

3 X 3

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH CULTURAL WISDOM

3 THINGS TO KNOW

- 1** Most international students would love to have a close American friend, but 40% do not. Friendship in an unfamiliar culture is valuable.



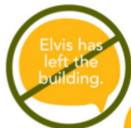
- 2** You might be the first Christian your international friend has met. Internationals are often open to spiritual conversations.

- 3** Developing trust takes time and consistent prayer. Internationals often look for relationships that go deeper.



X THINGS TO AVOID

- 1** Avoid idioms, jokes, and pop-culture references unless you explain them. Speak at a slower pace; this will greatly increase understanding.



The show has come to an end; it's all over.

- 2** Avoid assuming things about your new international friends. They have much they can teach you. Come with a learning posture.

- 3** Avoid viewing your international friends as a project or ministry. International students need true friendships, and so do you!



3 THINGS TO TRY

- 1** Find where international students gather on campus and go there. Think network maps (tiny.cc/net-map): try international clubs, cultural events, or pick-up sports games.



- 2** Use open-ended questions in conversations to build relationships and share your faith. Reveal early on that you are a Christian.

- 3** Internationals cherish reciprocity and hospitality. Ask what they need, offer practical help, and learn from them. Eg: Swap rides for cooking lessons.

