

# Building Cross-Cultural Friendships



**friends**  
INTERNATIONAL

# Contents

	Page
<b>What is friendship?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What is friendship in other cultures?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Biblical reasons for cross-cultural friendships?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>How do you develop cross-cultural friendships?</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Think realistically</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>True Stories</b>	<b>10</b>

**“Friendship with a Christian national may be only one link in a long chain of people and events which God uses to bring an international student to faith.”**

# 1. What is friendship?

**“Friendship is a relationship that exists when persons seek each other out and exhibit a strong mutual regard for each other.”**

**"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me."**

**- Henry Ford**

**"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."**

**- Martin Luther King Jr.**

**"Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather is one of those things that give value to survival."**

**- C. S. Lewis**

**“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”**

**- Proverbs 18:24**

**If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!**

**- Ecclesiastes 4:10**

- Film examples:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Biblical examples:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do you know that you have a friendship with someone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What difference does friendship make in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the difference between 'friendship' and 'ministry'?

## 2. What is friendship in other cultures?

**"People have a natural comfort zone among their own 'kind' of people. When you are among your own people, there is no need to adjust continuously or change your ways to fit in with others. Your people's behavior and responses are predictable. This preference for one's own social grouping is a natural thing."**

What is culture?

**"The accumulated habits, attitudes, and beliefs of a group of people that define for them their general behavior and way of life; the total set of learned activities of a people."**

**"The complete way of life of a people: the shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize a group; their customs, art, literature, religion, philosophy, etc.; the pattern of learned and shared behavior among the members of a group."**

**"A people's whole way of life. This includes their ideas, their beliefs, language, values, knowledge, customs, and the things they make."**

**"A set of learned beliefs, values and behaviors--the way of life--shared by the members of a society."**

**"The entire way of life of a defined group of people, which includes the interrelated spheres of the physical world, material social conditions, ideology, spirituality, affect."**



**“If the ability to make friends cross-culturally is not cultivated as a student, it does not become any easier after graduation.”**

- What are the positives associated with cross-cultural friendships?

- What are the difficulties associated with cross-cultural friendships?

### **3. Biblical reasons for cross-cultural friendships?**

**“For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.”**

**Deuteronomy 10:17-19**

**“When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. <sup>34</sup> The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”**

**Leviticus 19:33-34**

**After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.**

**Revelation 7:9**

**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

## 4. How do we develop cross-cultural friendships?

It is one thing to agree that a cross-cultural friendship is not only commanded by God but a fantastic opportunity in so many other ways...it is quite another to actually do something about it.

- What would be your first steps at developing a cross-cultural friendship?

- How would you ensure that a cross-cultural friendship develops into a deep friendship?



## **6. True Stories**

**"When we first came to the UK for my husband's research no one spoke to us and I was lonely. But then I found Friends International. I was so happy and made many friends. I will return home to my country with many happy memories of all my English and international friends. Thank you!"**

**Student from Korea**

**"I feel at home every time I go to the international café."**

**Student from China**

**"I wish I had known about Friends International when I arrived, six months ago. I have been so lonely but now I have lots of friends and am so happy."**

**Student from India**

**"I have been in the UK for a year already now, and now I am so pleased to have met you because you are the first British people to take an interest in me and my country"**

**International Student**

**"I was very lonely being abroad but that all changed when I came to your church."**

**International Student**

**"I have the final stamp of authority on Christian missionaries' visas. I will see this part of my job differently now."**

**Student from a restricted Muslim country**