

Full Mending! Series

Joining with God in mending
a beautiful, broken world.

1. **Renewing:** Galatians 5:16–17, 22–26
It starts with us.
2. **Relating:** Matthew 4:18–22
It's always about relationships.
3. **Restoring:** Luke 4:14–21
It's about the whole Gospel for the whole world.
4. **Responding:** John 1:35–42
It's about availability.



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Mending!

Youth Activity 2: Intercultural Conversations

Mending! Theme: Relating

Key Scripture: Matthew 4:18–22

Time: 30–45 mins

Aim: To engage youth in the idea that Jesus' example of mission is one of proximity and authentic relationships. This activity will give youth a small taste of what building relationships across cultures is like.

Activity Steps

1. Introduction

- » Gather youth together in a comfortable space and read Matthew 4:18–22 together.
- » Talk about the idea of proximity. Jesus went to the sea of Galilee to call His first disciples, He didn't wait for them to come to Him. Proximity was key to Jesus' mission and to Him building transformational relationships.
- » Jesus' love crosses culture. Ask youth: What spaces are you in where you engage with people of different cultures or backgrounds to you? What has been your experience? (i.e. challenges, joys, confusions...)

2. Talk to people

- » Invite people you know from different cultures and backgrounds to your youth group session. Split your youth into groups of 3-5 and assign one of your invited guests to join each group.
 - **Alternatively:** Merge with a local youth group where the majority of the attendees are from a another culture or background to your youth. Place youth from both churches in groups of 5-6.
- » Invite the youth and invited guests to ask questions of each other to get to know each other. E.g:
 - How long have you lived in Australia?
 - If you were to recommend one dish from your hometown or country, what would it be?
 - Why did you (or your parents/grandparents) move to Australia?
 - What cultural practices are important to you?
 - How do you and your family practice your religion?
 - What is your experience of living in Australia?

3. Pray and reflect

- » Close this time by spending 5-10 minutes in prayer for each other. Invite youth to think about how they can be intentional about engaging with people of different cultures and backgrounds.
- » If you have additional time, round out the experience by having a meal at a local restaurant or food court, encouraging the youth to try something that they have never had before.
 - **Alternatively:** Offer some international snacks and sweets for youth to try.

3. Continued engagement

Leaders: God's love is for all, and we are all enriched by engaging with people from different cultures and backgrounds. And as Australia is increasingly multicultural, growing in our ability to engage interculturally will help us build relationships and share God's love with our neighbours.

Does your youth group reflect the cultural diversity of your neighbourhood? If not, what steps can you take to reach out and engage with the people around you?

Go Deeper

To extend the session or explore the theme of Relating in your small groups, run the activity alongside questions, explorations and prayers in the May Mission Month Pastor's and Leaders Guide.



Use the QR code, or navigate to the Pastor's and Leader's Guide on this page: www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/MMM/Resources