

## 3X3

# STARTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SMALL GROUPS AND GIGS WITH CULTURAL WISDOM

## 3 THINGS TO KNOW

- 1 Community fuels mission: small group growth relies on developing belonging and friendship.



- 2 ISM small groups can have people from a variety of spiritual backgrounds. Investigative Bible studies help Christians and non-Christians learn together.

- 3 Hosting regular small groups and gathering events will help sustain group momentum.



## X THINGS TO AVOID

- 1 Avoid tricking people into small groups: be honest about Bible studies and faith discussions.

- 2 Avoid spending too much time proving Christianity. Instead, encourage curiosity and build trust.



- 3 Avoid choosing responses or applications that are inappropriate for where international students are at in their spiritual journey.

## 3 THINGS TO TRY

- 1 Give every student the opportunity to be an expert: sharing a recipe, game, or tradition.



- 2 Incorporate elements into small group gatherings that build community and involve non-Christians: meals, games, English practice, cultural learning nights, or faith Q&A.



- 3 Print the passage in their language and ask: "What can we learn from this that we miss solely reading it in English?"

## MORE RESOURCES

Questions? Email Kelly [kelly.IVCF@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.IVCF@gmail.com)

Put "GIGs 3x3" in subject line.

Starting International Small Groups Guide [tiny.cc/sisg](http://tiny.cc/sisg)

I-GIG International Groups Investigating God Guide  
[tiny.cc/i-gig](http://tiny.cc/i-gig)

I-DIG International Disciples Group Guide [tiny.cc/idig](http://tiny.cc/idig)

3X3 resources give you quick tips and tools to help you engage international students.

Check out more 3X3s at [tiny.cc/3BY3](http://tiny.cc/3BY3)