

## HOSTING STUDENTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### Before You Gather:

- Communication
  - Send an email or text with your picture and a short note
  - If possible, let them know they can invite a friend
  - Help them know the time frame and what to expect
  - Ask if they need a ride to your place
- Dietary needs
  - You DON'T need to cook an entirely different meal
  - Ask if they have any food restrictions
  - If they are from India don't assume they are all vegetarians - It's better just to ask
  - Make them feel like you were intentional to meet their needs
  - If they are Muslim, you can show great concern for them if you avoid using pork
  - Consider not serving alcohol
- Plan ahead
  - Plan some fun things you could do together
  - Involve your family members
  - You don't have to change what you normally do with your family
  - Try to do most of the preparation before your guest arrives

### During The Gathering:

- Includer
  - Include them in your conversations
  - Include them in the preparations
  - They need an advocate who will help them feel like they belong
- Guide
  - Let them know that it's ok to ask questions
  - If your family watches football make sure to explain the rules
  - Explain the traditions of the holiday
  - Pray at meal times as a way to witness of your faith in God
  - You can also ask about their holidays, family traditions and faith background
  - If the conversation with family members moves toward a topic that does not make your guest feel at home be quick to redirect the conversation
  - The goal is to build trust and meaningful connection that will continue after the holiday

### After The Gathering:

- The most important role you have is to be a faithful steward of this relationship
  - Find creative ways to include them in what you already do
  - Make an effort to touch base with them once a week
  - Find ways to stay connected throughout the year
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