

INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE FROM OTHER CULTURES/BACKGROUNDS

Opening up your home to your neighbors is sure to bring people together who come from different cultural backgrounds. This can create intimidating or sometimes awkward interactions; however, if we are to model our lives off of the life of Jesus, then it is important to show the love of Jesus by welcoming people of all backgrounds.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO BE WELCOMING TO PEOPLE OF A DIFFERENT CULTURE:

- **LEARN ABOUT THEIR CULTURE:** Take time to understand their traditions, values, and customs.
- **RESPECT DIFFERENCES:** Show respect for their cultural practices and beliefs, even if they differ from your own.
- **USE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:** Avoid stereotypes and generalizations; use language that is respectful and inclusive.
- **BE OPEN-MINDED:** Approach cultural differences with curiosity and a willingness to learn.
- **BE CURIOUS:** Politely ask about their culture and experiences to show genuine interest.
- **CELEBRATE THEIR CULTURE:** Acknowledge and celebrate cultural holidays and events that are important to them.
- **BE PATIENT:** Understand that language barriers and cultural differences can sometimes cause misunderstandings; be patient and communicate clearly.
- **BE EMPATHETIC:** Show empathy and understanding towards the challenges they may face in adapting to a new culture.
- **LISTEN ACTIVELY:** Pay attention and listen actively when they share their experiences and perspectives.
- **AVOID ASSUMPTIONS:** Don't assume that everyone from the same culture has the same beliefs or practices; recognize individual differences.
- **OFFER FOOD AND HOSPITALITY:** Sharing meals and offering hospitality can be a great way to build connections and show warmth. Do not be offended if they decline food or other offers for sake of cultural norms or religious beliefs.
- **LEARN BASIC PHRASES:** Learn a few basic phrases in their language to show respect and effort.

- **BE MINDFUL OF BODY LANGUAGE:** Be aware that body language can have different meanings in different cultures and act accordingly.
- **SHOW GRATITUDE:** Express appreciation for the diversity they bring to your community or workplace.

These actions can help create a welcoming and inclusive environment for people from different cultures.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND / AVOID

- **MAKING ASSUMPTIONS:** Don't assume that everyone from a particular culture behaves or believes the same way.
- **USING STEREOTYPES:** Avoid generalizing based on cultural stereotypes.
- **DISRESPECTING CUSTOMS:** Don't ignore or belittle cultural customs and traditions.
- **INSENSITIVE HUMOR:** Avoid jokes or humor that could be offensive or misunderstood.