

# Youth Study Guide

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## Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions provides funding for over 80 ministries across Texas. When you give, you are helping people across the state share the love of Jesus with those who need to know Him as Savior. This lesson will focus on Baptist Student Ministry for International Student Ministries.

## Bible Verse

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!’”  
Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

## Background Information

Texas Baptists started Baptist Student Ministries over 100 years ago to minister to college students. What began on two college campuses has now grown to over 100 colleges all over Texas. BSM works with local churches, associations, and Texas Baptists to reach students with the gospel. Gifts through the Mary Hill Davis Offering help to support programs for missions, ministry, and outreach as well as provide Bibles and discipleship materials.

Through BSM, Christ-followers will be encouraged and disciplined to grow in their faith. But what about those who have not heard about salvation through Jesus? They will hear the truth of the gospel and experience Christians demonstrating what the love of Jesus looks like through new relationships initiated at the BSM. The most amazing development now is there are over 80,000 international students from all over the world who are on Texas

college campuses. For many internationals, this is their first time to have the opportunity to hear about Jesus and how he can change lives now and forever. God has brought about an unexpected blessing of placing Texas BSMs on the corners where the gospel of Jesus Christ is intersecting with the peoples, tribes, and nations of the world. God has brought those who desperately need to hear the gospel to the BSM doorstep. The challenge has been issued to reach international students who will return home someday to share Jesus with their family and friends. The big question is how will we meet that challenge? Let's look at some of the unique ways that BSM is meeting the challenge head-on!

## Preparation

This study is designed as a “knock off” of The Amazing Race television show. Students will be going through a series of games and tasks, culminating with a knowledge of BSM and efforts to reach international students on college campuses with the gospel. The students will discover the information by completing each station. Therefore, there is no need for a speaker to present but monitors will be needed to verify completion of an activity to allow student teams to move to the next station. Have sticky notes and pens for students to jot down questions, ideas, or answers to the questions from each story.

The study consists of four stations to be completed by a small group (4-5) of their peers. Best options are for four team members to each take a turn at leading at one of the stations. Students will complete all four stations by the end of the study. Each station begins with a task before reading the story and a second task is completed at the end of each story.

If possible, have a world map and a Texas map available, either on a computer or paper maps to help students find where the four BSMs are located in Texas and the countries highlighted by the stories of international students. Students may mark with a sticker, highlighter, or pin (virtual or actual map pin). The maps can be marked before the study begins, throughout the study, or at the end as a group activity.

Feel free to use other games and activities for the first tasks. They are designed to get the group to bond as a team with a fun interactive time before reading the stories. The second tasks are intended to help students process and incorporate a desire to reach internationals with the gospel.

## Station 1

### **Task 1:**

Language and cultural differences are a frequent obstacle to building relationships with international students. You will play a brief game of “Charades” using words in the envelope provided. Use a timer as each team member takes a turn acting out one word selected from the envelope as your team members guess the word. The first to finish in the shortest time is the leader for this station. Remember – No Talking!

### **Task 2:**

Pray that this young woman will hear the gospel over and over, see the impact of the gospel in the lives of the BSM students, and will soon trust Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Discuss how you feel when you see someone from another country, another culture, or another language. What do you think seems strange about you when they see you? How can you start a conversation with someone from another country? Write your answers on the sticky notes provided.

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## Story 1

### **West Texas A&M BSM, Canyon, TX**

Two friends were on campus, introducing themselves and asking how they could pray for those whom they met. They noticed a young woman wearing a burqa (a traditional outer garment worn by Muslim women that covers their body and face) and keeping her distance from everyone else. They approached the young woman and she quickly mentioned that she was from Bangladesh, a Muslim woman, and that many people seemed scared, timid, or angry when they saw her. She thanked the friends for their compassion toward her and she shared some of her spiritual beliefs and asked about their beliefs. They shared a little and invited her to meet for coffee so they could talk again. Through these meetings, they were able to share the gospel with her. She was familiar with the person of Jesus but only as a prophet, not a Messiah or King. She could not grasp that someone could die in her place. They have continued meeting with her and discovered acts of service such as providing transportation for groceries or to a meal at the international market that is a sweet reminder of home, continues their connection. She participates in activities with BSM students such as game nights and free lunch on Tuesdays, and hears more about Jesus each time she joins the group. She is not a believer yet but she continues to seek and ask questions about Jesus.

## Station 2

### **Task 1:**

Origami is a traditional art form using a piece of paper folded to create a three-dimensional design such as an animal or flower. Use the instruction sheet and the colored paper provided to make your own origami design. Enjoy the process rather than the speed. Everyone is the winner for this activity!

### **Task 2:**

Pray for international students to be open to learning about Jesus and for BSM students to be bold in sharing the gospel and consistent in representing Jesus in kindness and service. Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

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## Story 2

### **Texas A&M BSM, College Station, TX**

A student from Korea became involved in an International Community group through the BSM. The first time he attended he shared that he had never had any interest in God. He had always focused on living for himself. He admitted that his life seemed empty rather than fulfilling. He was ready to learn about God, seeking a better strategy for living. During a series studying the parables of Jesus, the parable of the hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44) led to a conversation about the kingdom of God. That topic intrigued him as he heard that the kingdom of God is not only something experienced after death but that God wanted him to experience the joy of God’s kingdom now. After thinking about this through the next week, when he returned to the next study, he shared that he had decided to follow Jesus. He was baptized before returning home for the summer. God used that parable, the community group members, and other believers to bring him to faith in Jesus.

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## Station 3

### **Task 1:**

Using chopsticks, the challenge is to eat the rice in your bowl as fast as you can. Use a timer to see who wins. The winner will be the leader of this station.

### **Task 2:**

Pray that international students who become followers of Jesus will be bold witnesses to their international friends and that they will take the gospel with them as they go home after graduation. When you share your faith with students while they are here, you end up sending the story of Jesus all over the world, even to countries that are considered closed to the gospel.

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## Story 3

### **Texas Tech University BSM, Lubbock, TX**

The Texas Tech BSM collects furniture and household items to give to international students attending Tech. They arrive in the US with only what will fit in their luggage. The BSM meets a great need for these students as they set up their new home from the BSM collection. One student from Iran was needing furniture and dishes for her apartment. She became acquainted with students at the BSM and shared that she was interested in reading the Bible and learning about the Christian faith. Her father had been a follower of Jesus but he had died a few years before her arrival in the US. He had been a leader in the underground church in Iran but she was not familiar with that part of his life. A Bible was made available to her and she began reading the Gospel of John and meeting with believers to study. Soon she said she had decided to become a Jesus follower too. She had a dream the night before in which her father confirmed that she should reject her Islamic background and follow Jesus. That Sunday in October she became a follower of Jesus and has never looked back. She was baptized as a testimony of her faith and is active in her local church. She has a bold faith and has led many of her friends and family in the US and in Iran to follow Jesus.

## Station 4

### **Task 1:**

Use the colored paper provided for each person to make a paper airplane. See who's airplane flies the farthest to determine the leader for this station.

### **Task 2:**

Use the this [link](#) for the video or scan the QR code below.



Watch the video and then complete the Word Search paper as a group. Pray for BSM and Texas Baptists to creatively share the gospel with urgency and sacrificially so the world will hear the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ.

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## Story 4

### ***University of Texas at Dallas BSM, Richardson, TX***

UT Dallas has the largest population of international students of all the colleges in Texas. The UT Dallas BSM offers an airport transportation ride for all incoming international students. That is approximately 1800 shuttle rides provided by BSM leaders. John Murthodi is a cross-cultural specialist with the UT Dallas BSM and leads out in this unique ministry to international students. He is originally from India and frequently gets to share the gospel with students coming from India as well as other nations. John has shared the story of one of those transportation opportunities in a video. You will watch the video and then consider how God initiates opportunities and unusual methods of connecting the lost people of this world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

# Resources for Task Activities

## Station 1, Task 1

“Charades”

On strips of paper, write each of the following words. Place the words in an envelope and hand it to the team as they are beginning Station 1. The students will act out the words for their team members to guess. No speaking is allowed, only actions.

Friend	Bible
Language	School
Church	Food

## Station 1, Task 2

Provide sticky notes and pens/pencils

## Station 2, Task 1

Origami

Provide an instruction page for two or three simple origami designs and a six-inch square pieces of paper for each student to make a small origami. Origami instructions can be found online and printed. The first to finish will be the leader for this activity. The students may keep the origami.

## Station 2, Task 2

Pray and read Matthew 13:44

## Station 3, Task 1

Provide small paper cups or bowls and enough bamboo chopsticks for each person. Bulk order chopsticks are available on Amazon. Cook enough rice for small servings in each cup or bowl. Time the team members to see who can eat their rice the fastest using chopsticks. The winner will be the leader for this station.

## Station 3, Task 2

Pray for international students who are believers to share their faith here and at home.

## Station 4, Task 1

Provide colored copy paper or construction paper to make paper airplanes. Students will compete to see whose airplane will go the farthest. Winner will lead this station.

## Station 4, Task 2

Have a computer set up or students may use their phones to watch the video of John Murthodi. Have one copy of the word search for each group to complete as a team. An answer key is included in the materials. Provide highlighters or pencils to complete the word search.

Pray for BSM and Texas Baptists to boldly share the gospel with international students. Visit [bit.ly/UTD-Testimony](https://bit.ly/UTD-Testimony) or scan the QR code below to watch the video testimony.

Scan  
to  
watch



# Extension activities

- Arrange for a local BSM staff member or student leader to speak to your students about different activities and programs offered through BSM, including summer and semester mission service opportunities. To find a local BSM, visit [txbsm.org/locations](https://txbsm.org/locations).
- Visit a BSM to encourage your students to be a part of BSM when they go to college.
- Pray for students who are summer and semester missionaries through BSM.
- Host an international food tasting in your church or community. Research dietary restrictions that are customary in some countries.
- Invite international students or adults to share insight into their home country's culture and traditions.
- Pray for BSM staff and student leaders to build relationships with international students.
- Visit an ethnic restaurant to experience the food and culture.



# I am Texas Missions Word Search

## BSM International Student Connections

C G Y J W F Y S A X H L E Z X Y P V M W M D K M N  
 I O K E K Y Q C D Y N M G G H W B H L G E Q Z E I  
 N Y W R R S N X U H E T Q K A R A O K E M K E E M  
 V I N T E R N A T I O N A L M A R K E T S P X T Z  
 I I E T H N I C R E S T A U R A N T S O V O G A Z  
 T N Y J U V K J M T W R J D K G X A S O X A O N D  
 E U U A Z K M Z Q X X B A W D D I H B J N A I D Y  
 T P A X T G I V E B I B L E S Y T B L P Z W U G O  
 O X O M Y H Z P V N B C N O F X L X E L K P J R U  
 C V G F X N T U E Y J J N S A P J M D I A H J E I  
 H O S I F V J T N O T J Q B I B L E S T U D I E S  
 U L O C X J J T D A I R P O R T R I D E S J Z T S  
 C V Q P O U C D Z F F D W X P T Q P I Z E J K C D  
 H D R X E M R A T C R U L V M W X T Z A T J V Q O  
 C J E W A N M I M R A E R E A N K D N W Z Z J W R  
 O A G W C J M U D P U M E N B G K N Y G G K J E G  
 F N C L E T U I N O U Y F L I T P Z F H G Y D A A  
 F G O V C K T D C I Q S F D U T L A T N K T V E O  
 E S J K S I K D M N T N G M S N U O W F A D W W D  
 E X J D X D J I A W I Y S R M S C R P S H I O B C  
 M A B L X M O Y B J P G P U O I M H E F J U G H D  
 Z Q Z V H M K M X D H T H S U Y E T C S K U X Y  
 D H P O D I S H E S B V G T E Y P Y O X X R U K G  
 B T I W M V L O K U M A P S G H O S N W K G U Q G  
 Q N Y H P P V P K F Y T E K K O J H G S U R J O I

Campus Groups  
 Dishes  
 Give Bibles  
 Ethnic Restaurants  
 Karaoke

Invite to Church  
 Community  
 Airport Rides  
 Free Lunch  
 Meet and Greet

International Markets  
 Coffee  
 Bible Studies  
 Furniture  
 Open Mic Night

# I am Texas Missions Word Search

## Answer Key

C G Y J W F Y S A X H L E Z X Y P V M W M D K M N  
 I O K E K Y Q C D Y N M G G H W B H L G E Q Z E I  
 N Y W R R S N X U H E T Q K A R A O K E M K E E M  
 V I N T E R N A T I O N A L M A R K E T S P X T Z  
 I I E T H N I C R E S T A U R A N T S O V O G A Z  
 T N Y J U V K J M T W R J D K G X A S O X A O N D  
 E U U A Z K M Z Q X X B A W D D I H B J N A I D Y  
 T P A X T G I V E B I B L E S Y T B L P Z W U G O  
 O X O M Y H Z P V N B C N O F X L X E L K P J R U  
 C V G F X N T U E Y J J N S A P J M D I A H J E I  
 H O S I F V J T N O T J Q B I B L E S T U D I E S  
 U L O C X J J T D A I R P O R T R I D E S J Z T S  
 C V Q P O U C D Z F F D W X P T Q P I Z E J K C D  
 H D R X E M R A T C R U L V M W X T Z A T J V Q O  
 C J E W A N M I M R A E R E A N K D N W Z Z J W R  
 O A G W C J M U D P U M E N B G K N Y G G K J E G  
 F N C L E T U I N O U Y F L I T P Z F H G Y D A A  
 F G O V C K T D C I Q S F D U T L A T N K T V E O  
 E S J K S I K D M N T N G M S N U O W F A D W W D  
 E X J D X D J I A W I Y S R M S C R P S H I O B C  
 M A B L X M O Y B J P G P U O I M H E F J U G H D  
 Z Q Z V H M K M X D H T H S U Y E T C S K U X Y  
 D H P O D I S H E S B V G T E Y P Y O X X R U K G  
 B T I W M V L O K U M A P S G H O S N W K G U Q G  
 Q N Y H P P V P K F Y T E K K O J H G S U R J O I

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International Markets  
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# About the Writer

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## Jamye Richmond

*Pilot Point, Texas  
First Baptist Church, Denton*



## Mary Hill Davis

*Mary Hill Davis, president of Texas WMU from 1906 to 1931, saw Texas as a rich harvest field with its mixture of Anglo, Black, European, and Mexican populations. In 1910 she led the Baptist women of Texas to set aside a week to pray for the needs in the state and to take up an offering as was done for foreign and home missions. Following her death in 1934, the Texas missions offering was named in her memory.*