



The Displacement of Arrival

Addressing fear and control when arriving into an unfamiliar setting

Scott Bessenecker, November, 2016

Abstract: *This exercise will allow leaders to tap into some of the fears and the desire for control when participants first arrive into an unfamiliar setting.*

The Set-Up

When leading a Global Program, you can leverage the emotional energy and anxiety of arriving into an unfamiliar setting (so long as they have not been at this event before). This is best done in a Global Program, but may also be appropriate for arriving into any urban setting that is different than the place participants normally live, work or go to school.

Objectives:

1. Build confidence in cross cultural skills in a cross cultural setting
2. Identify group dynamics
3. Have a basic proficiency in using public transportation around the city

Plan to meet participants at the airport. Greet them warmly and provide them with water and a snack. Give them any local currency you have budgeted for this exercise (metro tickets, meal). Allow them to change personal money and collect themselves. Make the arrival into the airport feel as hospitable as you can.

Hit the Underground Running

Welcome to _____. We are excited to have you with us. I don't know what you were expecting, but we are ready to dive right in. Our time together in training begins right now. You will be navigating the public transportation system from here to our hostel. I am here to provide a few instructions. Once we get started, you are encouraged to connect with locals to get the information you need.

Your instructions are to get from here to the Metro Stop called _____. Once we get there I will lead us to our hostel. You will be given the money that you need to get you there.

Here is important information that you need to know:

1. Be aware of your surroundings and your personal items. Don't get distracted and keep your belongings close to you. It is possible that you (like the millions of people who ride the metro every day) may be targeted by a pick pocket.
2. Be aware of your group. Look out for each other. Don't stray or lag behind. Don't leave anyone behind.
3. Make a plan if you get separated. If you don't all get on the same train decide if the person will wait for the team to come back or if the team will wait for the person at the next stop. Or come up with your own plan.
4. It is possible that there may be inappropriate contact with people on the metro. This is, unfortunately, a sad reality of riding on the train. Ask for help if you feel you are being physically intruded upon.
5. Go to the bathroom now. You will not be able to use a bathroom for at least the next hour, if not more (depending on whether we stop to eat).
6. Take the opportunity to observe your surroundings and the people around you. The metro is a great way to get to know the city and the people.

If you decide to eat: It is ok to eat at food stands or street vendors but there are a few things to keep in mind that are good rules of thumb.

INTERVARSITY

1. Are there many people eating there? It may be that the answer is no because it is not time to eat, but if it is during a meal time, a busy place can be a good sign that the food is tasty and safe to eat (because other's have done the work of making sure for themselves).

2. Does the food look fresh? Are there a lot of flies buzzing around? Are they cutting and making everything right there? Does the oil smell clean? Has it been standing out for a long time and look dried out or discolored?

3. You can decide to eat a sit in restaurant. The same rules apply except that you won't be able to see the food being prepared unless they are making it outside.

If you have any questions about these points, please feel free to ask. Again, I will only help you from making major errors like trying to cross an expressway. For the most part, I will be a silent partner.

Debriefing:

Reflect back on your experience from this afternoon. Think about each of your five senses as you traveled from the airport to the hostel. What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?

For many, being in a new place brings about heightened senses. What feelings did these sensations provoke in you? Did any of these senses create anxiety, curiosity, excitement?

Where did you feel out of control? What did you do with this sensation? What might be God's invitation to you as you experience lack of control throughout our time together?

Who ended up leading your group? How did others feel about this?

This is a good opportunity to address different leadership styles and how we react to them, noticing something about ourselves and others.

One common response to new cross-cultural situations is to "freeze", simply following others and engaging with the surroundings as little as possible. This withdrawal is normal and will be felt by many of you. What might have helped those who withdrew to engage more?

Hear the Word: Luke 9: 1-9

(You may also use the GP Journal Guide which has this Bible study)

Read Luke 9:1-6

1. What did Jesus send the 12 to do?
2. What did he give them to equip them for the task?
3. What did he prevent them from taking? Why?
4. What is Jesus sending you to do?
5. What gifts has he given you to accomplish your mission?
6. What have you brought with you that might prevent you from relying totally on him?
7. Make a brief list of how he has provided for you in the last 2-3 months.

Read Luke 9:7-9

8. What three options did Herod consider to identify who Jesus was?
9. Which of these was correct?
10. Had the disciples yet publicly identified Jesus as the Messiah when they went on their short-term mission (see 9:20-21)?
11. What did they know about Jesus?
12. Are you ready to admit what you do and don't know about Jesus and discover more of him this summer?

Spend some time in community with Jesus. Tell him that you believe he is the Messiah and ask him to show more of himself to you. Invite him to look through your backpack or suitcase. Let him examine your wallet or purse. Now let him look at what's in your heart. Ask him if he wants you to trust him for certain items this summer. Ask him to show you the things he has placed inside you that will be of ultimate importance.

Respond Actively

Allow participants to discuss the experience of following God into the unfamiliar. Invite them to share how they would like to grow their trust when in settings that feel scary. Are there actions

INTERVARSITY

they can take when that feeling comes up again? How might they respond differently? Ask them to pray for one another.

When you send them out again into a similar unfamiliar setting, remind them of how they want to respond differently as an act of trusting God.