



**GLOBAL
INTERACTION**

Youth Resource

Resource Outline

SESSION ONE

Culture and Context

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

SESSION TWO

Being Part of God's Mission

Matthew 28:18 – 20

Explore more resources:
www.globalinteraction.org.au

Youth Resource Introduction

The Aim of This Resource

The aim of these sessions is for youth to explore some of the complexities of intercultural mission and how they can be part of God's mission.

Through these sessions youth will explore mission in the Bible and around the world today, as well as discover what it means for them and how they can be a part of it. This is achieved through games, activities, Bible stories, discussion, videos and prayer.

As Global Interaction has a very whole-of-life approach to mission, these sessions can be applied to youth anywhere in Australia or otherwise and still have relevance and meaning. It's not so much about where Global Interaction teams are (although that's wonderful to learn about as well) but who Global Interaction is, what we do and how we do it.

How to Use This Material

Please use this material as a launching pad for you to shape for your context.

These sessions have been written for youth groups, however, much of the material could be modified for family groups. You may choose to expand sections, add in your own activities, questions and reflections or remove parts. Contextualise the material for your youth depending on the size, age, maturity, cultural background etc. of the group.

As written, each session requires around two hours. Under each section heading, there is a guide to the amount of time needed and whether the group should be altogether as a big group or split into small groups.

You can choose to use this material as a series or as standalone sessions.

Engaging with Mission all Year

In conjunction with this resource, we encourage you to help your youth to connect with Global Interaction's work and teams all throughout the year. The website has a lot of information or you can contact your State Office to connect with workers in your state.

Head to www.globalinteraction.org.au to explore more.

Ideas for Connecting with Global Interaction's Ministry:

- » **Explore** a map and find out more about the country and people
- » **Send** a letter / email to an intercultural worker or their children
- » **Find** a candidate, intercultural worker or ministry to support
- » **Pray** for a particular people group or worker
- » **Subscribe** to resources and intercultural worker newsletters to stay informed
- » **Highlight** global mission and stories from our intercultural teams all year around

If you have any **questions or comments** about this resource or anything else, please get in touch!

Contact: info@globalinteraction.org.au or (03) 9819 4944

Session One: Culture and Context

Sharing God's love in context

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

This session focuses on culture and contextualisation. Our background, life experiences and the way we view the world impacts the way we approach the Gospel. This means that in order to effectively communicate the Good News with others, we need to first understand where they are coming from.

INTRODUCTION

5 mins | Big Group

Ground the session by introducing who Global Interaction is.

Global Interaction is the intercultural mission arm of the Australian Baptist church. For nearly 140 years Global Interaction has been sending people to go and live among communities where there are very few or no followers of Jesus. These workers share God's love, learn culture and language and communicate the Good News in ways that make sense to their local friends. Global Interaction's vision is to see vibrant faith communities follow Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

If your church partners with a particular worker, team or people group then highlight this here.

Define unfamiliar words:

- » **Contextualisation:** Contextualisation is taking the context we are in seriously and adapting the way we communicate the Good News so that it is understandable in *that* cultural context. Contextualisation is sharing the heart of the Gospel without assuming that someone from another culture and community will hear it and express their faith in Jesus in the same way as we do. While there are beliefs and actions that unite all followers of Jesus, there is beauty in the way our context shapes our expressions of faith.
- » **Intercultural Worker:** An intercultural worker is someone who lives in a culture different to the one they grew up in and is motivated by their desire to share God's love and stories. Historically this person would be called a missionary.
- » *Add any other words you think would be helpful to define for your specific group*

VIDEO

5 mins | Big Group

There are three videos that teenage children of intercultural workers have filmed. These have been created to give teenagers in Australia a glimpse into life as a teenager on the field, and to facilitate opportunities for youth to speak directly to youth.

These videos do not align with particular themes and can be viewed in any order or at any time throughout the session.

- » Jack (15) and Matilda (12) in **Mozambique:** <https://vimeo.com/518007831>
- » Charlie (13) in **Cambodia:** <https://vimeo.com/523976559>
- » Yindii (19) & Zoe (17) in **Thailand:** <https://vimeo.com/518007294>

Session One: Culture and Context

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1 Corinthians 9:19-23

CONNECT

10 mins | Big Group

How many different languages can people in the group greet each other in? Ask the group to share.

Here are greetings used in some of the places Global Interaction's workers serve. Try to learn some along with the greetings that people in the group can teach:

- » Lebanon (Arabic) - Marhaba
- » Thailand (Thai) - Sa wah dee krup (male) Sa wah dee kaa (female)
- » Mozambique (Portuguese) - Olá (Hello), Bom dia (Good morning)
- » Cambodia (Khmer) - Suosdei

Leader: Global Interaction intercultural workers invest significant time in culture and language lessons so they can communicate effectively with their local friends. Can you imagine what it would be like to be immersed in another culture and initially not be able to verbally communicate virtually anything?!

Is there anyone in the group who has experienced that? What did it feel like? Could you build relationships without being able to speak the same language?

GAME

15 mins | Groups of 6 - 10

Takraw is a game native to Southeast Asia, and is similar to the game hacky sack. Takraw games often break out on the street among strangers waiting for a boat or a bus. A public game might draw 40 or 50 people before the boat or bus arrives to take away some of the players!

What you need:

- » A takraw, which is a hollow ball about the size of an orange and is made from woven rattan, and is quite hard. If you don't have a takraw then you can think creatively and use something similar (e.g. roll up some newspaper into a ball and wrap it in masking tape, or you use a small soccer ball).

What to do:

- » Players stand in a circle and kick the item around, using their heads, feet, legs, and shoulders. They're not allowed to use their hands.
- » This is just a fun space, no one goes out.

LINK

10 mins | Big Group

Leader: In the game we just played, we had to learn to play a new game we've never played before. This game is commonly played in Southeast Asia, but not here where we live. Why should we get out of our comfort zone and learn to do things that other people do, rather than expect them to learn to do things our way?

We're going to read a Bible passage now where the Apostle Paul shared about how he shared the Gospel in different cultural contexts.



Session One: Culture and Context

Sharing God's love in context

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

EXPLORE

5 mins | Big Group

Read together **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**:

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

DISCUSS

15 mins | Small Groups

Recap

- » What stands out to you in this passage?
- » Do you have any questions about the passage?
- » Is there anything that doesn't sit well with you? Reflect on why this might be your response.

Into the Story

- » How did you feel when you had to learn to play a new game you've never played before? What about if you had to learn 10 new games at once? Stepping into a new culture could feel like that.
- » Why did Paul choose to become like the people he shared the Gospel with?
- » Was Paul being true to himself? Does this matter?

Reflect

Paul took on some of the traits of the people he reached out to without compromising his own beliefs about God. He even became weak to those who were weak, so that he could be more relatable to them. He did that because he wanted to share God's blessings with them, even if that meant he had to give up his own comfort.

- » When is the last time you tried learning something new, and did something your friend wanted to do even if you weren't that interested?
- » Did it bring you closer together as friends?

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ACTIVITY 1

15 mins | Big Group

Leader: Intercultural workers are faced with learning a new way of communicating. This includes mannerisms, cultural differences, pace of life and the spoken language. They must get good at understanding and using all kinds of verbal and non-verbal communication that are different to what they are used to.

The idea for this activity is that everyone, except for one person, is aware of the common language and is communicating in the same way. The person who doesn't know what the common language is asks questions of the group to work it out. They are representing the intercultural worker, while the group is representing the host community the worker is living among.

How to Play:

- » Someone is chosen as the worker and they leave the room while everyone else discusses the common language.
- » The worker returns and starts asking questions of individuals in the group. Group members must respond to the question in line with the common language.
- » This is a hilarious game so have fun with it!

Here is an example:

Common Language: Everyone thinks they are a superhero.

Question: Mike, what did you do yesterday?

Mike: I ran a marathon in 2 minutes and then stopped a comet from hitting the earth.

Question: Tanya, what did you have for lunch?

Tanya: Sushi in Japan and then Gelato in Italy.

Once the person thinks they know the common language they can guess it. Once they figure it out, a new worker is chosen and a new common language decided upon.

Suggested Languages:

- » You all cross your legs when you tell a lie – and uncross them when you are telling the truth
- » Each answer begins with the next letter in the alphabet. (So the first person gives an answer that starts with 'A', and the next gives one that starts with a 'B' etc.)
- » You all time travelled from 2080
- » Whenever someone says "um" everyone changes positions
- » You all have to use a colour or number in your answer
- » You have to touch your hair whenever you use a word with a "T" in it
- » Everyone thinks they are a king or queen
- » Unless the worker is looking at you, you refuse to show your teeth (this is funny because it's hard to laugh and not show your teeth and as soon as they look at you, you can show them)

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ACTIVITY 2

10 mins | Big Group / Pairs

Culture Clash: When intercultural workers move to a different country, they are faced with different cultural norms. Let's experience some of those differences and explore how they make you feel.

What to do:

- » Form pairs and assign one person as 'A' and the other person as 'B'
- » Give them each a secret piece of paper:
 - For 'A':** Have a conversation with 'B' about your favourite place to visit.
 - For 'B':** Have a conversation with 'A' about your favourite place to visit.
You cannot make eye contact.
- » Remember to keep this rule hidden from 'A'.
- » Get the pairs to chat about the topic for 2 minutes.

Reflect:

- » How did 'A' feel throughout the conversation? How did 'B' feel?

Leader: This was an exaggerated example, but how eye contact is used and understood is cultural. Often in Asian cultures, using limited eye contact is considered respectful and extended direct eye contact is a sign of challenging what the other person is saying. Whereas in western culture, direct eye contact is a sign of interest in what the person is saying and limited eye contact shows disrespect and disinterest.

Is one understanding of eye contact right? Would you find it hard to modify your use of eye contact to be understood in another culture?

EXPLORE

20 mins | Big Group / Small Groups

As a big group, watch two Resonate Talk videos that explore contextualisation and then as small groups discuss the ideas and stories brought up in the videos.

(Watch 0:00 - 6:12) Resonate Talk: <https://vimeo.com/333471000>

- » What does 'contextualisation' mean? How does it impact the way we communicate about Jesus?
- » Can you think of a time where you have seen contextualisation in practice?
- » Is there anything about contextualisation that makes you uncomfortable?

(Watch 0:00 - 6:36) Resonate Talk: <https://vimeo.com/334368863>

- » Pause after each scenario (1:41 and 4:46) and ask the youth what they would do. Brainstorm together.
- » Continue watching and then discuss who the intercultural worker actually responded. Do you agree with their response?
- » If you have more time, continue watching the case study video, pausing after each scenario to discuss how the youth would respond.

Session One: Culture and Context

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PRAY

10 mins | Small Groups

Pray together in trios or small groups.

Ideas for prayer:

- » Each other
- » Your direct network
- » The workers and ministries you partner with
- » God's mission around the world

FURTHER RESOURCES

Here are some further resources related to the themes explored in this session.

These resources are perfect for leaders as they prepare the sessions and for youth group participants who are interested in exploring more:

Watch

- » **Resonate Talk - Authentic Relationships:** <https://vimeo.com/369224374>
- » **Resonate Talk - Faith Sharing:** <https://vimeo.com/369234046>
- » **Jesus Model of Mission:** <https://vimeo.com/521186763>

Read

- » **Distinctive Ways article:** <https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/Different-Contexts-Edition-33.pdf?ext=.pdf>
- » **String Theory article:** <https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/String-Theory-Edition-33.pdf?ext=.pdf>

Small Groups

- » **Resonate Talk - Leader's Guide:** https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/ResonateTalk_LeadersGuide_1.pdf
- » **Resonate Talk - Activity Sheet:** https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/ResonateTalk_ActivitySheet_1.pdf

Session Two: Being Part of God's Mission

The Great Commission is for all of us!

Matthew 28:18 – 20

This session focusses on exploring what it is to be a witness to Jesus. In whatever setting we find ourselves, God calls us all to share His love. This session is designed to help youth engage with what sharing God's love can look like in their own lives and how they can participate in God's mission all over the world.

INTRODUCTION

5 mins | Big Group

Ground the session by introducing who Global Interaction is.

Global Interaction is the intercultural mission arm of the Australian Baptist church. For nearly 140 years Global Interaction has been sending people to go and live among communities where there are very few or no followers of Jesus. These workers share God's love, learn culture and language and communicate the Good News in ways that make sense to their local friends. Global Interaction's vision is to see vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

If your church partners with a particular worker, team or people group then highlight this here.

Define unfamiliar words:

- » **Commission:** A group or individual that is sent out with the blessing and support of others to do a special job.
- » **Intercultural Worker:** An intercultural worker is someone who lives in a culture different to the one they grew up in and is motivated by their desire to share God's love and stories. Historically this person would be called a missionary.
- » *Add any other words you think would be helpful to define for your specific group*

VIDEO

5 mins | Big Group

There are three videos that teenage children of intercultural workers have filmed. These have been created to give teenagers in Australia a glimpse into life as a teenager on the field, and to facilitate opportunities for youth to speak directly to youth.

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GAME

15 mins | Big Group

Catching Stars is a game played in some parts of Africa.

What to do:

- » Divide the players into two groups: Stars and Catchers.
- » Set up two boundaries about 6 metres apart.
- » Catchers stand in the middle, between the two boundaries. Stars stand on one of the boundaries.
- » Catchers say, "Star light, star bright, how many stars are out tonight?"
Stars say, "More than you can catch!"
- » The Stars run across to the other end and try not to get tagged.
- » The winner is the last person to get caught.

TESTIMONIES

10 mins | Big Group

Leader: In this session we are going to explore God's call to make disciples and share His love. But what difference does this really make? Well, let's hear from two people from our group today who are going to share the difference that knowing Jesus has made in their life.

- » Invite two people to share their 3-5 minute testimony of becoming a follower of Jesus and living in step with Him. This will be especially powerful if they became a Christian after a number of years or through someone sharing with them.
- » Make sure that you give the people sharing their testimonies plenty of time to prepare.
- » Try to ask two people with distinct stories.

DISCUSS

15 mins | Small Groups

Read together **Matthew 28:18 – 20:**

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Recap

- » What stands out to you in these verses?
- » What do you think it means?

Into the Story

- » What difference does knowing Jesus make in your life? Or in the lives of people you know?
- » What did Jesus mean when He spoke about going and making disciples? What part can we play?

Session Two: Being Part of God's Mission

The Great Commission is for all of us!

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Reflect

God the Father gave Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth. He has given all of us the mission to go and make disciples of all nations.

- » Who can you reach out to share the gospel with? Name two people you can reach out to in the next week and how you might do that.

ACTIVITY 1

20 mins | Big Group / Small Groups

Leader: Sometimes even when we know that we should share about Jesus, it's really hard! And there are external and internal things that can stop us. Let's explore how sharing the Gospel can make us feel.

Label the four corners of the room with different responses:

1. Yes
2. No
3. Maybe
4. I don't know

The leader reads out loud a list of statements or excuses or reasons that might stop someone from stepping out and sharing their faith.

Start each statement with "Does this stop you sharing the Gospel with your friends?..." then complete the sentence with the following statements. After each statement ask the members to move to the corner of the room that represents how they feel.

- » It will be awkward
- » I won't know what to say
- » I don't want to lose a friend
- » They might ask hard follow up questions
- » We're not good enough friends yet
- » My beliefs are mine and their beliefs are their own, I have no right to impose
- » I don't even know what I believe yet
- » They might think I'm weird
- » My actions don't always reflect my beliefs
- » *Add any other statements relevant for your group*

Session Two: Being Part of God's Mission

The Great Commission is for all of us!

Matthew 28:18 – 20

Form **small groups** to discuss the following:

- » Did you feel good about all your answers? What was motivating your answers? What do you wish was motivating your answer?
- » How do you get past the negative feelings and share anyway?
- » But is sharing ALWAYS the right thing to do? Depending on the person and situation, sometimes it's better to share God's love through our actions rather than words. How can we discern this?

Leader: God loves all the people in the world. He has a plan for each and every one of us. Let's always remember to pray before we share the Good News of the Gospel with our friends. We can pray for God to lead and guide us, and to give us courage and boldness to declare His truth. God will give us peace in our hearts and the right words when it is the right time to share.

ACTIVITY 2

10 mins | Pairs

This activity has a purpose... but don't explain it to the youth until *after* they have done it!

- » Form pairs and assign one person as 'A' and the other person as 'B'
- » Give them each a secret piece of paper:
 - For 'A':** Have a conversation with 'B' about your favourite TV shows.
 - For 'B':** Have a conversation with 'A' about your favourite TV shows.
You *cannot* ask any questions.
- » This means that 'A' can either ask questions or make statements, but 'B' can only make statements. Remember, keep this rule hidden between the groups.
- » Get the pairs to chat about the topic for two minutes

Reflect

- » How did 'A's feel? How did 'B's feel?
- » What did 'A' learn about 'B'? What did 'B' learn about 'A'? Who could recommend a new show to their pair? It will become apparent that the person actively asking questions and trying to understand their pair will know a lot more than their pair knows about them.
- » Why does this matter? What does this have to do with sharing our faith?

Leader: Before people will care about what you have to say, they want to know that you care about them! Just as Paul listened to and empathised with the people he reached out to, we can ask God to give us His love and help us to become better listeners and care about people too. When people feel God's love in us and know that we care about them as people first (regardless of whether they ever become followers of Jesus!), then they will become more open to hearing about our beliefs too.

Session Two: Being Part of God's Mission

The Great Commission is for all of us!

Matthew 28:18 – 20

ACTIVITY

15 - 20 mins | Individual or Groups

Leader: God calls some people to become intercultural workers who live among communities in other places, build relationships and seek opportunities to share the Gospel. Global Interaction has intercultural workers in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Outback Australia.

However, not everyone is called to work in other countries. Some people are called to do the Great Commission through local mission, in regular vocations like teachers, accountants, artists, sports people and through being **senders**. Sometimes at different times of our lives we are senders and other times we are go-ers.

We can send, or partner with, intercultural workers through praying for them and their ministries, giving gifts to support them, encouraging them and advocating for their Kingdom work with others so that more people can partner with them.

This activity is about partnering with intercultural workers through encouraging them with letters, prayers, artworks, scriptures, videos, etc.

- » If your church partners with a Global Interaction intercultural worker, this is a great time to share their latest video or newsletter. You can even arrange through Global Interaction to have an online meeting with them. It will be a wonderful source of mutual encouragement.

What you need:

- » Paper and card
- » Pencils, textas and other drawing and writing supplies
- » Scissors and glue
- » Phone or video camera to film
- » Bibles
- » Optional: Polaroid camera to enable the youth to include instant photos in their creations
- » *Any other creative material you can provide*

What to do:

- » Invite the youth to respond to the session's themes by encouraging intercultural workers through writing a letter, creating an artwork, writing a prayer, filming a video or creating anything else to encourage the worker or candidate.
- » They can direct their creative piece to the intercultural workers or their children.
- » Global Interaction has an internal mechanism to share material securely with workers in secure locations. So the encouraging creative pieces can be explicitly Christian no matter which location the worker are in. However, DO NOT email the workers with the material yourselves. Instead...
- » Scan the physical pieces and email them along with the videos to info@globalinteraction.org.au for Global Interaction to securely share them with the intercultural workers. **This is particularly important for workers in secure locations who cannot receive explicitly Christian material via email (i.e. South East Asia, South Asia, Silk Road Area, Central Asia and Indochina).**

Session Two: Being Part of God's Mission

The Great Commission is for all of us!

Matthew 28:18 – 20

PRAY

10 mins | Small Groups

Pray together in trios or small groups.

Ideas for prayer:

- » Each other
 - » Your direct network
 - » The workers and ministries you partner with
 - » God's mission around the world... and your part in it!
-

FURTHER RESOURCES

Here are some further resources related to the themes explored in this session.

These resources are perfect for leaders as they prepare the sessions and for youth group participants who are interested in exploring more:

Watch

- » **Authentic Relationships - Thailand:** <https://vimeo.com/521682806>
- » **Being God's Love - Now and Not Yet cafe, VIC:** <https://vimeo.com/527099916>

Read

- » **God's Big Picture article:** <https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/i/Resonate/Blog/God-s-Big-Story-Edition-36.pdf?ext=.pdf>
- » **Friends First article:** <https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/Friends-First-Edition-34.pdf?ext=.pdf>

Small Groups

- » **Resonate Talk - Leader's Guide:** https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/ResonateTalk_LeadersGuide_1.pdf
- » **Resonate Talk - Activity Sheet:** https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resonate/ResonateTalk_ActivitySheet_1.pdf