



WORTHY

Leaders Guide

About the Proxe

The idea for the Worthy proxe came from the students attending the 2018 South Asian InterVarsity Leadership Institute. South Asian American students, regardless of faith background, immediately connect with the idea of cultural expectations. The goal of this proxe is that students would be blown away by the generous, compassionate love of God, love that is not contingent on our actions. This is especially good news to South Asian American students whose cultural-religious context reinforces that our worth is determined by our success and failure.

The proxe intentionally does not give a direct gospel invitation. The purpose of this proxe is to help students move through the thresholds. The GIG guide includes an invitation to say yes to Jesus.

Do not run this proxe without training your leaders and practicing the script, especially Panel 4. The script has intentionally been written with cultural nuance and continuity between the story and gospel presentation. Preparing your leaders well will give them a great experience running the proxe and lead to more fruitful conversations on campus.

Cultural Notes:

- **Saying yes to Jesus doesn't mean saying no culture.** Most South Asian Americans from other faith backgrounds associate Christianity with being a "western" religion and even have negative perceptions or associations with Christianity because of the religious tension in South Asia, communicated directly and indirectly through the older generations. This also goes in the other direction; South Asian Christians can have negative perceptions of other South Asian religions. Be mindful of what/how you post on social media; avoid the word "conversion."
- **Openness to Jesus:** many faiths acknowledge Jesus as a spiritual teacher, or even one of many gods. Try not to get caught up in a theological debate about the Trinity or Jesus as the one, true God. Instead, use the story to emphasize the love of God, reflected in the father, and the uniqueness of a holy God loving undeserving people.
- **Prioritize mutuality:** genuinely share your experience and attentively listen to those you are taking through the proxe.
- **Panel 1:** South Asians are very relational, and humor is a great way to build trust. Be playful; it is intentionally meant to be humorous. This panel may not resonate with everyone's story—this is why the script asks, "how accurate is this with your experience growing up?"

Follow Up Best Practices:

1. **Host [Faith & Chai](#) within one week of running the proxe.** This interfaith dialogue space is essential for building trust and deeper friendship with the South Asian students you meet. Find everything you need to prepare, lead, and follow up for this event in the [Faith & Chai Handbook](#) (must be logged in as staff to view). We do recommend that this event be led by South Asians (ideally students) and that Christian students make up the minority to allow for true interfaith dialogue.

2. Prioritize contact cards.

- For those who expressed high interest in the GIG, text within 24 hours and invite them to dinner and discussion. Example: *Hey Nisha! Sanjay here - it was great meeting you today! A few of us are hanging on Thursday @7pm for dinner and discussion about the story. If you wanna help cook chicken curry with us, come at 6 :) Can you make it?*
- For those who expressed high interest in Faith & Chai, text within 48 hours and invite them to the event. Example: *Hey Sonu! It's Tina from InterVarsity (the quiz thing from yesterday!!). We're hosting an interfaith dialogue with the MSA next Wednesday - Faith & Chai. You in?? There will be samosas and chai haaaaayyy. Lmk if you can make it - we can go together!*
- For those who expressed low interest in either, focus on making a relational connection. Within 48 hours, invite them to hang out over food and/or something fun.
- Pay attention to students you meet who are well connected to the South Asian community on campus; they may become some of your best partners.

3. Host a GIG over a meal. The GIGs are designed to be simple, accessible, and allow for relational time. This 3-week guide includes a 5 Thresholds Survey, imaginative prayer to make space to hear from God, and an opportunity for students to say yes to Jesus.

FAQ

Does this proxie work for non-South Asian students?

Yes! Multiple test campuses initiated conversations with non-South Asian students, or students were so intrigued by the art that they wanted to learn more. Most college students can relate to identity or worthiness being tied up in success or failure. Examples of how to engage non-South Asian students:

- These are cultural expectations I experience in my family/community. What about you? What are some of the expectations your family or community has for you? How was that communicated to you?
- Being a truly Asian American community means making space for South Asians, so we're having conversations about faith and culture!

Do you have to be South Asian to lead this proxie?

No! Take a posture of cultural learning. You can genuinely ask about a student's experience and how much they relate to Panel 1. Prepare your own story: in what ways do you relate to the first panel? What are the expectations your family had for you, or how does your community deal with success and failure?

Blessings on you and your students as you reach South Asian students on your campus. We pray that the Holy Spirit would powerfully work through your faithfulness and obedience and that South Asian students would encounter the incredible love of Jesus through the Worthy proxie.

Please share any pictures and testimonies with [Caroline Lancaster](#), or post on the staff Facebook page! #theworthyproxie #southasianiv