



J▶URNEY

from Friendship to Leadership

A Five-Step Challenge





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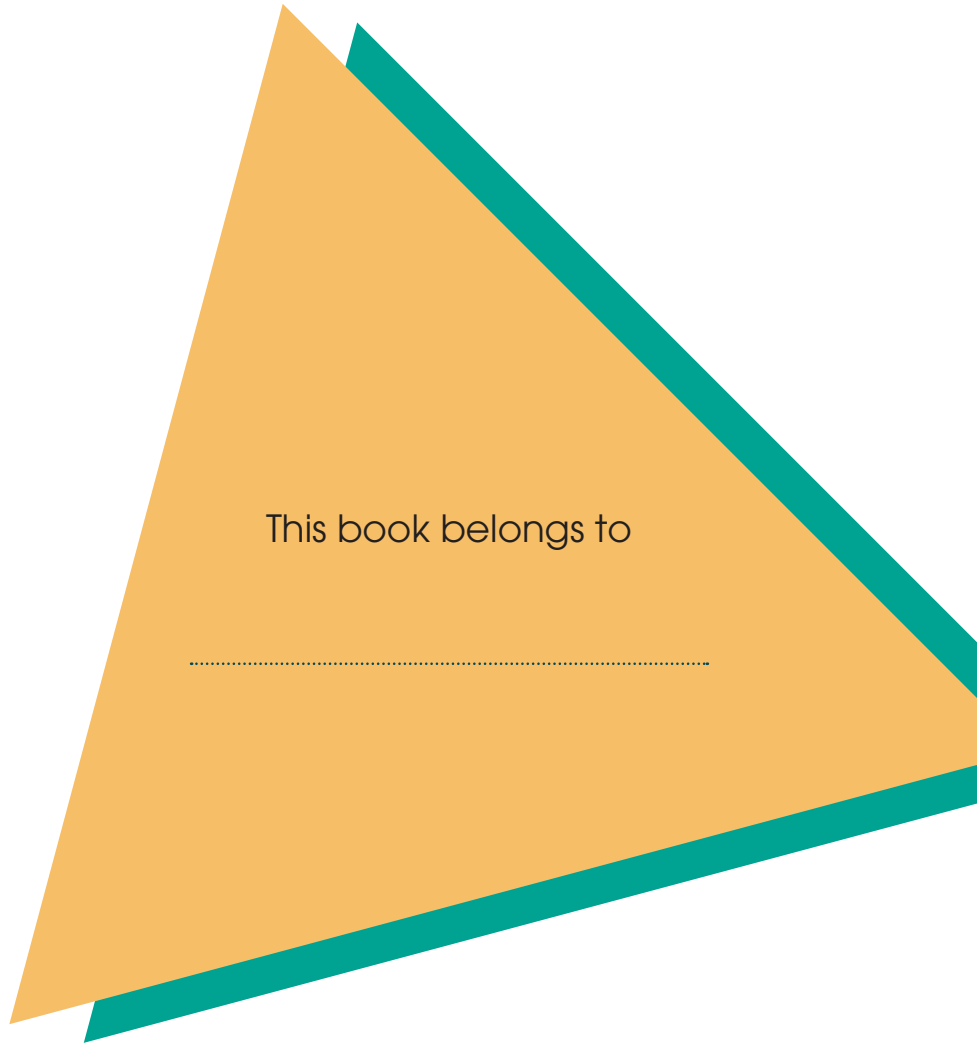
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This book belongs to

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CHI ALPHA'S MISSION

RECONCILING STUDENTS TO
CHRIST,
transforming the
UNIVERSITY,
the
MARKETPLACE,
and the
WORLD.

FOREWORD

After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned the disciples in the authority of His powerful name, to tell all nations that there is forgiveness of sins for all who repent. Christ gave His disciples a message that would involve every person from every nation.

Like the early church, Chi Alpha's mission statement stays true to Christ's mission statement. The scope of our mission statement is reconciliation to Christ through repentance and forgiveness of sins, including the making of disciples of all nations. This begins at the university, extends to the marketplace and impacts the world. This audacious mission statement connects what Jesus does in you and through you to disciples being made to the ends of the earth!

I am thankful for what Jesus continues to do through you that impacts the world, especially with regard to the international students Christ brings to our campuses. I pray that in this 5 step challenge you find a resource to help you love and serve, to proclaim Christ, and to make disciples who make disciples of all the nations as Jesus commissioned us, beginning with the nations on your campus!

In Him,



Severin Lwali

Director, Chi Alpha Internationals



INTRODUCTION

I remember the first American who took the time to befriend me. Navigating the obstacles of our cultural differences, my accent, my worldview, and even my personal proclivities did not stop my friend from reaching out to me. I am so grateful for that!

People from across the world might seem different, unapproachable, and maybe even inaccessible to you. But God has put them right within your reach, so you can be His hand extended into their lives.

While moving internationals from friendship to leadership must be intentional, there is no need for it to be intimidating.

This resource was built to help you take small steps into the lives of the internationals around you so you can begin building a relationship that will be of the greatest benefit to them.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Each step has 5 components to it. Take your time to read and understand each of them before jumping into the challenges for every section. The definitions

will help you learn what each part of the journey means. The devotionals were written to help guide you as you read the Scripture selections. As you read, meditate. Don't rush through the verses, but take time to immerse yourself in the details of each story.

The questions were crafted to help bridge God's Word to your current efforts. If at first you can't answer a question, read it again and prayerfully submit yourself before God. Ask Him to open your mind and help you answer to the best of your ability. Then, prayerfully choose one or more challenges to complete.

Find an accountability partner that will pray with you and help you strategize through the steps of moving your international friends from friendship to leadership.

I'm thrilled that you are going on this journey with us! May God bless you as you labor to bring lost sons and daughters into deeper relationship with the Father.

For His Renown,



Cynthia Dobbs

Cross Cultural Missions Resource Specialist





STEP 01

FRIENDSHIP

(frend•ship) noun

To extend a hand of comradery, affection and respect. To develop trust, reliability, and unselfish love for someone from another culture for their benefit.



FRIENDSHIP

by Cynthia Dobbs



Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

JOHN 15:13-15 (ESV)

Do you remember the first time you made a friend? How did you feel when someone invited you into their life? There is no better way to esteem, encourage and edify someone than becoming their true friend. We don't get to choose the family we are born into but we do get to choose our friends. Our friendships are the way we can share the life of Jesus with someone else.

Jesus referred to His disciples as His friends. He thought of them as His own family, sharing His life with them daily. He taught them that the greatest love on earth is experienced when someone lays down his or her life for a friend. While the thought of laying your life down as a missionary in a foreign context might be attractive, daily laying down your life for someone from another country right where you are at can be more challenging.

Laying down your life for others might mean choosing them over yourself with every choice you make. Where you have fun, what you eat, how you spend your time and how you spend your finances might all need to be changed in order to accommodate a new friend into your life. This daily dying to self is the kind of laying down of life that can bring Jesus into the lives of your international friends. Starting a new international friendship might seem difficult at first, but the reward can be eternal.

READ: LUKE 10:25-37 (ESV)



OBSERVE

Answer these questions after you read the Bible passage.

What stood out to you the most from this passage?

The Samaritans were an ethnic group that lived close to Israel. In this parable Jesus commends the Samaritan for his generosity to a complete stranger. What did the Samaritan do that Jesus seems to encourage us to do?

The Samaritan attended to the felt need of a hurt and disadvantaged individual. Consider the nations among you, what are the common hurts, disadvantages and obstacles

they face? If you were to be like the Samaritan how would you extend your hand of friendship to these internationals?

While the other passersby refused to take any personal responsibility, the Samaritan gave up his time, money and resources for the injured man's sake. Prayerfully consider your life. What are some areas of your life in which you need to willingly embrace inconveniences so you can lay down your life for the benefit of the internationals among you?



TAKEAWAY

The Priest and the Levite both knew God’s law, which commanded them to care for the stranger among them. They disobeyed God by clearly ignoring the man in need. The Samaritan, a foreigner, behaved more in line with God’s law than those that were followers of God. We have a tremendous opportunity to extend the hand of friendship and embrace the nations amongst us with the love of God. May we be like the Samaritan and be willing to pay the cost so the nations can be made whole in the Lord.



Storytelling is a really useful skill for anyone who wants to share Jesus cross-culturally. I wanted to become a better storyteller, so I asked one of my Muslim friends if I could practice telling Bible stories to him. He enthusiastically agreed. Every week, we met for lunch, talked about our lives, and then I shared a 5-10 minute story with him. He told me what kept it interesting, and what wasn’t so great, which helped me improve my skills greatly. Then, we’d reflect on what the story was trying to teach us. My friend shared his life with me and helped me become a better storyteller. The lunches I had with him were a great part of each week, and as we learned from each other, we became closer friends.



JONATHAN LYTLE
XAI AREA REPRESENTATIVE,
NORTHWEST REGION



CHALLENGES

Choose one or more of the following challenges to complete.

- Ask an international student for help with something you are doing. It could be something as simple as cooking a meal with you or helping you with schoolwork.
- Go to a place on campus where internationals hang out and pray there for an hour. Ask God for divine appointments to meet international friends.
- Find out if your university does any fun events for international students. Many international student clubs host events or festivals from their countries. If so, find one that you can join! If not, talk to your small group or your campus pastor about how you could host a fun event for international students.
- Add your own challenges:



FELLOWSHIP

by Jonathan Lytle



That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 JOHN 1:3 (ESV)

Acts 2 describes the day of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the lives of the first believers. In this action-packed passage, it can be easy to overlook the formation of the first Jesus community. The people from various nations that were present at Pentecost were very much like international students today!

The very first believers were all Jewish men and women from the areas around Jerusalem and Galilee. Acts 1 tells us the group gathered on the day of Pentecost included the original 11 apostles, the women who followed Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus, Jesus’s brothers, and others, about 120 people total. They seem to be a tightly knit group, praying and waiting for Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit.

Your group of spiritual friends might be similar to this. You may have a shared language and a shared history, maybe some inside jokes and memories you can easily share with each other. But what happens when the Holy Spirit comes on this group of believers? As you’ll see, God moves them to become a hospitable, open, welcoming fellowship that includes people who don’t share their history, language, culture, or common memories! This Spirit was poured out on this diverse group of people when they were all united.

READ: ACTS 2:1-11, 41-47 (ESV)



OBSERVE

Answer these questions after you read the Bible passage.

What stood out to you the most from this passage?

The 3,000 people that were added to their community that day were, in some ways, like international students on our campuses. They had come from other places and didn’t naturally share the same language, culture, or common history as the original believers. What do you notice about how they were welcomed into the community of disciples in this passage?

Read verses 41-47 again. What do you think it felt like to be one of those 3,000 people and to be welcomed into a community like this? What about this sounds wonderful?

What challenges do you think the original Jewish believers might have faced as the Holy Spirit created this kind of diverse community right before their very eyes?

What could it look like for you to imitate the original disciples in welcoming international students, not just into your own personal friendship, but into fellowship with your community of believers?



TAKEAWAY

The 120 original believers intentionally created a Jesus-centered community that welcomed 3,000 new people, despite significant differences in language, culture, and shared experience. They didn't just make individual friends outside of their group and

then retreat to their cozy fellowship. In fact, the first community that the Holy Spirit created was an enthusiastic, loving, devoted, generous, joyful, hospitable, sincere, and prayerful group of people with all kinds of differences. Spirit-filled people have been like this from the very beginning! May the Holy Spirit also create these kinds of communities on our campuses as we all welcome international students into genuine fellowship.



This past summer I got married! My international friends not only helped my husband with the proposal, but they helped me a lot with wedding planning. This was a win-win situation because we got to spend a lot of quality time together while making life-long memories. Most importantly, it was a chance to invite them into our lives. I got to share truth about love, sex and marriage. I would challenge you to open up your lives to your international friends. It may not be a wedding, but how we live out any kind of relationship as followers of Jesus looks so different from the culture around us. This should create some questions that you can answer in a way that it points back to Jesus. When we invite them into fellowship with us they can experience the love of Jesus through us.



BETHANY CARTER
XAI AREA REPRESENTATIVE,
WEST COAST REGION



CHALLENGES

Choose one or more of the following challenges to complete.

- Ask an international student if they would be willing to come to your small group and be interviewed about their experiences.
- Invite an international student to a meal with other Chi Alpha friends.
- What are you doing this weekend with your friends? Invite an international student to join!
- Add your own challenges:



JOURNAL

What did you learn as a result of doing this step?



FOLLOWERSHIP

by Cynthia Dobbs



How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

ROMANS 10:14 (ESV)

Who first helped you love, cherish, and obey Scripture? In the Scriptures you will read today we find Philip, instructed by the angel of the Lord to run alongside an international from Ethiopia. The Ethiopian was reading Scripture and asking questions, and God was aware of it. God's answer to the Ethiopian's questions? Philip!

This is God's method for answering deep spiritual questions from the internationals among us. On their journey from friendship to leadership, followership (learning to love and follow Jesus for themselves) often requires outside help. There are people all around you from other nations asking questions about life, love, their futures, and their purpose. You have the opportunity to come alongside them like those who came alongside you.

While their questions may not be overtly spiritual, your answers can point them to a loving God who has a design and a purpose for them. Like Philip helped the Ethiopian, it is our privilege to help them understand Scripture and walk in obedience to it. When they make a confession of faith, it is our responsibility to help them experience the sacraments of faith like communion at the common table, baptism in water and in the Holy Spirit. Without followership, *our* international friends will never learn to become friends of Jesus.

READ: ACTS 8:26-40 (ESV)

STEP 03

FOLLOWERSHIP

(fol-oh-er-ship) noun

To follow Jesus in such a way that those who walk alongside us are enabled to follow Him well. To move someone from one level of relationship with God to the next closer level.



OBSERVE

Answer these questions after you read the Bible passage.

What stood out to you the most from this passage?

How did Philip find out that the Ethiopian was reading Scripture and needed help understanding? How can we position ourselves like Philip to meet “seeking” internationals?

What are some lessons we can learn from Philip about how to help others grasp Scripture?

Philip witnessed about Jesus and followed this by baptizing the Ethiopian. Why was this important?



TAKEAWAY

The angel of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord invited Philip into the conversation with the Ethiopian and equipped him to explain Scripture. Philip had done the pre-work of learning the Word, so he was ready when the Lord asked him to run alongside the chariot. We need to be prepared to be an effective witness.

We may not know when the opportunity to tell others about Jesus may present itself. Many times we are reluctant to tell seeking internationals about the hope of Jesus because we are unprepared or afraid. As you meditate on the Ethiopian's story, may God give you diligence to study the Word, and the courage to tell internationals about Jesus, the best friend they could ever have.



I love seeing someone drawn to Christ and empowered by Him. A Chinese friend, who was not even a believer, faithfully attended and helped organize Bible studies and events on campus. His open and teachable spirit led us to invite him to join a summer mission trip. Months before the trip, we participated in weekly training to build prayer and evangelism skills. Our friend, who still did not fully know Jesus, would return from these sessions in tears because he had the opportunity to pray for the hopeless and share the hope that is in Jesus. That Chinese friend is now a baptized brother in Christ and is influencing people in his home country.



KATE WILLIAMS
XAI AREA REPRESENTATIVE,
GREAT LAKES REGION



CHALLENGES

Choose one or more of the following challenges to complete.

- Ask an international student to share their life story. Are there any parallels between their life and yours? Share a relevant testimony of God's work in your life.
- Ask an international student you know about the obstacles that could stop someone like them from deciding to follow Jesus.
- Have you invited an international to your small group, to Chi Alpha, or to church yet? If not, now is the time!
- Add your own challenges:



DISCIPLESHIP

by Kristina Lwali



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (ESV)

As an employee, it is vital to know what is expected of you by your employer. If you don't understand your employer's vision for the company, you cannot do your job well. This will make it hard to stay in that job for very long!

As believers, we have been given a very specific job by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV). He is very clear about His expectations of us: our role is to go and make disciples. This verse specifies who we are to make disciples of - all nations. By reading God's Word, we can understand His heart, which is genuine love for every single person on the planet. By knowing His expectations of us, we can become better disciple-makers.

Even Peter, who had walked closely with Jesus, seemed to struggle with understanding God's heart in the early days of the church. In Acts 10 the Holy Spirit supernaturally orchestrated the encounter between Peter and Cornelius, making it clear that Gentiles are included in God's salvation plan. Peter was shocked! He had not grasped this part of God's vision and God's heart. He had somehow missed that even from Genesis, God wanted every nation, not just the Jews, to be in relationship with Him. Sometimes, like Peter, we stop reading the verse at 'make disciples' and neglect to include the international students that God has placed among us.

Thankfully, Peter responded in obedience to the Holy Spirit's promptings and shared the salvation message with Cornelius and his household. They received salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit, just as the Jewish Christians had. May we also open up our understanding to see God's heart and look beyond our own cultures in order to meet God's expectations.

READ: ACTS 10:23-48 (ESV)



OBSERVE

Answer these questions after you read the Bible passage.

What stood out to you the most from this passage?

In verse 28, Peter tells Cornelius that it was unconventional for him as a Jew to enter Cornelius' Gentile home. Why do you think he began the conversation this way? What thoughts may have gone through his heart as he stepped out in obedience to God?

This passage shows that God went to great, supernatural lengths for Cornelius and his household to hear the Good News of Jesus. What does Cornelius' experience tell you about how God sees people who are genuinely hungry for Him?

Peter comes to a realization in v. 34 about how God sees the Gentile believer. He went on to share the Gospel with the Gentile crowd who had gathered. What happened in v. 45 that seemed to change everything from this point forward? What kinds of thought patterns do you think had to shift to allow for them to accept these "unconventional" new believers?

In the end, the passage says that Peter ordered that the household be baptized and then he stayed with them for a few days. What kinds of things do you think Peter shared with them during that time? How significant do you think this time with Peter was for Cornelius and his household?



TAKEAWAY

As people who disciple others, we first need to make sure we understand God's heart. God went to great lengths to make sure Peter knew He is the God of all nations. Only then could Peter point Cornelius to the truth of salvation for him and his household. In the same way, as disciplers our goal is not only to disciple American Christians, but to be strategic and intentional to disciple those from every nation whom He places in our path. Bias like Peter had might make the internationals among us invisible to our discipleship efforts. The discipleship process with someone from a different culture might look a little different

than what you're used to, but do not let that deter you. We are not discipling them to be an "American Christian;" we are discipling them to be a Kingdom Christian. Like Peter, we need to step out in obedience to the Holy Spirit, even when it may feel unconventional or uncomfortable. But to this God has called us, and He will equip us to be successful!



Several years ago, I began meeting with key officers of international groups on campus. I found it hard to make an impact with international students until I crossed over to their world. During this season of building relationships, I met a young man from Iran who said all he knew about Jesus was the story of him doing a magic trick where fish jumped into a boat. I thought he was joking! He wanted to know more, so I told him we could meet weekly to learn about Jesus if he would share with another friend whatever I taught him. After several months of sharing life and Jesus with him, he accepted Christ. Nearly a year later, he reached out to me for assistance with praying for his friend with whom he had been sharing the Gospel. I told him it was his turn to pray for his friend to receive Christ! Helping others follow Jesus is not an overnight process. But, as we take one obedient step after another, God blesses our efforts so that those we disciple can become disciplers themselves.



TIM PETTY
XAI AREA REPRESENTATIVE,
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



CHALLENGES

Choose one or more of the following challenges to complete.

- Ask a Christian international student in your Chi Alpha group if you can take them to coffee/lunch and ask about how their experience with Christianity is different here than it is at home.
- Ask an international student to pray for you, giving them the chance to minister to your needs.
- Download the Youversion Bible app. Ask an international student to help you determine which translation in their language is the easiest to read.
- Add your own challenges:



LEADERSHIP

by Severin Lwali



Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

ACTS 20:28 (ESV)

Have you ever thought about what life would be like if people hadn't shared Christ with you? The impact of the disciplers in your life continues to have a ripple effect in the lives you touch. Like them, Phoebe and Stephen greatly impacted the early Church, with ripples affecting us today. Although these non-Hebrew leaders may not have fit the culture of the majority of the early church leaders, they stepped out in obedience and leadership in spreading the Gospel to the world.

Stephen, a Spirit-filled deacon in the early church, boldly served Greek widows and courageously shared the Gospel, which led to his eventual martyrdom. Stephen's death, as recorded in Acts 8:4 (ESV), was the catalyst for the spread of the Gospel everywhere God's people were scattered. As recorded in Romans 16, Phoebe's leadership was portrayed by her generosity and her key role as a trusted messenger of the Word to the church in Rome.

There is a key factor that connects these two non-Hebrew believers: the support of the majority church in empowering their brothers and sisters from other backgrounds! God's design for the church is to spread the Gospel from every nation to every nation - they got it right, and our lives are transformed today.

READ: ROMANS 16:1-2 (ESV), ACTS 6:1-15 (ESV)



OBSERVE

Answer these questions after you read the Bible passage.

What stood out to you the most from this passage?

How did the early church encourage and empower Phoebe and Stephen to serve? What was the long-term impact of their ministries?

What hindrances in your heart or on your campus make it difficult to disciple international student leaders?

How are you creating on-ramps for international students to become leaders (disciple-makers) on your campus today?



TAKEAWAY

Like the apostles who made room and saw the Spirit of God at work among the internationals/ foreigners among them, it is important that we recognize, train and equip international students to become leaders here on our campuses, so that the world will know Jesus and disciples will be made among the nations they come from. We cannot cross the finish line

of proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples of all nations without the help of the nations, specifically the international students on our campus.

As we say in Chi Alpha, the international students are both the harvest field that is ripe, as in John 4:35 (ESV), and the laborers for the vast harvest field they come from, as we read in Luke 10:2 (ESV). This requires one thing: creating on-ramps, making ways for international students to become disciple-makers who make disciples!



“I can’t go through leadership,” exclaimed my friend from Cameroon. She was faithful to Bible Study, reliable, and humble in her walk with Jesus. So when we began inviting students to leadership training, she made the top of my list. The problem? She was an MBA student working part time to make ends meet. On top of that, our weekly leadership training conflicted with one of her classes. She couldn’t make it to class! The more I prayed, the more I was convinced I needed to make leadership training accessible to her. So, we made a plan to share with her all the information from the training when it fit with her schedule. For her part, she agreed to complete all of the assignments given to the in-class group. She successfully passed, and began leading her own small group, which launched three more small groups in the following years. It took some extra work, but seeing her produce lasting fruit as a leader was worth the time and effort.



CYNTHIA DOBBS
CROSS CULTURAL MISSIONS
RESOURCE SPECIALIST



CHALLENGES

Choose one or more of the following challenges to complete.

- Invite an international student to lead an aspect of your small group.

- Personally invite an International student to the All Nations Conference or enroll them in leadership training locally or through XAI's Leadership Intensive Training.

- Think through the responsibilities you have as a leader in Chi Alpha. What is one that you could delegate to an international student? If you aren't a leader, sign up to help with something and bring your international friend along to do it.

- Add your own challenges:



JOURNAL

What did you learn as a result of doing this step?



AFTERWORD

Congratulations on your efforts to complete this XAi 5 Step challenge!

Maybe you finished every step to completion, or you were among those unable to get through all of them for one reason or another. These steps are not sequential. Some internationals arrive at step four before step three. We created the steps to demarcate the intentional activity we need to take in order to help someone progress in their discipleship journey. Maybe your international student friend was already on the journey from friendship to leadership and you could only do some of the steps with him/her, building on the work of other Christians before you.

No matter how many of the steps you finished, your valliant efforts to learn about God's heart for the nations and to do something about it is commendable and never wasted.

This book was not meant to be a rush-through-resource, to be used once and set aside after completion. It is a tool to reach back and take a hold of throughout your life as you disciple internationals.

If you completed all the steps, great job! Now it's time to choose a friend and go through the steps with them again.

If you stopped partway through, start again! God rewards our obedience, especially when our actions take us on a search to go after one of His lost lambs.

Let's continue chasing after His heart for the nations until every tribe, every tongue and every nation know that Jesus is Lord. If all of us reach the nations right around us, it won't be long until God's global plan to reach the world is complete.

For His Renown,

Cynthia Dobbs

Cross Cultural Missions Resource Specialist



