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Bible Study Leader/ Helper for International-American Fellowship Information Sheet

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL-AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP?

These small-group fellowships are part of a larger ministry seeking to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of international students and scholars or their families, in the context of genuine love and hospitality. These small groups meet regularly to study the Bible together; they also provide leadership training for international Christians. It is our goal to have internationals lead in as many aspects of the group as they are willing and able. Our small groups are structured to help Christian international students grow in their faith, and help non-Christians understand God's plan of salvation.

ARE ALL THE GROUPS THE SAME?

Each small group is designed to address particular needs. Some groups are divided into different ethnicities. Also, some are composed of only one gender or one age group. Let us know of your interests.

WHEN AND WHERE DO THE GROUPS MEET?

Most groups meet every Friday evening, usually in homes although there are a few groups that meet at a church. Starting times may vary from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

ARE MY CHILDREN WELCOME AT THE FELLOWSHIPS?

Some of the Small Groups offer childcare on the premises.

ARE THERE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP?

Since this group serves the needs of internationals, we do have some "Guidelines for Those Attending the International-American Fellowship" on the back of this sheet. We ask that you prayerfully read these guidelines to determine if you can comply with our requests. Also, all volunteers who would like to serve with the International-American Fellowship are referred to our Director, Michelle Prindle, who will contact you about visiting one of our groups. Please be sure to call the Group Leader before you attend one of the Fellowships.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEADER? OF THE HELPERS?

The Leader will:

1. Coordinate with other leaders and helpers in your group to plan Bible studies, follow up students, plan social activities, and make sure all these functions are carried out.
2. Help teach the Bible study.
3. Attend leaders' meetings for Bible study leaders, for the purpose of communication, training, and encouragement.
4. Serve as the contact person for the group.
5. Attend 80% of small group meetings.
6. Mentor internationals and volunteers who desire to become Bible study leaders.

Helpers will:

1. Assist the group leader by taking responsibility in one or more of the following areas: rides, hospitality, set-up, leading the Bible discussion, planning social activities, follow-up of students.
2. Attend the majority of small group meetings.
3. Mentor internationals and volunteers who desire to become Bible study helpers.

Guidelines for Those Attending the International-American Fellowship

Because many American Christians come seeking to determine if our fellowship can be a place for serving the Lord, we have written some guidelines about how we minister and what our expectations are. If you have any questions, we invite you to ask. Also, we would like the privilege of praying for you as you seek God's will for further involvement.

1. Prior to coming, you will be asked to complete an application form, background check, and attend the next available IFI volunteer training session, if you have not already gone through this process. Following volunteer approval, you will have an opportunity to discuss your commitment level and observe various groups, as you consider if and how God is calling you to serve on the Campus Ministry Team as a Bible Study leader or helper. **The first time you attend our fellowship, we ask you to observe and not participate in the small group discussion. This will allow you to see the interactions and relationship-building within the group.**
2. Because we exist to serve the needs of internationals, we ask you to realize the following things:
 - a. Many students who attend our meetings are not Christians. Some are studying the Bible for the first time. We want to give them time to know who Jesus is and consider His claims in their lives. Therefore, do not ask questions such as: "Are you a Christian?" or "How long have you been a Christian?" etc.
 - b. It is easier for you to speak in English (your first language) than for them to speak in their second language (English), so...
 - Be a good listener. It is easy for Americans to end up dominating the discussion in groups unless they voluntarily hold back from answering questions and jumping in with comments. We want the international students to be encouraged to share.
 - Give them the opportunity to answer questions, even if you know the answers.
 - Speak clearly and slowly.
3. For those who believe this ministry is where God wants them to serve, we will discuss placement with a Campus Ministry Team mentor who will provide guidance and support in the learning environment of their group. Mentorship will range from three months to one year. We want to give you time to see how we operate and what we value. A few values are listed below.
 - a. Because we come from a variety of churches, we focus on the central teachings of the Bible rather than on church doctrine. Along with this, we emphasize the importance of application in one's life. We ask that you focus on these same areas also.
 - b. Our group is **not** a recruiting ground for inviting people to church. Only after you have taken the time to know students well should you invite them to your church. Your home is a better place to start ministering to students, if you want to invite them someplace outside of the meeting.
 - c. We are a ministry that works primarily along gender lines – man with man, and woman with woman. We ask that you do the same.
4. Once released by your mentor to serve as Bible study leader or helper on the Campus Ministry Team, we will provide ongoing training, as well as opportunities to fellowship with others of like vision and commitment.

I hope this helps orient you a little as to how we operate. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Michelle Prindle, Director of Campus Ministry.

Student Website: columbus.ifiusa.org/get-involved/weekly-meetings
Volunteer application and training dates at: www.ifipartners.org/volunteer

International Friendships

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