

REACH THE WORLD NEXT DOOR

Cross-Cultural Ministry Training Workbook





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This booklet is part of the Reach the World Next Door cross-cultural ministry training program, created in partnership with the Adventist Learning Community, ASAP Ministries, the North American Division Evangelism Institute, and the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. To access the free online version of the training, visit adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/rwnd. To order a hard copy, contact ASAP Ministries at asapministries.org or 269-471-3026.

For more information on cross-cultural training visit reachtheworldnextdoor.com

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Introduction

THE OPPORTUNITY

Imagine not knowing a loving God when you feel the need to pray. Picture your life, never having a Bible as your guide. Think of your darkest moment and how it would have been without the mercy and uplifting power of Jesus. That is the reality for at least 4,000 unreached people groups consisting of more than 3 billion precious individuals.

Doesn't it make you long to do something? Perhaps you have always wanted to be a missionary but could not go overseas because of family responsibilities, financial challenges, or other barriers? The mission field has moved next door! More than 300 of those unreached people groups have migrated to North America in large numbers. They have also poured into cities throughout the world. We can readily be part of finishing the Great Commission and seeing Jesus return.

Do you feel unprepared to do this? This course, *Reach the World Next Door*, will help you become more effective as you learn from Jesus and depend on the Holy Spirit. You will be able to make friends with people of other cultures, to care meaningfully for a refugee, immigrant, or international student, and to share your faith with a Buddhist, a Muslim, or others.

THE METHOD

Reach the World Next Door has developed a 13-lesson training program that prepares Christians to befriend and witness to their unreached neighbors. The focus is on immigrants, refugees, and international students; however, the outreach skills that you will learn can be used to witness to anyone who needs to hear the Good News. The program consists of video segments, small group discussions about biblical mission principles, and field activities that take you out to meet, serve, and share with people from non-Christian backgrounds.

The method is based on Jesus' method. He was the best of teachers and called His students together to learn as a small group of disciples. They spent time with Him and then He sent them out to witness two-by-two.

Since we can't physically walk with Jesus, the video segments will give you examples and instruction from individuals who are serving cross-culturally. *My Favorite Missionary*, a Bible study booklet, will focus your attention on Jesus in the specific stories where He reached out cross-culturally. The small group focus will give you the community that can encourage you and hold you accountable. The *Praying for the World Next Door* booklet will help you depend on God through prayer at every step. Finally, each lesson has a cross-cultural activity that will take you out into the field to learn by doing.

BY YOURSELF OR IN A GROUP?

If you complete the full program here using a physical copy and want to receive certification, you can send your completed workbook to ASAP Ministries, PO Box 84, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, or email a digital copy to info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com. Look at the *Mission Checklist* in the back of this workbook to have a clear picture of the assignments. You might find it easier to do the course online at adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/rwnd.

However, you will likely find this training more effective and more fun if you invite at least one other person to join you. The encouragement and accountability increase the chances for your success in this mission. If no one nearby can partner with you, consider recruiting a friend from elsewhere to join you in the training. You can meet with another person or an entire group online through a conference call.

You can do the *Reach the World Next Door* training in person with youth groups, Sabbath school classes, and families. It can also be an effective activity for club ministries and Friday or Saturday evening programs. You can meet at church, in homes, in a park, or at a restaurant.

If you want to do this as a group in person, you can obtain hard copies of the Reach the World Next Door Workbook, *Praying for the World Next Door*, *My Favorite Missionary*, and MyLanguageMyLife.com cards for a donation at asapministries.org or by calling (269) 471-3026, depending on availability.

If you want to meet as a group online, the *Reach the World Next Door* team will coach you on how to do this when you write to info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com. Adventist Learning Community will set up a cohort so one of you can be the facilitator. All cohort members will register, and their assignments will come to the designated facilitator, who will be able to encourage their involvement in mission outreach.

THE LEADERSHIP

If you want to do this course as a small group, read on for specific details to help the training flow smoothly. Here's the simple summary first:

1. Pray and recruit a team to do the training with you.
2. Set a time and place for the meetings.
3. Review the lesson in advance.
4. Print, order, or email the materials to team members. Remember, if you want to hold your small group online, email info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com for information on how to register your entire group as a cohort with Adventist Learning Community.
5. Go through each lesson together.
 - Team Care and Accountability (ask questions, encourage, fill out the *Mission Checklist* according to what team members accomplished, and pray).
 - Presentation (show the video).
 - Discovery and Discussion (ask questions, include everybody).
 - Team Prayer (pray together claiming promises).
 - Assignments (review together and discuss plans).
6. Start a Discovery Bible Group for team members and non-Christians.

Each Reach the World Next Door group needs a leader who will commit time, prayer, and love to see the team succeed. The instructions for when to play the video segments and what questions to ask and assignments to give are all built right into the workbook.

Is that leader you? You may not feel qualified, but everything you need to know is there and the Holy Spirit is fully adequate to help you facilitate the learning and provide the caring support. You can also email info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com to request additional coaching. If you do not feel you should lead, seek a friend to do it for you and your group, but you will grow more if you offer to assist.

If you do not have a group yet, use the *Reach the World Next Door* promotional materials (available at reachtheworldnextdoor.com/training/online) to help make family and friends aware of the needs of unreached internationals living nearby. Ask your church leadership for permission to share information about this training at church and invite members to join. Ask those who are interested to fill out a commitment card and meet you after the church service.

Talk with your group of interested friends and family to establish a meeting place and time. Plan to meet weekly, setting aside 1½ hours for your time together. Decide if you will meet at church, in a home, or somewhere else. Determine whether a meal/refreshments will help or hinder your time together. Choose an assistant to help you lead. Give him or her some part to do in the meeting each week. Pray together. Jesus sent the disciples out two-by-two, and you will be stronger together.

Prepare the materials in advance. Make sure everyone has this workbook and the booklets as mentioned above. The other option is to enroll at adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/rwnd and then print the resources from the online course and organize them into folders or binders.

Each week, review the lesson in advance and become familiar with the content. Arrange seating to allow group members to easily see and interact with each other. Lead your team so everyone has a chance to talk and no one monopolizes the conversations. Affirm what members say when you can, but bring them back to the lesson if they get sidetracked. Monitor the time, referring to the suggested times allotted for each section so that you can cover everything included in the lesson.

As a leader, you are key in holding the team accountable to put the teaching into action. Use the *Mission Checklist* to keep track of attendance and completed field reports. If you are doing this course on your own, you can use this list to help ensure you learn as much as possible.

If team members miss a meeting, have them listen to the video segments and write answers to the small group questions as well as doing all the assignments. If members miss a field activity, encourage them until they can show you that it is completed. If several are getting too far behind, postpone your weekly meeting in order to make sure everyone continues to do the actual mission work. If one person cannot keep up, encourage him or her to wait for another cycle of training. Good learning will not take place without applying what is learned in the activities.

Does this sound busy? It is a real commitment that should be entered with serious thought and prayer. Each group meeting lasts about 1½ hours, the field assignments average an hour and the reading and video homework are about an hour. If you and your group want to accomplish that each week, you will have to pray about your schedule to see where God will help you scale back on other activities to make room for this important work among the unreached. Especially consider involving your family in this program so that your time together with them increases rather than decreases. An alternative is to take longer than 13 weeks to complete the training.

Serving others, both church members and those who are not Christians, takes the sacrifice of time and energy. When we reach out cross-culturally there will be frustrations and challenges. Sometimes our efforts will be rejected and our tears will flow. Will it be worth it?

Jesus thinks so. When Jesus was considering the necessity of the cross, He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:24-25). As we throw ourselves into the needs of the world, it will take time to see the fruit. Let's remember the value of just one. Jesus died for that one, and that one will bring Him joy for eternity. Additionally, one person reached may in turn reach many of his or her own people. Let's claim the promise in Isaiah 60:22, "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time."