



INTERNATIONAL NIGHT- ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE

The hope is that as you share your life, students will have opportunities to naturally share their faith and show the love of Christ through being welcomers. Students should make it their goal to make at least one meaningful friendship and follow up with that person after the event by exchanging contact info and meeting up for coffee, a meal, or offering to give them a ride to the grocery store.

IDEAS TO GET YOU GOING

Gather to pray for the international students on your campus. Pray that God will open your eyes, clear your schedule, and give you the boldness to welcome them with the love of Christ.

Invite International Students to “International Night: Free Pizza, Games, and New Friends!” (or something like that) Put flyer's up around campus, partner with the international office, go door-to-door in international dorms or apartments, and make a facebook event.

Consider serving pizza with vegetarian toppings like pineapple, cheese, green pepper, and jalapeno for cultures that do not eat meat (Most Hindus and many Muslims will not eat meat, only certain types of meat, or only meat prepared a certain way). If you do have some pizzas with meat toppings, make sure it is clearly labeled.

Welcome students when they come in and have them write their names on a name tag and maybe even where they are from. Have American students fill out name tags too! You may want to have students sign in with their names, phone numbers, and emails to follow up with them.

Assign some students in your ministry to serve pizza and maybe even salad. For an extra treat, serve ice cream a little later in the evening. Place fun group games at each table, like Jenga, Connect Four, Play-Dough, Lego's, and cards. Maybe even have some fun ice breaker and conversation questions for students to ask each other at each table.

Encourage American believers to step outside of their comfort zones and start up conversations with internationals. Try not to look at these students as a project but instead as a person that God loves. You will be surprised how much you will have in common with them. If you're struggling to start conversations, it's always good for you to follow the ACT principle; Ask questions, Connect by finding things in common, and look for opportunities to Turn the conversation towards spiritual things.

Consider making this a weekly event by getting other campus ministries or churches involved to help sponsor. But remember, the purpose is not for Christian students to show up each week, eat free pizza, and play games, the end goal is for each believer to really invest themselves into at least one international student and introduce them to Jesus.

This Action Plan was written by John Aaron Matthew. John Aaron is from Louisiana and now serves with his wife, Emily, as the Baptist Collegiate Ministry directors at Tennessee Tech University where he led his students to start an International Ministry three years ago. Each week at International Night, the BCM hosts an average of 75 students from all around the world, including Saudi Arabia, India, Nepal, China, Japan, Korea, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, and South America. When John Aaron was a church based college minister in Texas, he first observed a model for International Night while serving with his students at the Baptist Student Ministry at the University of Texas in Arlington under the leadership of UTA BSM Director, Gary Stidham. Feel free to contact John Aaron with questions at tntechbcm@gmail.com.