



RISE International Student Video Session #4 Meeting International Students

As you begin

Where do you go to meet new friends? When was the last time you made a new friend? Where were you and what was happening?

We live in an age of “Stranger Danger” and are sometimes wary of greeting and meeting people of other ethnic groups. What do you think Jesus would say to us about this?

Watch the video

Time: 6:37

Trainer: Greg Swinney—Crossroads International Student Ministry

Talk it over

The Chronicle of Higher Education (November 2012) reported that 38% of all international students do not have one American friend but wish they had a meaningful relationship with an American. Why do you think this happens?

Many international students come from cultures of respect and honor. They are accustomed to waiting for others to initiate a conversation or a friendship. How does this custom make it difficult for them to make American friends?

A Chinese student said, “I know Americans are very busy, but I really want to make a friend with an American. How can I do this?” What would you tell them?

Dictionary.com defines hospitality as “the friendly reception of a guest or a stranger.” Romans 12:13b says very simply “Practice hospitality.” How can you begin the practice of being friendly toward strangers?

Moving forward together

Spend time on your college or university’s website. Can you tell if they have international students? Do they list programs or events that feature students from other countries? Ask those in your group to volunteer to attend the next international festival on campus (China culture Night or Korea Festival, etc.). Encourage them to set a goal to meet three new people (international students or visiting scholars) from other cultures at that event. Have them come back to your next study and give a brief report.

Prayer points

Ask God to open doors for you to connect with international students. Pray for Him to point you to students through various events, organizations or situations.

Meeting new people can sometimes feel awkward. Pray for the Lord to give you peace and boldness to show hospitality in greeting a stranger.

Pray for your church family to be especially aware of visitors at their worship services and to welcome them with kindness and friendship.

Rise up for next week

How can you get more people interested in becoming a friendship family?

Check out the RISE website for more resources and inspiration concerning international students – www.theriseproject.com.

Further questions or comments? Contact Greg Swinney, the trainer for this segment at greg@theriseproject.com.

