



# THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE NATIONS SCAVENGER HUNT

**imb**  
INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD



# THE WORLD AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Just outside your front door is a world of incredible diversity, need, and opportunity. Imagine drinking Turkish coffee, enjoying the sweetness of baklava after a hearty meal of Mansaf, while struggling through the language barrier to share what you believe about Jesus. Imagine that world just across the street from your house or just down the road in the nearest city. God is bringing the nations to our doorsteps and He's called us to love them by sharing the beautiful truth of the gospel with them. The opportunities are all around us, but we must first open our eyes to see.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SC AVENGER HUNT

- Go out in small groups. Three to four people is ideal, if possible.
- Have groups explain while out that they are on an ethnic scavenger hunt to become more aware of the nations represented in their locality. They should always be polite and ask permission before taking any photos or videos. They should also be careful how they express their thoughts about what they are seeing or tasting for the first time.
- Provide a writing tablet and pen for each group.
- Give a good portion of a day to this scavenger hunt including time for a meal at an ethnic restaurant. This can both fun and messy; we never know what God is going to bring our way.
- Set a designated time to return for debrief. Also, allow time for everyone to share their experiences and see who was able to win the most points on the scavenger hunt list.

## DEBRIEF

- Who did we discover in the community? How would you describe diversity?
- Did you meet people who spoke different languages and recently came to America from another country?
- What specifically will you do to love and share with those from other countries in your own community?
- Are there people from other cultures in your own neighborhood? If yes, how can you begin to build a relationship with them?

## APPLICATION

After the debriefing time, help participants understand these possible applications taken from their experience:

- Help student participants realize they can intentionally reach out and befriend an ethnic student at their school.
- Discuss the possibility of adopting an international student; share how they can check with local universities for opportunities to do so.
- Encourage them to see if they have a refugee resettlement office (like World Relief) in their city or a city close by where they can discuss ways their youth group and church can minister to a refugee family.
- Discuss ways church members can practically become welcoming to those coming from other nations.
- How will you love and share with those of another culture in your own neighborhood or community?

## CLOSING

God has chosen you as His redeemed people to passionately spread the truth of the gospel to all nations. You have the opportunity and the privilege to do that both far and near. Yes, we must continue to go far from home to be sure the gospel is made known in the farthest corners of the earth but we must also share with those just outside our doorstep. What is God calling you to do?



# ETHNIC CULTURAL IMMERSION SCAVENGER HUNT LIST

## 1. Five Menus (25-50 points total)

Ask for a copy of a menu or take-out menu from five different ethnic restaurants. Value for Mexican or Chinese restaurants is five points. Value for any other ethnic restaurant is 10 points.

## 2. Photo Op (20 points)

Take a group photo with a person not born in America. They must record the person's name, how long they've been in this country, and the country they came from. They should also ask what brought them to America and how many generations of their family are here.

## 3. Different & the Same (50 points total)

Go to an ethnic grocery store and find five things similar and five things very different to what you have in the grocery store where you shop. Write down the name of each product or take photo of it. Teams will receive five points per item.

## 4. Smile! You're on Candid Camera (10 points per person)

While at the ethnic grocery store, ask the clerk to show you a snack that is very popular in their country. Purchase the snack and make a video of your group eating it; you will receive 10 points per person that eats the snack.

## 5. In the News (Up to 50 points)

Obtain a copy of a free ethnic magazine. These are typically located in the front entrance of ethnic restaurants, or just inside the restaurant area. Look through the magazine and count all the different businesses in the city that are of this ethnic group. Receive five points for each identified business, up to 50 points.

## 6. Wash Your Hands! (20 points)

If possible, find an Ethiopian or other ethnic restaurant where you eat only with your hands. If that's not possible, find an ethnic restaurant that is new to your group. Ask the waiter or waitress for their recommendation on the menu. What smells, sights, and sounds do you observe? Are there any wall hangings, photos, statues/idols? Ask them questions about what you see, hear, smell, food, culture, etc. Ask if there other restaurants like this one in town? If so, how many? List them. Finally, take a selfie with your server. Don't forget to ask their name and what country they're from!

## 7. Playtime (Up to 50 points)

Find an ethnic store that sells children's toys. List or take photos of five typical toys from another country; you will receive 10 points per toy.

## 8. Put on Your Detective Hats (Up to ? points)

See if you can find out how many languages and countries are represented in the local school system. List as many as possible; you will receive a point for each language and country listed.

## 9. Sweet Treats (20 points)

Buy candies or pastries from an ethnic store and bring them back to the large group for everyone to try. Ask the store clerk for the names of your sweets as well as an explanation of the food – be sure to write everything down so you can share what you learn. Are they typically served at a special occasion like birthdays or weddings? Don't forget to ask their name and what country they are from. Take a group photo with your sweet treats.



**10. Hello There! (Up to ? Points)**

Video or audio record people saying hello in as many languages as possible; you will receive one point for each language recorded.

**11. Do I Hear an Echo? (10 Points)**

Ask someone to assist your group in saying "hello. How are you? I am fine." in their language and come back prepared to do so. Share what language you are speaking, who helped you learn the greeting, and what country they are from.

**12. Higher Education (20 Points)**

If there is an university nearby, find out how many different countries students studying there represent.

**13. Interview Time (50 points + 25 Bonus Points)**

While on campus, record an interview with an international student. (If no college or university is close by, then choose an immigrant or refugee for this activity.) Find out their name and where they are from. Also ask the following questions: What they are studying? What is their favorite food from their home country? What is their favorite food here? How are birthdays celebrated differently in their country than here?

***Bonus Points: Receive 25 Bonus Points if during the course of your conversation you can discover the people group they are part of.***