

CONNECTING THE GOSPEL TO LIFE

Welcoming an International:

- Takes time and prayer
- A ministry or church program in your area that is already reaching out to international students is a great resource for helping you learn how to build friendships across cultures and provide opportunities to connect with students
- You are not alone because you are partnering with God
- Demonstrating the love of Jesus to students through friendship, Biblical hospitality, and service is a great way for students to experience the living Christ
- Culture shock, homesickness and the challenges of studying in English often create a crisis point – having a caring Christian friend to help them through these difficulties can create a life-long impression

Building a Genuine Friendship:

- Welcome the student into your everyday life and really get to know them
- Be careful not to view your international friends as evangelistic projects
- Don't be so eager to share the Good News that you fail to build a genuine friendship and love them
- Don't be so focused on being a friend that you fail to have spiritual discussions when the Holy Spirit opens the door for them
- Real friendship is always two-way

Sharing the Gospel:

- Your life is a living testimony of the gospel
 - The way you interact with others and relate to the world around you will speak loudly about your faith and the God you follow
 - Let students experience the overflow of Jesus's love and see the gospel lived out in the ups and downs of your life
 - God opens the door for spiritual conversations if you are focused on developing a deep genuine friendship and praying over your student (example of chewing gum story)
 - Opening up your life to your student also means that you allow them to see how you handle adversity (example of cancer diagnosis)
 - Let God direct your relationship: He has a plan for the student's life and has placed them in your life for such a time as this
 - Sometimes God places us as harvesters and other times as guides in a student's journey of faith and discipleship (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)
 - We can rest in God knowing that He will accomplish His purposes
 - Be faithful to pray for your students
 - Be a genuine friend who loves deeply as Jesus modeled
 - Live the good news of the gospel so that your international friend can experience the living Christ
 - Always be ready to give an answer for the hope you have, doing so in gentleness and respect
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