

Leading Up, Step-by-Step

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- A. I will deepen my understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection as it relates to people of various backgrounds and world religions.
- B. I will share the stories of Jesus, especially His death and resurrection, with my friends from other cultures and invite them to experience salvation.
- C. I will discover various Bible study approaches that have been prepared for the religious backgrounds of my friends and I will invite them to learn with me.

TEAM CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (20 Minutes)

- 1. Tell us who you shared with, using the four-step method and how it went.
- 2. Show your *Field Activity #7-Collection of Stories and Experiences*
- 3. What other experiences have you had in following up on your international contacts. (Keep using and referring to your *Contact Log*).
- 4. What did you learn from study #7 in *My Favorite Missionary* and the video clips?
- 5. What needs or challenges are you facing that we can pray for?
- 6. Pray together, especially for each other and the friends from other cultures whom you have met.

PRESENTATION (20:40 Minutes)

Watch: *Leading Up, Step-by-Step*

DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION (35 Minutes)

- 1. Which aspect of the cross and Jesus' salvation do you find especially meaningful?
- 2. As you consider sharing the story of Jesus' death with the internationals that you know, which part(s) do you think would be most meaningful or the best place to focus on and why? Here are some examples:

- a. Jesus died to set us free from sin and selfishness.
 - b. Jesus demonstrated God’s love so that we might know His true character.
 - c. Jesus entered our suffering so that we might know He understands all that we go through.
 - d. Jesus died in order to repair our relationships and reconcile us with our enemies.
 - e. Jesus died to forgive our sins and give us eternal life.
 - f. Jesus overcame all the evil spirits at the cross and has power over them now.
3. Read John 16:12-14. The Holy Spirit helps people advance in their understanding about Jesus and other truths. In what ways do you think the disciples grew in their belief about Jesus from when they first met Him to later after He went to heaven?
 4. People grow in their understanding of truth through the working of the Holy Spirit along with more Bible study, clearer explanations, and personal experiences. Consider the internationals that you now know and what they presently believe. Use the following three concepts to practice tracing what steps remain to bring them to a clearer understanding of each. Remember that they may have a negative starting point or may already be on a positive but incomplete step.

Write the names of your international friends on the stair steps where you think they might be in each of these concepts:

Concepts about Jesus

Jesus—Eternal God
 Jesus—Savior from Sin
 Jesus—a Miracle Worker
 Jesus—a Compassionate Server
 Jesus—a Good Teacher/Prophet

Negative Starting Points: Jesus—a blasphemer (Judaism), a foreign god, one way among many (Hindu), younger and thus less than Buddha (Buddhist), never existed, etc.

Concepts about God

God—All of these qualities, God in three persons yet one
 God—a Personal Savior, Eternal, All-knowing, All-Powerful
 God—a Source of Miracles and Help
 God—a Power for Justice and Judgment

Negative Starting Points: God—Unknowable (Buddhist), one among many (Hindu), nonexistent (secular), unconcerned (deist), cruel, etc.

Concepts about the Bible

REACH THE WORLD NEXT DOOR: LESSON 8

Bible—the Authoritative Word of God

Bible—Words of Life-Changing Power

Bible—Helpful Instruction for Life

Negative Starting Points: Bible—One moral book among others (Eastern religions), corrupted scriptures (Muslim), book of fables, outdated and irrelevant (secular)

5. Share with your team where you placed people and what you think could help them move up **to** the next steps. Remember you can do this for any type of belief or doctrine. Remember also that God leads different people in different ways.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 2:2-5, 10-12. How do these verses encourage you as you face the challenging task of leading your friends up step-by-step.

ASSIGNMENTS (5 Minutes)

1. What have you learned today and how will you use it this week?
2. What do you plan to do to follow up on any of the friendships you have developed?
3. Pray for and look for an opportunity to tell the story of Jesus' death, matching some aspect of its meaning to a need in someone's life. If it does not seem the right timing for this story, seek to share another Bible story that will move someone up in their knowledge and experience of some truth.

If the person has sufficient understanding, share with him or her how to receive Jesus as Savior (See *Receiving Salvation* at the end of the lesson).

4. Visit reachtheworldnextdoor.com under *Witness to Other Religions* to explore various websites for training resources, specific Bible studies, and other resources that are made especially for various world religions. Look for what will be most useful to use now or soon with your international friends. Some of the literature is also available at MyLanguageMyLife.com.
5. Mobilize and Multiply. Share with a friend or family member what you learned about the various aspects of Jesus' death and leading people step-by-step to

further understanding. Encourage him or her to share the beauty of Jesus' death and resurrection with someone this week.

6. Watch or listen to the following video clip(s):
 - See how the right literature helps people understand; learn from Ms. Shirley Finneman's care for refugees.
7. Complete study #8 in *My Favorite Missionary* and focus your prayers on those who are "Jewish" in *Praying for the World Next Door*.
8. Complete the form: *Field Report #8*

TEAM PRAYER (10 Minutes)

Pray together for a deeper understanding of the cross and a passion to share it with the world; for heart to open to understand what Jesus has done for them; for you to be led to those who are open.

Promises to Claim:

- *"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32).*
- *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).*
- *"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9).*
- *After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were so filled with love for Him and for those for whom He died, that hearts were melted by the words they spoke and the prayers they offered. They spoke in the power of the Spirit; and under the influence of that power, thousands were converted (Acts of the Apostles 22).*

Receiving Salvation

How do we lead someone to receive Jesus as his or her personal Savior? The Bible gives us some specific examples. After Peter told the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the people "were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37-38).

Shortly after this, Peter said, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). Later, after Philip "preached Jesus to him," the Ethiopian treasurer asked Philip, "'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God'" (Acts 8:35-37). The Philippian Jailer asked Paul and Silas, "'What must I do to be saved?' So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household'" (Acts 16:30-31).

These texts and others make it clear that salvation comes through hearing and believing in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, repenting (turning) from sin, and being converted (made new).

Share enough about God and Jesus specifically with your friend until the individual knows and understands God's deep love and how Jesus carried our sins to forgive us and set us free. The goodness of God will lead your friend to repent (Romans 2:4) as the Holy Spirit convicts of "sin, righteousness, and judgment" (John 16:8). True repentance is a gift from God (Acts 5:32) and will lead him or her to a determined turning away from sin (2 Corinthians 7:10-11) and a confession of sin and faith in Christ (1 John 1:9; Romans 10:9-13). God's mercy through Jesus then provides forgiveness and cleansing, a new heart created by God (Ezekiel 36:25-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

When you believe your friend understands and is experiencing these things, help him or her to pray something like the following (Psalm 51 is excellent as well):

Dear loving and merciful God, Please forgive me for my sins. Specifically I want to tell You I am sorry for _____ (tell God about specific actions, words, thoughts, attitudes, and the core selfishness that controls our lives).

By Your gift of repentance, I turn from these sins and choose to have You break their power on my life through Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection and intercession.

Forgive my sins and wash me clean. Give me a new heart and come live in me through the Holy Spirit. In place of those sins, give me the opposite good qualities.

I thank You for forgiving me and I receive Your forgiveness and a new heart. In Jesus' loving and mighty name, amen.

Follow up with your friend as he or she faces temptations and trails. Help him or her continue to experience God's saving love, forgiveness, and power (1 John 2:1-2). Partner with others in your church to prepare your friend for baptism.