

CASE STUDIES FOR TRAINING

Case Study 1:

A couple of students from Japan have been coming to various InterVarsity events and have made friends with quite a few people in the fellowship. They've even invited some of their other friends to InterVarsity. You've invited them to a GIG. On your third meeting, you invited them to accept Jesus, and they said "yes"! But, you later heard through another friend that they don't consider themselves Christians. They've also been avoiding you. *What will you do?*

Case Study 2:

You are a female American. Ali, a male student from Saudi Arabia has been coming to large group off-and-on. He happens to have a class with you this semester and often initiates conversations with you. He has expressed to you his interest in Jesus and in making American friends. "Ali" just texted you: "Would you like to have dinner with me before InterVarsity?" *What will you do?*

Case Study 3:

Ming, a Chinese student who has been in your ISM Small Group is going back home for good in a couple of months. Although he has been very engaged in the study all year and was even in tears during your last Bible Study, he has not invited Jesus into his life. He has mentioned not knowing any Christians back home and a family who is strongly opposed to him becoming a Christian. *What will you do?*

LEADER'S NOTES

Case Study 1:

Note: The Japanese often consider a direct "no" a personal rejection - shaming for both you and them (for shaming you). They may trust you, value your friendship highly, and be curious about Christianity, but not ready to commit their lives to Jesus. Having said "yes" to something they don't believe in may create awkwardness; they may be anticipating more "pressure" to follow Jesus in your next interaction or fear of losing your friendship.

Possible Solution: Pray for spiritual openness and for God to smooth things over. Give them space as needed. When the opportunity arises, reassure them of your unconditional friendship, tell them you are sorry if asking them to accept Jesus made them feel uncomfortable and pressured, and explain the cultural clash between Americans and Japanese. Let them know your desire to better understand their culture. Continue spending time with them and share Christ through your actions.

Case Study 2:

Note: Muslims, esp. the most conservative ones (Saudis!), have strong gender boundaries where men and women outside of families barely interact. For a woman to meet alone with a man will likely imply romantic interest or low moral standards. Based on what they've seen in movies, they often assume American women will say yes to such invitations, implying lower moral standards. If your behavior differs from a typical American, it will raise curiosity and help bring someone closer to Jesus.

Possible Solution: Invite a male friend who is prepared to develop a friendship with Ali so that you can pass the friendship onto him. Tell Ali your friend (name) will be joining you. If Ali is still initiating with you, you will need to be more direct (i.e. saying "no" and letting him know your male friend is available to hang out). Pray for him to connect with men who can share Jesus with him and for him to have a personal encounter with Jesus.

Case Study 3:

Note: While you don't want to rush someone into making a decision, you need to be aware that it may be easier for them to make a commitment to Jesus before they return home to a challenging environment.

Possible Solution: Meet with Ming one-on-one. Help him interpret his experience with God. Identify and talk through the challenges he will face, esp. family opposition and isolation. Let Ming know you absolutely do not want to pressure him into following Jesus but reassure him that the Holy Spirit will empower him if he does choose to follow Jesus. Connect Ming with believers back home ([some connections here – staff login required](#))