

#1.1 Personal Development - Reflection Guide

Questions to consider
by every cross-cultural worker

Suggestions:

- Choose a time free from distraction or interruption
 - Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider each question
 - Discuss your answers with a trusted advisor or mentor
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- Why am I involved in cross-cultural ministry?
 - ❖ What do I believe about God's calling as it relates to my life?
 - ❖ What do I believe about suffering as it relates to Christian life and ministry?
 - ❖ What will I consider success in ministry?
 - Do any of my thoughts, feelings, words, or actions indicate that I am expecting someone other than Christ to meet some of my needs?
 - ❖ Am I willing to allow Christ to differentiate between my needs and my desires?
 - ❖ Am I content to allow Christ to determine which of my desires will be met?
 - ❖ What will I do about the legitimate desires God is not allowing to be met?
 - What is the basis of my identity?
 - ❖ How much is derived from culture (nationality, ethnicity), work related roles, family related roles or aspirations (child, parent, spouse), relationship with Christ?
 - ❖ What will happen to my security and identity when most of these things change?
 - Do I feel that marital status or cultural perceptions affect my value, identity, or security in Christ?
 - ❖ How does God describe me?
 - ❖ How will I respond to those who are insensitive or uncomprehending regarding my life choices (including my ministry, marital, or parental status)?

#1.2 Personal Development - Reflection Guide

Questions to consider
by every cross-cultural worker

Suggestions:

- Choose a time free from distraction or interruption
 - Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider each question
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- How am I now, and how can I in the future, show that I value every colleague?
 - ❖ How am I looking out for the best interest of those from other marital and parental groups? (e.g., singles, single again, married with children, married without children)
 - ❖ Could any colleague or team member feel that I do not hear or listen to them? Do I make a real effort to listen to their hearts and not only their words?
 - What do I believe (and what do I feel) with regard to aloneness and loneliness?
 - ❖ What is my plan for dealing with loneliness?
 - ❖ What is my plan for vacations and holidays?
 - Am I willing to limit my use of social media and communication with family and friends in my sending culture in order to truly live in my ministry culture?
 - To what extent am I influenced by the prevailing cultural assumptions regarding sex? Such as that:
 - ❖ Whatever any two consenting adults do is their “right”
 - ❖ Safe sex is only a physical act and has no other consequences
 - What measures am I taking now and will I take in the future to guard my heart and ensure that my life is an example of obvious sexual purity?
 - Do I have an adequate plan in place for staying healthy on the field long-term?
 - ❖ Spiritually, emotionally, socially, mentally, physically

#1.3 Personal Development - Reflection Guide

Questions to consider
by **single** cross-cultural workers

Suggestions:

- Choose a time free from distraction or interruption
 - Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider each question
 - Discuss your answers with a trusted advisor or mentor
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Calling and identity

- How do I feel about going to the field single?
 - ❖ Do I hope or plan to one day be married?
- Is calling related to or impacted by marital status?
- Do I consider my singleness a curse, a blessing, or a neutral reality?
 - ❖ Would condolences or congratulations be more in order?
 - ❖ Do I characterize my life as thriving, yearning, despairing, or some combination of the above?
- Do I believe it is necessary to have a spouse in order to be complete?
 - ❖ Do I believe it is necessary to have physical children to be complete?
- How will I feel about and respond to teammates, church members or neighbors in my host culture trying to find a match for me?
- What priority will the possibility of marriage and parenting have on my life, decisions, or ministry?
- Do I envision a time when I would end my missionary service in order to more actively find a spouse?
 - ❖ If so, how long do I plan to serve as a single missionary?

#1.4 Personal Development - Reflection Guide

Questions to consider
by **single** cross-cultural workers

Suggestions:

- Choose a time free from distraction or interruption
 - Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider each question
 - Discuss your answers with a trusted advisor or mentor
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Relationships and temptation

- What kind of living arrangements do I believe will be healthy for me long-term, and what kind am I willing to accept?
 - ❖ Living alone, with another single in same apartment, with another single in same room, sharing a house with a couple/family, with a roommate chosen by me or by the mission or team
- What are my plans or desires regarding dating while on the field?
- To what extent am I influenced by the prevailing cultural assumptions regarding sex? Such as:
 - ❖ That it is necessary to engage in sexual activity or sexual intercourse in order to be fully human, and celibacy represses our humanity.
 - ❖ That sex is my personal right.
- Do I believe I can be genuinely content and happy without sex?
- How can I appropriately affirm my sexuality / sexual identity without sex?
- What are my areas of greatest weakness or temptation?
 - ❖ In every area including sexually, socially, spiritually, emotionally, mentally
 - ❖ What is my plan for dealing with these temptations in each of these areas?
- What will I do if I realize a relationship is becoming inappropriate?

#1.5 Personal Development - Reflection Guide

Questions to consider by **married** cross-cultural workers

Suggestions:

- Choose a time free from distraction or interruption
 - Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider each question
 - Discuss your answers with a trusted advisor or mentor
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- How is calling related to or impacted by marital or parental status?
 - ❖ Do I envision a time when I would end my missionary service in order to more actively pursue having children or because of the needs of my family?
 - Do I believe it is necessary to have physical children to be complete?
 - How will my decisions regarding ministry, location, or life situation be impacted by my family or by the possibility of having children?
 - What is my long-term plan for maintaining the balance necessary to protect both my ministry and my relationships?
 - ❖ With God, with my spouse and family, and with friends?
 - What kind of housing situation do I believe will be the most healthy and beneficial for both my family and ministry long-term, and how will this be protected?
 - ❖ Protecting family privacy and ministry opportunities
 - ❖ Protecting personal space and ministry space
 - What are my areas of greatest weakness or temptation?
 - ❖ In every area including sexually, socially, spiritually, emotionally, mentally
 - ❖ What is my plan for dealing with each of these weaknesses and temptations?
 - What will I do if I realize a relationship is becoming inappropriate?