



Low Prep Outreach and Gathering Ideas

Compiled by Timothy Lin, Hans Franzen, and the New England Regional Planting Cohort

What zero prep outreach activities can you do with a couple of students on campus?

1. Go to cultural or commuter lounges to meet new people.
2. At mealtime, grab a coffee and randomly sit with someone who is sitting alone.
3. Go around from house to house or dorm to dorm and tell them about InterVarsity.
4. Talk to the dorm chaplains or Resident Assistants.
5. Take a prayer walk through the campus center and offer to pray for those you meet along the way.
6. Start a Frisbee game or snowball fight.
7. Host a meal in the cafeteria and have students invite others.
8. Take spiritual interest surveys on campus.
9. Go to the gym or play pick-up games together.
10. Jam with students who play instruments.
11. Go to events where students are already gathering (football games, choir concerts, etc.)
12. Join another student group together as a way of doing outreach.
13. Offer weekly free rides to Wal-Mart (or Target) for people on your floor or street.
14. Ask people to tell you a story, any story, for a piece of chocolate.
15. Offer free tutoring in a subject that you know well.
16. Give free rides to church on Sunday mornings.
17. Start a random game on the dorm (literal) floor. Play spoons, Mafia, etc. in the middle of the dorm hallway so that everyone passing by gets invited to play.
18. Become a conversation partner with an international student.

What zero prep gathering activities can you do with a couple of students on campus?

1. Lead a quick Bible study – look at a piece of Scripture together for 20 minutes (Mark 2, John 4, Luke 10).
2. Have conversation starters ready for impromptu discussion and deeper conversation:
 - a. What are the risks students take to get their friends to follow Jesus?
 - b. What do students believe about Jesus and how do they communicate that to their friends?
 - c. How did students end up at this school?
 - d. How did they come to follow Jesus?
 - e. Be familiar with key stories in the Bible for natural conversation.
 - f. Give students challenges.
3. Cast vision for the chapter as a team.
 - a. Get students to dream about what could happen on their campus.
 - b. Get students to brainstorm:
 - i. What would their dream for the campus look like?
 - ii. How could that happen?
 - iii. What does their vision mean?
 - c. Ask questions of how to get the vision moving:
 - i. What is a movement?
 - ii. What does it look like?
 - d. Staff are going to be peculiar on campus, so they need to be intentional about coming on campus with a vision.
4. Write down names of two people you want to pray for and pray for them as a group.
5. Tell stories – both from the Bible and what your group has seen God doing on campus.

Low Prep Core Group Meeting Training Ideas:

1. Start each meeting by sharing what God is doing on campus.
 - a. Restate the vision – share ways the group has seen the vision become reality.
 - b. Actually say the vision every time – don't just share praises.
2. Use the flower diagram ([in the Chapter Planting Manual](#)). Have people write down who they are connected to.
3. Train students in how to invite people.
 - a. Teach students how to explain what InterVarsity is about and what we are doing on campus.
 - b. Help get students to take ownership.
 - c. Have students come up with people to call to invite to an outreach event or retreat.
 - d. Invite other students to a Bible study.
4. Teach the practice of listening prayer to show students how God is speaking to them.
 - a. Use the campus map as a visual.
 - i. Where do students spend most of their time?
 - ii. Next time the student is there, have them pray.
 - iii. Students should record anything they see or hear from God about how to pray for that place.
 - b. At the next large group meeting, students should share what they saw and heard while at that site.
5. Train students in how to lead a GIG (Group Investigating God).
 - a. Use role playing to understand the mindset of new Christians and seekers.
6. Work with students to develop their testimonies.
 - a. Make sure they tell their stories without "Christianese".
 - b. Have a non-Christian proofread this after it is written.
7. Create a proxe station and use it on campus.
8. Do a sports dedication to God with your student athletes.
9. Dissect InterVarsity's mission statement as a group.
 - a. Do a Bible study around the mission statement.
 - b. Have students write down barriers to the mission, then have students rip them up or step through a door as a symbolic way of getting past the barriers.
10. Give the group the Evangelism Styles Questionnaire (pages 27-28 in [OnCampus Evangelism Training](#)) to demonstrate how God uses everyone.
11. Do a group Bible study to sketch out what leadership looks like.
12. Give a challenge at the end of the large group meeting.
 - a. Tell students to go invite anyone they see for the next 20 minutes to an event or gathering.
 - b. Give students 5 questions for a spiritual survey on campus.
 - c. Take students to another campus to spy out the land (this puts them in the mindset of a planter).
 - d. Go on a prayer walk and have students pray for the people they meet on campus.

[Low Prep Outreach and Gathering Ideas](#) is posted on the [Collegiate Ministries website](#) with related resources for InterVarsity staff and student leaders.