describe which food they like best and why.

Or consider having dinner or snacks next week - include several “foreign” foods. You could ask each family to bring a “mystery cultural dish” (they can cook it or bring carry out).

Try the dishes and guess what culture each represents.

See who guessed correctly.

Ask each family to describe why they cooked what they did.



Prayer points

Pray about what you and your family might do to show God’s love to people from other cultures in your area as you meet them in your everyday life.

Offer a prayer of gratitude that the Lord is bringing the nations within minutes of our homes and churches.

Lord, we are so grateful that you have invited us to be your Ambassadors, help us shine Your light to the nations among us and let us do that with grace and truth.

More to think about

The U.S. hosts more international students than any other country in the world.

The top six countries that sends students to study in the U.S. are:

China, India, Korea, Canada, Taiwan, and Japan. They total 56% of our international students.

The top five host states are California, New York, Texas, Massachusetts, and Illinois.

The city hosting the most international students is New York City.

The top fields of study for international students are:

business and management, engineering, physical and life sciences, and math and computer science.

Additional information may be found at: www.iie.org (search for “Open Doors”).

All I ask is that you just talk with me...

just talk.”

- Hirome, student from Japan