



Greetings in Christ and thank you for your interest in using PASSPORT TO FRIENDSHIP!

PTF is a new course and we welcome your feedback on how God uses it in your context. Please suggest any improvements you have by sending me an email.

The outlines are intended for 60-75 minutes, and are suitable for small groups or Bible classes. Other users have discovered that the time moves very quickly.

The course is designed to be facilitated by someone in the local church who has cross-cultural experience. We encourage the use of personal illustrations. Feel free to replace elements in the outline with your own experiences.

Seek to provide students with an interactive experience. Resist the temptation to lecture or tell long stories. Students learn best when they interact with each other around ideas and skills.

The "Overview" included below may be used for publicizing the course.

It would be our hope that you will offer the course on a recurring basis. Also, feel free to share this resource with other churches in your network or city. We only ask that you inform us of such multiplication so that we can rejoice in God's blessing.

We do not charge for the use of this material. If God uses it and you desire to contribute toward our ongoing ministry, we would welcome your doing so.

May the Lord bless your efforts,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Rasmussen" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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PASSPORT TO FRIENDSHIP – Overview

Making a friend cross-culturally no longer requires a plane ticket, because God has brought people from different cultures to our city. But many of us do not have the knowledge or courage to reach out to these new neighbors, even though we believe we should.

So, how can a timid, play-it-safe Christian make a friend with newcomers of another culture? In this 6-week class, students will learn some of the basics of what can become an exciting, life-long journey. Each of the 6 weeks adds important instruction for the intercultural explorer:

Week 1: Proof of Identity

We will learn who we are as Kingdom ambassadors, and how God sees our new neighbors.

Week 2: Reason for Stay

Gives a fuller picture of why God has put us on earth, and reasons others move into our neighborhoods from far away.

Week 3: Customs and Immigration

Overcome your fears of saying or doing the wrong thing by knowing who your new neighbors are and how you can learn about them.

Week 4: Goods to Declare

As a believer you have the ultimate good news. This week we will learn a Biblical way to share it.

Week 5: Accept Local Hospitality

You'll come away from this class with practical ideas for serving others in the name of Jesus.

Week 6: The Golden Moment

Set your sights on experiencing a rare cross-cultural friendship that alters a person's destiny and changes you for good.

PASSPORT TO FRIENDSHIP – Key ideas

(See Outline for each week for Learning Objectives)

Idea: A timid, play-it-safe Christian can make a friend with newcomers of another culture by patiently pursuing six beginner steps.

1. PROOF OF IDENTITY

- a. All made in the image of God; Gen 1
- b. All loved by God and forgiven; no walls in the Kingdom; Eph 2; the cross has removed hostility; we need to live out this reality instead of believing the lies of divided society
- c. You are commissioned by God; Mt. 28; representatives/ ambassadors/ citizens of a kingdom without divisiveness; Col 3:11; ministers of reconciliation.
- d. You are the Father's child; ask him to give you humility and compassion; pray for His guidance on this journey; ask Him to direct you to people

2. REASON FOR STAY (The Real One)

- a. We are really here to: Love God, Love neighbor as ourselves, make disciples of all peoples.
- b. Resident-alien; we are all passing through; you're not "home".
- c. Love the stranger among you as yourself; Lev 19.
- d. "Departures and Arrivals" – the Push-Pull factors (refugees, immigrants, students)
- e. Acts 17:26; they are on a life changing journey.
- f. Wouldn't it be grand if their reason for coming, and your reason for being here intersect as a divine encounter of eternal significance! John 4. Jesus met the woman; he was very intentional; she didn't know her need; but God had a bigger plan.

3. CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

- a. Who has God brought near you? Is there a person or group of people that are near, or that you have an interest in?
- b. Learn something about their culture. Become curious and friendly. Take the form of a servant-learner. (Jn.4 "give me a drink"); the other person is the authority in her/his culture. Respect that.
- c. Suggestions for a cross-cultural conversation.
- d. Reframe your view of "them." Confront your stereotypes.

4. GOODS TO DECLARE

- a. You have good news; before you say it, show it.
- b. You may be surprised to know how little effort it takes for a member of the dominant/established group to show kindness to a newcomer.

- c. Have a simple and reproducible Bible study method and trust the Holy Spirit to open hearts using the Word; learn Discovery Bible Study. Let the simple study of the word of God for themselves spread through natural relational networks.
- d. Luke 10; person of peace; God has prepared people who will open doors to the gospel. Jn. 4; woman tells people of her city; many believe; they want Jesus to stay.

5. ACCEPT LOCAL HOSPITALITY

- a. Phil 2; Jesus humbled himself and walked among us. He died to self, and served us.
- b. Serve the newcomer with the hands of Jesus.
- c. Don't take the tour bus to the resort hotel, walk with the locals; eat what they eat; share your stories and listen to theirs.
- d. Share FOOD together.
- e. Help in practical ways: Talk time (English conversation); pick up/drop off at airport; make cakes; have for dinner; explain Christmas, Easter.
- f. Don't invite to church; that's what I said. And here's why.

6. THE GOLDEN MOMENT

- a. When you get off the beaten path from where all your peers normally go, and have a meaningful, personal, relational connection across cultures.
- b. When you realize how egotistical you used to be, and never want to go back to being that way.
- c. When you see the beauty and intelligence of that person you formerly looked down upon; and you experience true friendship across cultures. You feel the unity of humanity as God designed it; God seems big again. You taste what the kingdom will be, Rev. 7:9.
- d. If the person comes to faith, you feel you have partaken of the mission of God intimately; it is an eternal moment that alters a person's destiny and changes you forever. (Jn. 4 "I who speak to you am he")
- e. Map your journey from here. What have you learned? What new perspectives have you gained? What have you experienced so far in implementing this training? What further help do you want, and from whom? What will your lifestyle look like three months from now such that this training has made a difference in your life? A year from now?