

PREPARING FOR THE LANGUAGE GAP



Training Resource of:



Central Canadian District
Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada
155 Panin Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7P5A6

Unit to be used by:

Leader or Leadership team
Team Members

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Communication is important on a Missions Trip. You are there to express the love of God. **Commitment to learning basic words and phrases demonstrates to a host culture that you are prepared to engage them.** Take the time to learn greetings and key words. If you have time, it will be beneficial to learn a simple song. Even on a short-term missions trip it is important to have basic language skills such as:

- How are you?
- My name is...
- God bless...

As a team leader, take time to compile a list of common words and phrases in the language you will be serving in.

Included in this Module...

- Discussion Points
- Preparing to Serve in a Language not your own
- “An Adventure With Words” (Article)
- List of Spanish words and verbs
- Spanish Worship Songs

Discussion Points

1. Print a copy of the article for each member of your group. Discuss the 12 points. Decide as a group which points are applicable for your short term trip.
2. Before you meet create a vocabulary list for your team. Practice together some of the words and phrases.
3. Learn a simple song in the language. This may require getting in contact with the missionary and asking them to send you words and basic notes to follow.

Preparing to Serve in a Language not your own

Communication is essential in a trip designed to express the love of God. Without some ability to connect with the people you have gone to serve, it is impossible to impact others for Christ. Language is a huge part of that mission and may also be a huge barrier. Learning the language of the host culture is a way to connect and to demonstrate that you are there to engage them.

Another consideration for language training is the translation of your testimony into the local language. It might be a good idea to take the time before you leave on your trip to find someone who can translate your testimony for you. It will save you time on the field; it may save you the expense or effort of finding someone on the field to translate as you speak. It will also allow you to break into teams and do door to door evangelism without a translator.

This unit is a self directed unit. Not every mission team will go to the same place, or same language group. In preparation for this unit, do some detailed research about the area you intend to visit. In many cases the national language is not always spoken fluently or at all in some areas of the country.

The Web is full of sites offering free language training. Another great resource is your local bookstore. You can find books, tapes, CDs, DVDs and Videos on almost every language. We suggest looking at the following website or others like it for the language of the people you are going to serve. Be proactive about learning a little of the language spoken by your chosen people group.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/>

We have supplied a list in Spanish as our Leadership Training Program includes a trip to South America. While you may not be serving a Spanish speaking country, look over the words and use it as a guide to creating your own list. Included in this unit are a few basic worship songs.

An ADVENTURE in Words

Twelve tips for learning language

Betty Sue Brewster

Learning a language can be fun—no matter what your age or background. Look on it as an adventure in words. These twelve points will help you along the way.

1. **LEARN A LITTLE AND USE IT A LOT.** Work on bite-sized chunks of language every day. Don't try to chew more than you can swallow. It will only frustrate you and give you language "indigestion." Be consistent with your learning. A little each day is far more valuable than a lot at some vague point in the future. Use everything you learn over and over until you own it; until you know it so well, you'll never forget it. As the Chichewa proverb says, "Little and often fills the purse."
2. **THINK OF PEOPLE AS YOUR PRIMARY RESOURCE.** Language books are helpful, but they can't correct you, interact with you, pronounce words for you, or introduce you to a whole community who speaks the language you're trying to learn. Gather information about language from books, but spend time processing and practicing it with people.
3. **MAKE LOCAL FRIENDS.** Get to know local people right away. Go out of your way to meet them—even if you aren't an extrovert. Take advantage of people's natural tendency to be curious about a stranger in their midst. Studies show that those who develop significant friendships in a location early adjust to the culture more quickly.
4. **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LEARNING.** In the final analysis, no one can "teach" you a language. You must "learn" it. Actively pursue the language. Get involved. Use the language you're learning—no matter how silly it feels.
5. **REMEMBER DIFFERENT ISN'T WRONG.** It's usually just different. It's different to eat with chopsticks, but it isn't inherently better or worse than eating with a fork.

Similarly, it's different to put the noun before the adjective in a sentence—and it may feel awkward at first—but it's not wrong. You'll soon get used to it. Jump in!

6. **FOCUS ON COMPREHENSION.** It helps to spend time each day learning to listen and understand. Think how many hours a baby spends just listening before he or she learns to speak. Put yourself in situations where you can hear the language without having to respond—listen to a speech, to the radio or television, to conversations about you. Let the words flow around you and see how much you can grasp without consciously translating it into English.
7. **FOCUS ON FLUENCY.** For ease in conversations, you must have things you can say without stumbling. Learn three to six sentences fluently every day. Practice them until you can say them accurately and well. Then go into the local community and practice them in real life conversations until they become second nature to you.
8. **FOCUS ON ACCURATE PRONUNCIATION.** Zero in on a particular sound or sound combination each week and pay special attention to how people pronounce it. Learn words or phrases that highlight the sound. Learn how the sound is spelled and written as well.
9. **FOCUS ON STRUCTURE.** For a complete language program, pay attention each week to some structure (grammar) of the language. Using sentences you've already learned, build exercises to help you learn sentence structures, verb forms, tenses, and pronouns. Work from the known to the unknown
10. **FOCUS ON HOW FAR YOU'VE COME.** Don't be discouraged by how far you have to go. If you allow yourself to think, "I'll never get it," you may find your prophecy coming true. It's true you'll never get it-if you give up. But if you keep at it, you'll build your knowledge of the language bit by bit. Encourage yourself by remembering how much you already know.
11. **HAVE FUN AS YOU LEARN.** Enjoy the relationships around you as you learn a language. Play with the language. Laugh with your local friends over your mistakes. Revel in the diversity the Lord has allowed. Learn some tongue-twisters and delve into the local humour. Be creative as you unravel the mysteries of another tongue.
12. **ACCEPT THE TASK AS PART OF YOUR MINISTRY.** When Jesus came to this earth, He learned to speak our language. He could have chosen other ways to communicate, but He didn't. He learned to speak Hebrew just like the other boys His age. It was part of His ministry to become like us. And He accepted this assignment willingly. Follow the Lord's example and become a willing servant as you learn to speak the language of those you serve.

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An English-Spanish Vocabulary List

God	Dios
Jesus	Jesús
Heaven	Cielo
Church	Iglesia
To pray	Rezar
Prayer	Oración
Glory	Gloria
Praise	Alabanza
Song	Canción
Heart	Corazón
Sin	Pecado
Confession	Confesión
Salvation	Salvación
Peace	Paz
Light	Luz
God bless you	Dios te bendiga
To be	Estar / Ser
To listen	Escuchar
I have	Tengo
Let's go	Vamos
To speak	Hablar
To eat	Comer
To be able to	Poder
To see	Ver
To ask	Preguntar
I	Yo
You	Tu / Usted
He/him	El
She/her	Ella
We/us	Nosotros
You (s)	Ustedes
They / them (M)	Ellos
They / them (F)	Ellas
Father	Padre
Mother	Madre
Brother	Hermano
Sister	Hermana
Son	Hijo
Daughter	Hija
Boy	Niño
Girl	Niña

Help!
Can you help me?
I am lost
I don't understand

Socorro!
Puede ayudarme?
Me he perdido
No comprendo

Hello
Pleased to meet you
How are you?
Very good thanks
How old are you?

Hola
Mucho gusto
Cómo estás?
Muy bien gracias
Cuántos años tienes tu?

Good morning
Good afternoon
Good night, evening
See you later
See you tomorrow

Buenos días
Buenas tardes
Buenas noches
Hasta luego
Hasta mañana

Please
Thank you
Excuse me
I am sorry
Say it again
I don't know
I think so

Por favor
Gracias
Perdón / Dispénsame
Lo siento
Repita
No sé
Creo que sí

Where is
How much
When
What
Who
Why
Because
I need / I want
I like
I would like to

Dónde esta
Cuánto cuesta
Cuándo
Qué
Quién
Por qué
Porque
Necesito / Quiero
Me gusta
Me gustaría

Again
But
With
Maybe
Sometimes
Also
Very
A lot
More
Now
Today
Yesterday

Otra vez
Pero
Con
Tal vez
A veces
También
Muy
Mucho
Más
Ahora
Hoy
Ayer

Do you speak English?	Habla inglés?
Excuse me, but I don't speak too much Spanish	Disculpe, yo no hablo mucho español
How do you say... in Spanish	Cómo se dice... en español
Spell out	Deletrear
Sentence	Fase
Means	Medio
Tell	Decir
This	Este
Like this	Este así
As yet	Todavía
Hopefully	Con optimismo
Agree	Acordar
Honestly	Honradamente
Wait	Esperar
Learn	Aprender
Teach	Enseñar
Remember	Recordar
Next	Próximo
Last	Pasado
Following	Siguiente
Approximately	Alrededor de
Half	Media
Near	Cerca
Far	Lejos
Walk	Andar
Tired	Cansado
Noise	Ruido
Hot	Calor, caliente
Cold	Frío
Summer	Verano
Winter	Invierno
Snow	Nieve
Young	Joven
Laugh	Reírse
Smile	Sonrisa
Hope	Esperanza
Nothing	Nada
Never	Nunca
None	Ninguno
No one	Nadie
I have to leave tomorrow	Tengo que irme mañana
I'll miss you	Te voy a echar de menos

Spanish Worship Songs

Celebrar

^{D G A D}
Celebrar a Cristo, Celebrar

^{D G A D}
Celebrar a Cristo, Celebrar

^{D G A D}
Celebrar a Cristo, Celebrar

^{D G A D}
Celebrar a Cristo, Celebrar

^{D G D G}
El vive, El vive Y por siempre reinara

^{D G D A}
El vive, El vive Vamos a celebrar

^{A D}
Nuestro Señor resucitó

Adentro Afuera Arriba Abajo

^{G D7}
Adentro, Afuera, Arriba, Abajo. Qué feliz estoy!

^{D7 G}
Adentro, Afuera, Arriba, Abajo. Qué feliz estoy!

^{G C}
Qué feliz estoy, Cristo me salvó!

^{D7 G}
Adentro, Afuera, Arriba, Abajo. Qué feliz estoy!

{Repeat all twice, going faster each time}

Alelu, Alelu

^{D G A A7 D}
Alelu, Alelu, Alelu, Aleluya. Gloria a Dios.

^{D G A A7 D}
Alelu, Alelu, Alelu, Aleluya. Gloria a Dios.

^{D G A7 D}
Gloria a Dios. Aleluya. Gloria a Dios. Aleluya.

^{D G A A7 D}
Gloria a Dios. Aleluya. Gloria a Dios.

{Repeat all twice, going faster each time}