



Field Activity Five

Goal: To have a greater understanding of what believers face when trying to grow in a new culture.

Activity:

Attend a Christian worship service of a culture different from your own.

You will have to use some networking skills or internet searching to find the churches in your area. You can start by searching for terms such as “Ethiopian Christian church in (city name)”. Try to locate churches from a variety of cultures so you have several churches to choose from.

Some English speaking churches have a service in another language or host an international church in their building. If possible find a church to visit that is not part of an English speaking church but is entirely its own entity. This will give you a better chance to observe the culture of the people worshipping together.

Call or email ahead to ask the church staff if you can come visit a service. Let them know you are reaching out to internationals and want to grow in your understanding of how other cultures worship God. Tell them you do not expect a translator and just want to experience the challenges Christians may face while trying to follow God in a culture that is not their own.

Observe:

- What is worship music like? Do you recognize any of the songs?
- Are children a part of the service?
- How long is the service compared to what you are accustomed to?
- How do people interact with one another? Is there a time of greeting? How are you all received?
- How do they pray?

Engage:

Talk with the people there after and before the service. Ask questions about things you didn't understand. When you chat with individuals and find out if they are believers or seekers. Ask them how they became interested in Jesus and/or how they became a Christian.