

LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE

Devotional Period

From week six, plan one session of a half-hour to one hour as a devotional time as part of the language learning process.

Goals: To add a devotional dimension to language learning.

To introduce the learner to religious vocabulary.

To give experience in leading worship in the target language.

To build comprehension of the written language.

To increase awareness of grammar and usage inductively, from written sources.

To help the learner move systematically from simplified toward more natural language in vocabulary and grammar.

To provide a basis for reading unrestricted language from the Bible.

Format:

Begin reading passages from the simplified Bible selections. Translation and discussion of a passage from these sources will be the main focus of the devotional period. From about the third or fourth month, the Bible should be used. The session should be done with the language helper present. This exercise is probably most productive in a group in which the learners rotate leadership.

1. All (or both) learners should translate the lesson for the day, but one should be responsible for reading and translating in class, and leading the session. (Focus on sentence patterns and key vocabulary. Discuss grammar and usage at the end of the session with your tutor.) You do not have to have a finely polished translation, but rather the focus should be on comprehension of the passage in the target language.

2. The person in charge should open the devotional period with an appropriate opening phrase. For example,
"Let us begin by singing hymn number ____"
or
"Let us stand and sing the chorus ____."

3. A hymn from the hymnal, a chorus from a book or learned by heart should be sung. The learner in charge does not necessarily have to lead the song; he may request the tutor/conversant to do so, or may arrange with another (the other) learner to choose and/or lead the song.

4. After the hymn, the learner in charge should give directions for the reading for the day. He/she should read the passage through in the language, then go back and translate phrase by phrase into good English. (Do not just read a written English translation.) The meaning of the scripture verse should be clear from the translation provided by the learner or arrived at in discussion.

5. Brief comments on the passage or its theme may be appropriate after finishing the translation.

6. The leader should close the period with prayer in the language, giving the proper direction for prayer. (For example "Let us now pray." The prayer need not be long. You should learn to use in the language standard prayer forms for opening and closing the prayer, etc. For example, "Our father in heaven...."