

**How to Study  
the Bible  
With Your  
International  
Friend**

A TRAINING PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, INC.

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL FRIEND



*How to Study the Bible with Your International Friend*

Copyright © 1991, 2001 by International Students, Inc.

P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

*Toll Free: 1-800-ISI-TEAM; Phone: (719) 576-2700*

*Fax: (719) 576-5363; Email: team@isionline.org*

*www.isionline.org; For students: www.internationalstudents.org*

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Planting the Seed .....	2
Before You Begin .....	5
Inside the Word .....	8
Asking Questions .....	12
Along the Way .....	15
Resources .....	18

# Introduction

## *Learning Together*

---

You have become friends with one of the approximately 662,000 international students from more than 180 countries studying at universities and colleges around the United States. You've come to the point in your relationship where your friend expresses an interest in studying the Bible.

What do you do now? Where do you begin? You don't need a seminary degree to study the Bible with another person—Bible study can be nothing more than two friends discussing biblical truths together. All you need are the right resources, prayer support, and perhaps a little guidance. That's what this booklet is all about.

A one-to-one Bible study provides a relaxed, unhurried atmosphere in which your friend can examine biblical truths, raise spiritual doubts, and perhaps struggle through the process of making a decision for Christ. Although this booklet is written to help you study the Bible with one friend, the ideas and suggestions can also be used with a small group of international students.

Your role in conducting a Bible study is to guide your international friend through the discovery process in the Christian faith. Your friend may be anywhere along the continuum of this discovery process—from no knowledge of Jesus Christ to a total acceptance of the Savior. Wherever your friend stands, you must be totally accepting of where he or she is and *do not make spiritual progress a condition of your relationship*.

This booklet is designed to help you evaluate where your international friend stands in his or her spiritual understanding, and will give you principles and suggestions about how to increase spiritual awareness and sensitivity through Bible study.

But this booklet is by no means comprehensive. You will want to supplement it with additional information on Bible study, world religions, and the country from which your international friend originates.

As you prayerfully apply the ideas and suggestions in this booklet, remember to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to place service and obedience to God over success.

If you would like more information about international student ministry, please complete the response section at the end of this booklet. We're here to serve you as you serve international students in Jesus' name.

International Students, Inc.

# Planting the Seed

## *Friendship First*

---

Studying the Bible is not the goal of a relationship with an international student—it is a byproduct of a continuing and growing unconditional relationship with the student.

*Your first purpose is simply to be a friend.*

Being a friend means sharing your life with another and being sensitive to the other person's needs. It's a give-and-take relationship. Your international friend will see through you if you view him or her merely as a "potential convert" or see your friendship as a means to get him or her to study the Bible with you. No one enjoys feeling like someone's "project."

As your friend observes your life or informally discusses spiritual issues with you, he or she may want to learn more about your faith in Christ. This may lead him or her to become interested in studying the Bible with you. On the other hand, your friend may not be ready for a Bible study yet. That's all right. Your life and witness may be a step in the process through which your friend may one day be ready to learn more about Christ.

## *Sowing the Seed*

---

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the parable of the sower. When the farmer scatters his seed, it falls on different soils, producing different results. The seed in this case is the "word of the kingdom," or the Gospel (Matt. 13:17-23). The different soils are the hearts of people. Only the seed that falls on the good soil produces fruit. The seed that falls on the hard, rocky, or thorny soil produces no harvest.

Before a seed can be planted, the soil must be plowed. In the same way, a person's heart must be prepared to receive the Gospel message. This process may take months or even years.

On the other hand, your friend may express an immediate interest in studying the Bible with you as a result of previous contact with other Christians. In other words, the soil has already been plowed by someone else. It is now your turn to plant the seed.

In any case, success is not determined by whether your friend studies the Bible with you or even receives Christ as a result of this study. Every nonbeliever is at a different level of spiritual understanding. You must first discover at what level your friend stands. Once you discover that level, your responsibility is to help bring him or her one step closer to Christ (either by Bible study or other means).

An evangelistic type of Bible study can be effective even if your international friend is already a Christian. Some international students (like some Americans) call themselves Christians but have never really made a personal commitment to Christ.

With slight changes in emphasis, a Bible study can encourage nominal Christians to consider their own relationship with Christ, and can also help committed Christians gain a better grasp of their faith and assurance of their salvation.

### *Examine the Soil*

---

Before you begin a Bible study with your international friend, take a moment to examine the soil. The following checklist will help you evaluate whether or not your friend is ready to receive the seeds of the Gospel.

#### *Is a relationship under way?*

- We have spent time together.
- We have exchanged basic information about each other.
- We have made formal or informal plans to see each other again.

#### *Is there freedom in the relationship?*

- We like each other.
- We feel comfortable around each other.
- We each take initiative in spending time together and appreciate that time.
- There is fun and laughter when we are together.

#### *Is there trust in the relationship?*

- We share and keep confidential information.
- We speak well of one another to other people.
- We ask each other for favors.
- We have an active awareness of each other's needs.
- We entrust responsibility to each other.

#### *Is there acceptance in the relationship?*

- We are not threatened by our differences (religion, culture, personality, habits, tastes, and values) and are able to discuss those differences.
- We are open to learning from each other.
- We are sincere in our conversation—we listen attentively and remember shared information.
- We are frank—we say what we feel without fear of threatening the relationship.

*Does your friend understand the concept “Christian”?*

- My friend identifies me as a serious rather than cultural Christian.
- I have shared my personal testimony, both about my conversion and what Christ means to me.
- My friend has heard or read other testimonies that have reinforced mine.
- My friend knows other committed Christians.

*Is your friend interested in Christianity?*

- My friend asks me questions about my faith.
- My friend has attended a church service or other Christian activity.
- My friend has expressed a desire to meet Christians.
- My friend has expressed an interest in reading and discussing the Bible.

If you checked most of the applicable boxes above (probably no one will be able to check all of them and not every question may apply to your relationship), the ground to conduct a Bible study with your international friend has been prepared, and you and your friend are ready to begin a Bible study. If not, you may want to let your relationship develop further before attempting to study the Bible together.

# Before You Begin

## *The Right Tools*

---

In order to properly plant the seed of the Gospel message through Bible study with your international friend, you need the right tools.

## *Bible Study Materials*

International Students, Inc., has developed several Bible studies (see the “Resource” section in the back of this booklet) designed especially for use with international students.

These Bible studies require little or no preparation on the part of the international student. The Bible passages are often written in an easy-to-read translation in the study guides themselves, making it easy for students to make notes in the margins and define words they do not understand.

These studies emphasize discovering the Word of God through personal investigation. They are designed to help international students consider and understand the claims of Jesus Christ and make personal decisions based on what they learn. Each Bible study contains a leader’s guide, which can help you answer questions your friend may raise.

## *Make Sure Your Friend Has a Bible*

Although the ISI Bible studies often have the passages written in the study guides themselves, your international friend should have his or her own Bible for personal reading and study. You may want to give your friend a Bible as a gift; however, some people tend to place more value on something they buy themselves.

Help your friend find a Bible in a readable translation, such as the *New International Version* or *Today’s English Version*. (The version you choose should correspond with the version you will use during the Bible study. For example, if you have a *New International Version*, help your international friend find the same. That way, you both will be reading from the same text when you read and study together.)

An English Bible is helpful for your study together, but a Bible in your friend’s native language is important for his or her complete understanding of the passages. Encourage your friend to look up passages both in English and his or her native language before your meeting.

Your local Christian bookstore can usually order Bibles in most major languages. If not, contact International Bible Society's Customer Service Department at 1-800-524-1588, or write: International Bible Society, Customer Service Department, P.O. Box 62970, Colorado Springs, CO 80967-2970.

Your international friend may prefer to study the Bible in English in order to improve his or her proficiency. If so, encourage your friend to read the passage beforehand, looking up any words he or she does not understand. The important thing is that your friend understands the passage.

### *When to Meet*

---

Remember, most international students are here for one primary purpose—to earn an academic degree. As a result, their time schedules will be busy and oftentimes hectic.

Ask your international friend about his or her schedule, and find the most appropriate day of the week and time of the day for both of you to meet regularly. Maintain this regular schedule, but be flexible because exam times, term papers, and other special events may require special scheduling.

Your weekly Bible study should last at least 50 minutes but no longer than an hour and a half (this time will accommodate open periods between classes). However, if your friend has the time and wants to talk further, your conversation may be extended longer than planned. These can be special meetings, so don't schedule yourself so tightly that you can't take advantage of them. At the same time, remember your friend's schedule; so don't go too long past the planned meeting time.

If your international friend has difficulty making the study on time, it doesn't mean he or she doesn't care. Some cultures place different emphasis on time. Or perhaps your friend couldn't get in touch with you. Whatever the case, be flexible and understanding.

### *Where to Meet*

---

If your schedule allows, meet your international friend on campus. This shows you are willing to accommodate your friend, rather than expecting to be accommodated.

However, you will need to be sensitive to your friend's religious and cultural background. For example, Muslims will often receive great pressure from fellow Muslims if they discover your friend is studying the Bible with you. For this reason, your home or other location away from campus may be the best choice.

If meeting on campus is not a problem, look for a place that is quiet, appropriately lighted, out of the way, and available. Places such as the library, cafeteria, or a dorm room can provide the right atmosphere for the study.

### *Don't Forget Prayer*

---

Before you start meeting with your international friend (and throughout the Bible study), don't forget to pray for God's guidance, for His revelation to your friend through the study, and for the penetration of the Holy Spirit through God's Word into your friend's life. Most importantly, pray for your friend no matter what his or her response to the Gospel message might be. And don't try to go it alone. Get others to pray for your Bible study and for your international friend.

Later in the study, when you sense your friend feels comfortable, you may want to begin and/or end each study with a time of prayer. However, be sensitive to your friend's needs and expectations (for example, don't require your friend to bow his or her head, but simply allow your friend to listen as you pray).

### *Be Sensitive*

---

A couple of sensitivity issues to remember before starting a Bible study with your international friend:

- The teacher should be older than the student. Most cultures place a high degree of respect on age. Your friend may not attribute much credibility to you as a teacher if you are younger.
- The teacher and student should be the same gender, unless there is an obvious age difference. A male teacher should never meet with a female student alone. He should bring along a Christian woman (who could learn to lead a similar study with other female students, if she does not know how to lead one already).

## Inside the Word

Your international friend has agreed to study the Bible with you. You have all the materials. You have decided on a time and place to meet. Now you are ready to begin.

### *Stick to the Bible*

---

When you begin the Bible study, your friend may not believe the Bible is the Word of God. Accept that possibility. Both of you must understand that the purpose is to find out what the Bible teaches about Jesus, and not to debate personal opinions. Discussion about the reliability of biblical accounts should be postponed to a later time or even a separate study. The Word of God is powerful, and its truths can penetrate and convict even the most skeptical person—in God’s timing.

Some “Bible studies” may turn into philosophical discussions on peripheral issues, such as, “How can a loving God judge people?” or “What happens to people from cultures that have never heard the Gospel?” Avoid tangents. If a particular question seems to be a real obstacle to your friend, ask if you can get back to him or her next week and take time to research the issue.

Answer questions using the Bible as much as possible. For instance, if your friend asks, “Why are so many intelligent people atheists?” direct him or her to 1 Corinthians 1:27 and surrounding passages: “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise . . .”

Above all, avoid arguments of any kind. You may win the argument, but you will not be displaying Christ’s love. Your friend’s belief system—although it may be incorrect in certain areas—is still very important to him or her.

Making light of or condemning your friend’s beliefs will only drive him or her further away from Jesus Christ. Concentrate on presenting the truths of Christianity—through God’s Word—and let the Holy Spirit do the convicting.

### *Start with the Basics*

---

Western Christians have a tendency to start with the Book of Romans and lay out the Gospel in a neat doctrinal system that is expected to persuade anyone to accept Christ.

This approach fails to recognize that someone who adheres to a different religion may not have even a foundational understanding of the existence and role of God in the universe and His sovereign role in human life. As a result, you may need to start from “square one,” presenting

God in His work of creation and His authority over humankind as outlined in Genesis 1-3.

Also, many people from other cultures have never heard of Jesus. If your friend has not heard of Jesus or has little knowledge of who He is, you will need to present Jesus as a person—His character, His works, and His claims—as shown throughout New Testament accounts. *I AM: A Bible Study Series on the Claims of Jesus Christ*, an ISI Bible study, is a good place to start because it effectively accomplishes this objective.

Presenting the Gospel in its entirety at the beginning of an evangelistic study would be like giving steak and potatoes to an infant. It would be completely indigestible. Instead, give your international friend milk, not solid food. Bring him or her along slowly, presenting Jesus Christ as a person and letting the Holy Spirit persuade your friend to seek a relationship with the Savior.

As you study portions of the Gospel accounts, opportunities will arise to explain the complete Gospel. At some point in your study, you should fully explain Christ's death and resurrection, and how these events enable all people to enter into a right relationship with the Savior.

Make sure your friend knows how to accept Christ if he or she desires to do so. But don't force your friend or exert your own pressure (rather than the Holy Spirit's) on him or her to make a premature decision. Most people must hear the Gospel more than six times before responding to it, so your friend may need to hear numerous presentations of the Gospel before it becomes clear.

### *No Strings Attached*

---

As you begin the study, your international friend may fear that your friendship is conditioned upon his or her response to Christ.

Let your friend know that your friendship is a "no strings attached" relationship. If he or she does not want to start or continue the Bible study, it is not a reflection on you.

Under no circumstances should you discontinue the friendship because of your friend's response (or lack of it) to the Gospel message or your invitation to study the Bible together.

As the study progresses, your friend may become more open, but may continue to struggle with doubts or the cost of following Christ. Encourage him or her to openly express feelings. Try to provide a non-threatening atmosphere in which to discuss those questions. Help your friend feel accepted. Make it clear that you accept your friend and his or her opinions, even if you do not necessarily agree.

## *Avoid Jargon*

---

Many Christian terms today are difficult even for churched Americans to understand. International students who come from different religious backgrounds and have difficulty with English will be confused if we use doctrinal terms without stopping to explain what they mean. Religious terms also may already have a different meaning in other religions and cultures. For example, “born again” may mean reincarnation to a Buddhist or Hindu. Therefore, avoid such terms as “saved,” “born again,” or “glorify God” until your friend understands these terms and they are a part of his or her vocabulary.

Also avoid slang expressions and idioms that may confuse your friend. In addition, since many international students presume all Americans are “Christian,” you will need to define Christians as “devoted to Jesus Christ,” “committed to Jesus Christ,” “followers of Jesus Christ,” and “living out the principles of their faith,” as opposed to those who otherwise call themselves Christians.

## *Things to Remember*

---

Some other guidelines to follow for an effective Bible study:

- Show you care about your international friend’s progress not only in the Bible study, but also in the classroom. Ask questions about his or her studies, how classes are going, and how you may be of assistance.
- Write things down as you speak. This will not only help your international friend “see” what you are saying, but it also provides a record of your study. (Make sure your friend is in a position so he or she can see what you are writing.)
- Contribute freely to the conversation, but don’t do all the talking.
- Be enthusiastic and friendly.
- Wait until your friend has finished discussing a point before responding.
- Don’t be defensive about your faith or what the Bible says. Once again, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God are powerful enough to defend themselves.
- Be gentle in responding to a statement or point of view. Don’t argue.

- Stick to the topic, but be sensitive to your friend’s need to simply “talk.” More positive witnessing can often be accomplished in informal discussion than in theological discourse.
- Avoid stifling the interaction with “cut-and-dried” answers. If your friend feels that you are not open to truly hearing ideas because you already have “the answer,” he or she will not respond as openly, and the interaction will deteriorate.
- When stating answers, preface them with the phrase “this is what the Bible says.” Your answers should come authoritatively from God, not personal opinion.
- Be flexible. Don’t feel that you need to complete one lesson each week. Your friend may need more time to discuss particular issues. Rather than trying to rush through a lesson at one sitting, extend the discussion as needed.
- Once again, the goal of the Bible study is to increase spiritual awareness, not necessarily to convert your friend to your faith or thinking.

# Asking Questions

## *Provoking Thought*

---

Christ often used questions to provoke thought or bring forth affirmation of belief. A truth will be more meaningful to your friend if he or she personally discovers it through guided discussion rather than simply having it “preached.” A truth understood is more meaningful than a truth recited.

The questions in the ISI Bible study guides have been designed for the purpose of getting students to read and think about the text on their own by testing their comprehension of its teaching through a series of questions. As the discussion takes place, however, don’t hesitate to add your own questions to stimulate thought.

In ISI Bible studies, three primary types of questions exist: observation, interpretation, and application.

## *Observation Questions*

---

Observation questions ask, “What does the passage say?” and begin with words such as *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *find*, *list*, and *describe*. Getting the facts straight is essential before interpretation of the passage can begin.

Observation questions also give you a chance to quickly test your friend’s comprehension of the passage. You may be surprised at how much insight your friend has. However, he or she will probably need occasional help to understand the passage’s cultural context.

## *Interpretation Questions*

---

Interpretation questions ask, “What does the passage mean?” and begin with words such as *why*, *how*, and *explain*. Ask yourself which words and phrases may not be clearly understood and develop clarifying questions such as, “What do you think this word means?” These questions should be related to the truth discovered through the observation questions.

## *Application Questions*

---

Application questions ask, “What does the passage mean to me here and now?” Simply knowing truth makes no difference in a person’s life unless it is applied in some way (James 1:22-25). Ask how people in your friend’s culture would react to the passage and why.

In addition, ask questions like, “How could knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?” Since your friend is still probably investigating Christianity, be careful not to ask questions that are too direct or personal, or questions that pressure your friend to make a premature decision. For example, instead of asking, “Are you a Christian?” ask, “How does one become a Christian?”

*Note:* You may need to postpone application questions until you get deeper into the study (a period of weeks), so as not to confuse your friend. Lay the foundation of the Gospel first.

### ***An Example***

---

Here is an example of the type of questions asked in the ISI Bible study *Jesus the Liberator*. In the first lesson, “Freedom from Worry,” the author gives a brief introduction to the topic before listing four Scripture passages— Matthew 6:19-21, 24; Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 10:38-42; and John 6:35-40—followed by these discussion questions:

- Define worry. Give some examples of things you worry about. What helps you to overcome worry and anxiety?
- According to Jesus in passages one and two, material prosperity does not bring peace and security in life. Why not? According to Jesus, what should be our first priority in life?
- In passage two, Jesus says that we should not worry about the future. Why?
- In passage three, why does Jesus praise Mary for choosing to listen to Him instead of praising Martha, who was busy preparing the meal for Him?
- What unique title does Jesus give Himself in passage four? What does it mean for Jesus to be identified as “the bread of Life”? Who can receive this bread?

### ***Practical Guidelines***

---

Other points to remember as you develop questions:

- Make sure your questions are well understood. Use clear, concise language without idioms or difficult words. Rephrase the question if your friend does not understand you. You may want to write out the question on paper for better understanding.

- Try to avoid “yes” or “no” questions. Inquiries such as “Did Jesus die on the cross to save us?” leave little room for discussion. Instead, ask, “Why did Jesus die on the cross?” (Sometimes you’ll need to ask “yes” or “no” questions as a first step, but follow with “why” or “explain” questions.)
- Never assume an answer. Your friend will feel pressured into answering a certain way if you ask a question such as “Jesus died on the cross to save us, didn’t He?”
- Ask opinion questions (“What’s your opinion . . . ?”) to see if your friend is understanding the material.
- Ask “feeling” questions in addition to “fact” questions. “Feeling” questions deal with your friend’s reaction to the discovered truth. “What do you think about that?” “How does that make you feel?”
- Be prepared to wait for an answer. Don’t be afraid of silence. Your friend may need time to think about his or her answer, or may need time to formulate the answer in English. Rephrase your question if necessary or guide your friend to the right place in the text, but don’t be hasty to give the answer yourself.
- Listen attentively. Show your friend that you are interested through facial expressions, eye contact, and by responding sincerely to what was said. If you do not understand your friend’s answer, rephrase what you think he or she said and ask if that is what was meant. If you sense that your friend has more to say, ask, “Would you like to add anything to that?” Ask further questions based on the responses given.
- Give praise for involvement (“good answer”). To help your friend “save face” when correcting an answer, make statements such as “Good answer. How about looking at it this way?” or “Good answer. Here’s what the Bible says . . .”

# Along the Way

## *Cultivating the Soil*

---

After studying several lessons together, you will want to evaluate your friend's progress. The following checklist will help:

### *Has the Bible been discussed?*

- My friend owns a Bible in his or her own language (preferably) as well as English.
- We have discussed the characteristics of the Bible—its origin, its authorship (God's Word), and its reliability.
- My friend shows an interest in the Bible studies.
- A "healthy" tension exists in my friend's life as he or she deals with God's truth.

### *Does your friend have a sufficiently accurate picture of Jesus Christ?*

- My friend has a biographical knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- My friend understands Jesus' claims of deity.
- My friend's information is based on the Bible rather than hearsay.

### *Has the Gospel message been explained?*

- My friend knows, after several lessons, the irreducible core of the Gospel that one must believe to become a Christian.
- My friend has verbalized a clear understanding of the Gospel.
- My friend senses a need to respond to the message of Christ.
- My friend knows how to receive Christ.

### *Has a personal decision been faced?*

- My friend is clearly aware that the next step is his or hers to take.
- My friend knows that a personal decision is required.
- My friend has been asked to make a commitment.
- My friend has considered the personal costs involved in following Christ.
- My friend knows that I will remain a friend no matter what he or she decides.

## *Making the Decision*

---

If your friend makes a decision to follow Christ, ask yourself the following questions:

- Was the commitment made privately or with someone else?

- Has my friend verbalized the decision to me?
- Has my friend received help with the assurance of salvation?
- Is my friend being disciplined or trained in the basics of the Christian walk?

*A special word of caution* if your friend is from a country that is hostile to Christians or Christianity:

- Be very discreet when talking to others about your international friend.
- If your friend makes a decision for Christ, let him or her determine when, where, or if it should be made public—he or she may face severe persecution if certain people know.

### *Spiritual Awareness and Growth*

---

The Spiritual Stages Scale on the next page can help you evaluate your friend's spiritual understanding and progress.

Notice that a person's response to the Gospel is shown as a continuum. He or she does not move from "an awareness of a Supreme Being" to "repentance" and "faith in Christ" in one step.

An international student who acknowledges God (-7) but has no previous awareness of the Gospel has progressed significantly if he or she develops that awareness (-6) or begins to grasp the implications of the Gospel (-5). Simply acknowledging belief in a Supreme Being is a step in the right direction for someone who claims to be an atheist.

Do not be alarmed if your international friend does not move along the scale very rapidly or even at all. Your role as a study leader is to proclaim the Bible's truth and help your friend move along the continuum at his or her own pace and within God's will.

Your friend may not come to the point of change during the time of contact with you. This does not mean you have failed. God only asks us to be faithful in sharing the Gospel. Some future contact with Christians may lead your friend to the point of repentance, building on the foundation you have laid.

Introduce your friend to other Christians—both from his or her home country and the United States—and to other Christian programs that can reinforce your witness and present the Gospel from different perspectives.

## Spiritual Stages Scale

*Adapted by Dean Halverson and Howard Killion from the Spiritual Awareness and Growth Chart by Dr. James F. Engel*

<b>Vision for future ministry</b>	<b>+10</b>
<b>Effective outreach to others</b>	<b>+9</b>
<b>Development in Christian leadership</b>	<b>+8</b>
<b>Growth in total stewardship</b>	<b>+7</b>
<b>Recognition and use of spiritual gifts</b>	<b>+6</b>
<b>Understanding and application of Bible doctrine</b>	<b>+5</b>
<b>Growth in Bible study</b>	<b>+4</b>
<b>Conceptual and behavioral growth</b>	<b>+3</b>
<b>Adoption of Christian identity</b>	<b>+2</b>
<b>Assurance of salvation</b>	<b>+1</b>
<b>Conversion</b>	
<b>Repentance</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Decision to act</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Recognition of personal sin problem in relation to God</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Positive attitude toward Gospel</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>Understanding fundamentals of the Gospel</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Positive attitude toward the God who has made Himself fully known only through Jesus</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Understanding that God made Himself fully known only through Jesus</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>Belief in a single Creator God with personal attributes but not in Jesus as God</b>	<b>-8</b>
<b>Belief in a spiritual reality but not a single Creator God who has personal attributes</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>No belief in any spiritual reality</b>	<b>-10</b>

*Used with permission of Dr. James F. Engel*

# Resources

The following materials are available from International Students, Inc., P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, (719) 576-2700. Please see the response section in the back of this booklet. You can also order materials on line at [www.isionline.org](http://www.isionline.org).

## *Materials Available from ISI*

---

### **Booklets:**

#### **Friendship**

*Becoming a Friend with an International Student*

#### **Evangelism**

*Knowing God Personally tract*

*How to Share the Good News with Your International Friend*

*How to Share the Good News with Your Muslim Friend*

*Reaching Students from the People's Republic of China*

*How to Share the Good News with Your African Friend*

*How to Share the Good News with Your Japanese Friend*

#### **Discipleship**

*How to Study the Bible with Your International Friend*

#### **Re-entry/Follow-up**

*Preparing Your International Friend for Life Back Home*

*Think Home*

### **Handbooks:**

*An American Friend Handbook*

*How to Survive in the U.S.: A Handbook for Internationals*

### **Books:**

*Healing the Broken Family of Abraham*

*The World At Your Door*

*The Compact Guide to World Religions*

### **Bible Studies:**

*I AM*

*Jesus the Liberator*

*Discovering God*

*Walking with God*  
*Putting God First*  
*Sharing God with Others*  
*Meeting God*  
*Growing Strong to Serve*  
*The Way to Life* (Available in English, Contemporary Chinese and Traditional Chinese)

**Country Profiles:**

*People's Republic of China*  
*Japan*  
*Taiwan*  
*India*  
*South Korea*  
*Malaysia*  
*Hong Kong*  
*Pakistan*  
*Thailand*  
*Indonesia*

**Religion Profiles:**

*Buddhism*  
*Animism*  
*Islam*  
*Hinduism*  
*Marxism*  
*Shinto*  
*Judaism and the Jewish People*  
*Secularism*  
*World Religions Overview*  
*How Can I Know the Bible Is the Word of God?*  
*Is Jesus the Only Way to God?*

**Videos:**

*Getting Started with ISI* (15 minutes) tells you how to begin your own ministry to international students.

*New Beginnings*, (15 minutes per program), a series of seven lessons designed for small-group study with new Christians. Discussion guide also available.

*Sharing Your Faith through ISI* (44 minutes) provides awareness of and practical help for addressing the variety of issues that arise when sharing your faith with international students.

*The Church and ISI* (4 minute or 7.5 minute format) is designed for use in churches to share the vision and recruit volunteers for your ministry. It also includes a segment with leaders from ISI and partnering organizations challenging viewers to become personally involved in the task.

*Welcome Home* (18 minutes) shares the stories of several returnees and the difficulties they experienced when going back home. Practical awareness and advice for returnees.

*You Have a Friend in ISI* (6.5 minutes) is designed for a student audience, sharing how ISI can help students when they first come to the U.S.

*Friendship Partner Training* is for the person who wants to train a group to be Friendship Partners. This package includes a 55 minute video, a complete trainer's manual, and a power-point presentation.

*Friendship Partner Individual Training DVD* is for the person who can't attend a Friendship Partner Training in a live format. You will receive the training needed to be an effective friend to an international student in your area.

### *About International Students, Inc.*

---

Founded in 1953, International Students, Inc. (ISI), is a nondenominational, non-profit Christian ministry that exists to serve international students studying here in the United States.

Working in cooperation with local churches and others, ISI seeks to enlist, educate, and coordinate the ministry efforts of evangelical Christians to befriend international students and, through friendship evangelism, share with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In addition, ISI promotes Bible study and other discipleship programs for international students, helping to equip them to become effective Christian servants when they return to their home countries.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, ISI coordinates more than 150 field staff members strategically working in more than 285 campus-based and church-based ministry locations in the United States. Affiliated ministries are located in Canada, Europe, and Asia.

If you would like more information or assistance, please contact:

International Students, Inc.

P.O. Box C

Colorado Springs, CO 80901

*Toll Free:* 1-800-ISI-TEAM

*Phone:* (719) 576-2700

*Fax:* (719) 576-5363

*Email:* team@isionline.org

www.isionline.org

*For students:* www.internationalstudents.org

### *ISI's Mission*

---

ISI exists to share Christ's love with international students and to equip them for effective service in cooperation with the local church and others.

# Your Response

**YES!** I'd like more information on international student ministry!

- Please send information on how I can become involved in the ministry of ISI.
- I'd like my church or group to view the ISI video, *Building Bridges with ISI*.
- I'd like to explore the possibility of inviting a special speaker from ISI to challenge my church.
- Please send me a complete list of ministry materials available from ISI.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Rev., Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (home): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut and mail to: International Students, Inc., P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901