

A Lesson in Bible Exploration For Thoughtful International Students

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Generations have grown up in this country and abroad with no knowledge of even the basic narratives and teachings in the Bible. Not only is the Bible unfamiliar to these readers, but sometimes also the careful, personal way in which Christians study it and the ambiance of our small-group Bible discussions. In this workshop, we will briefly discuss the needs and interests of non-Christian internationals as they begin a study of the Bible with us, participate in an actual lesson, and discuss ways to develop learner-centered lessons.

I. Introduction: The Spiritual Needs and Interests of International Students

- A. As You Enter
 - 1. Get together with two or three others and introduce yourselves.
 - 2. Make a list of some of the spiritual, social, academic, and emotional needs and interests of international students and spouses as they begin to study the Bible with us.
- B. Group List
- C. Learner-Centered Bible Study

II. Lesson in Bible Exploration: The City of Peace

- A. The Setting of This Lesson: Workbook Two, Lesson Four
- B. The Procedure for Our Workshop Lesson
 - 1. We'll work as a group, as I would teach it to students.
 - 2. Please take the lesson seriously; don't try to undermine it, but do ask questions and show confusion when appropriate.
 - 3. I need two or three small group leaders who are at least a little familiar with the format.
- C. The Lesson

III. Ideas and Evaluation

- A. Conclusion: Meeting Needs
- B. Open Forum

IV. Additional Resources

- A. My website has an expanded handout with my overheads, related papers, sample lessons, and links to other Bible study material. www.lifeenglish.net
- B. InterVarsity's International Student Ministry website has much more on the topic. www.ivcf.org/ism
- C. You may order my workbook at this conference or through the web. See me, email me at jvpayne@transtemp.com, or contact me through the website.

V. Topics for Future Discussions or Workshops (...lunch discussions?)

- A. Where do you BEGIN with someone who knows nothing about God?
- B. How can one prepare to answer their questions?
- C. How does one motivate and train leaders who have limited English?