

BECOME ONE!





When Jesus came to Earth, He **became one** with people on Earth. That means He lived like other people lived during that time.



He didn't come down looking like God or even like an angel.

Instead, Jesus came as a tiny baby, and grew up into a man, just as every other man has done since the beginning of time. He became one of us by living life as a human.



(Based on ML #208, Vol.2, 3/73.)

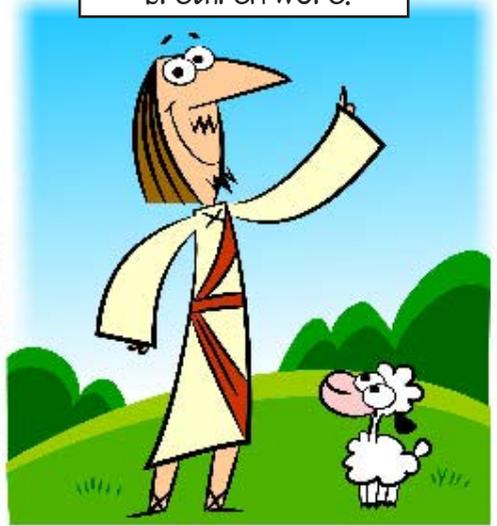
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Jesus also became one with the Jewish people He lived around by doing many of the same things that they did.

He ate the same type of food that his Jewish brethren ate.

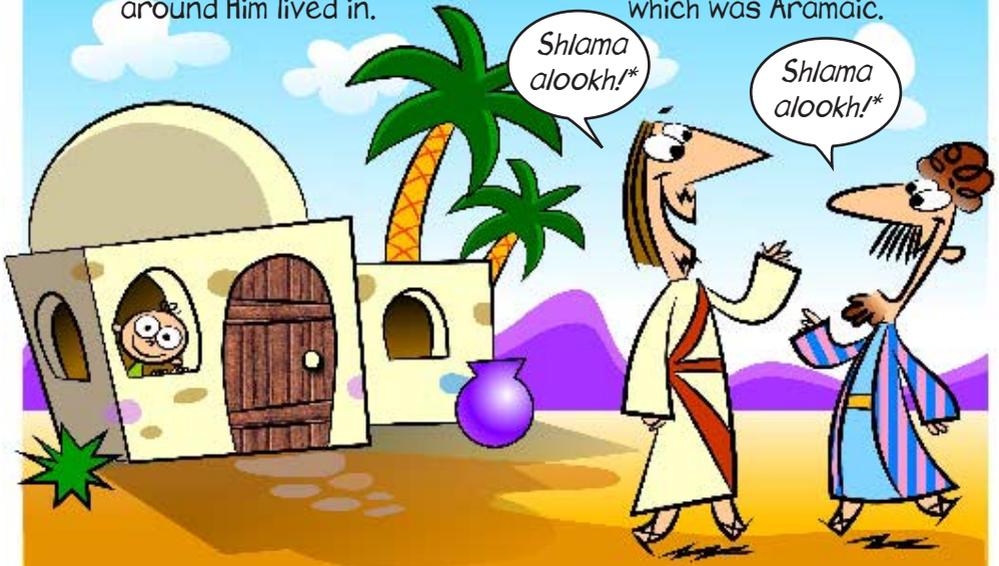


He wore the same type of clothing his Jewish brethren wore.



In His younger years when He lived at home, He lived in the same type of houses the people around Him lived in.

He spoke the same language that was spoken by the people in the country where He lived, which was Aramaic.



*Shlama alookh: Peace be among you (Aramaic).

He followed many of the local customs* of the Jewish people.



Though Jesus was perfect and far more powerful and righteous than the people He lived around, He didn't look down on them for not being as good as He was. He showed them love, kindness, and patience.



Assignment: With your parent or teacher, make a list of other ways Jesus became one with the people of His day.



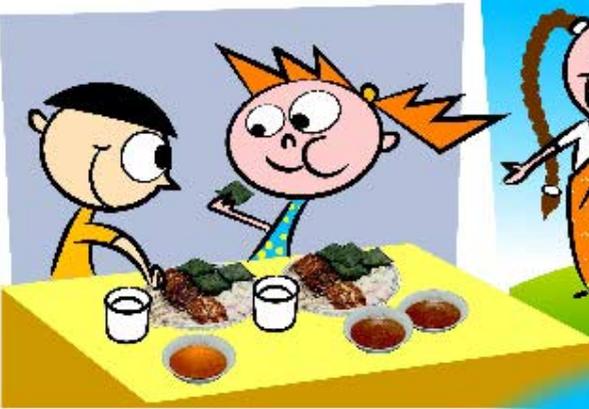
That's what Jesus means when He asks you to become one. He wants you, as missionaries, to **become one** with the people you are living around.



An example of a local custom is how in Jesus' day people would sometimes wash the feet of an important visitor. People wore sandals, not covered shoes, so their feet got dirty. Washing the feet of important visitors was a way of honoring them. Do you remember reading about Jesus washing the feet of His disciples? (John 13:4-5).

***custom:** the accepted way of acting amongst a group of people; something that people always do in a certain way

People in different countries have customs that are common to the people living in their country, but might not be common in other countries. Following or taking part in some of the local customs is one way to show the people you are witnessing to that you love them.



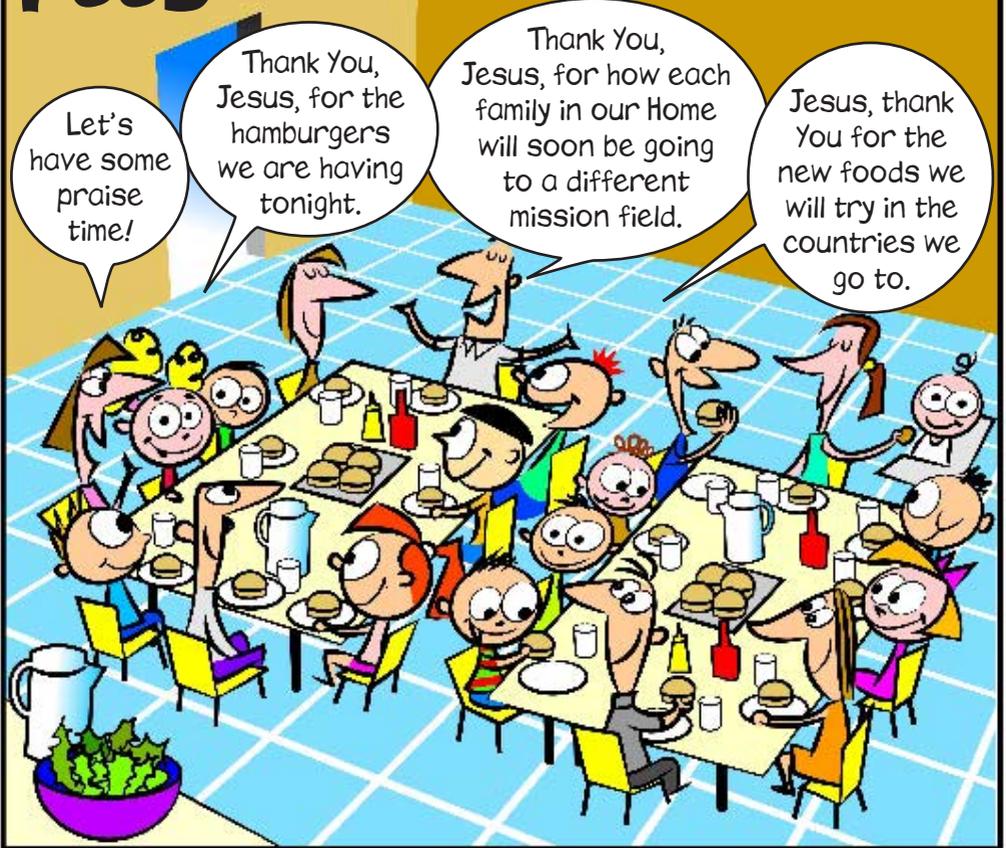
Let's take a look at some examples of how missionaries can become one with the people of a country where they are doing their missionary work.



Question: Can you tell which nationality each of the four scenes above represents? Find the answers at the bottom of page 16.

FOOD

Scene from a Home in a Western country:



Let's have some praise time!

Thank You, Jesus, for the hamburgers we are having tonight.

Thank You, Jesus, for how each family in our Home will soon be going to a different mission field.

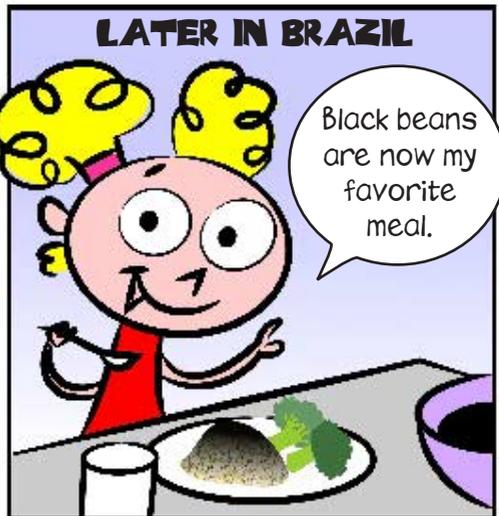
Jesus, thank You for the new foods we will try in the countries we go to.

LATER IN INDIA



I like chapattis* and curry!

LATER IN BRAZIL



Black beans are now my favorite meal.

LATER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Chicken adobo*
is yummy!



LATER IN SOUTH AFRICA

Hamburgers used to
be my favorite food. But
now I like beef boerewors*,
which we have sometimes
for a fun barbecue.



As a missionary,
one way you can show the
local people you love them
is to learn to like some of
their local food dishes.

You don't want to eat
unhealthy and unclean foods,
which are very popular in
some countries. But in every
country you can find many
delicious native dishes made
from healthy foods.



***chapatti**: a type of flat bread eaten in India

***chicken adobo**: a chicken and rice dish
eaten in the Philippines

***boerewor**: a meat sausage eaten in South
Africa that is made with spices and herbs

CLOTHING

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia



Later, in Pakistan



*shalwar kameez: a long tunic worn over loose-fitting pants drawn in at the waist and ankles

Even though people in many countries around the world wear modern clothes, there is still a variety of standards for what is acceptable to wear in different countries.

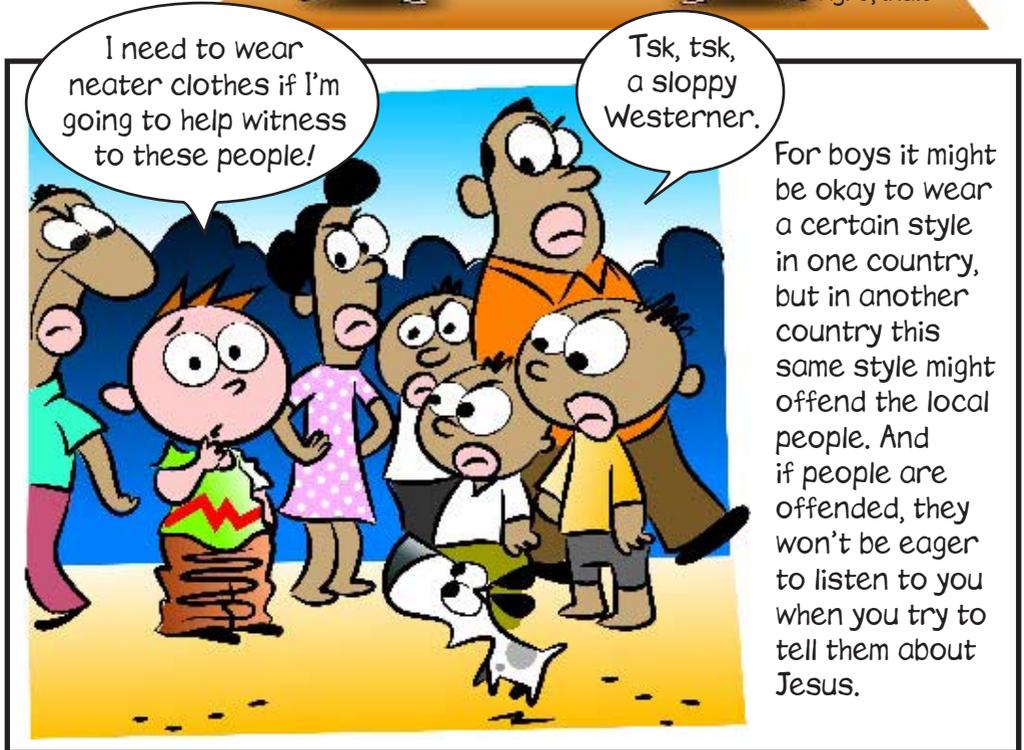
In one country it may be fine for a girl to wear stylish, low-cut jeans or shorts, along with a small top.

In another country, though, it might be better for a girl to always wear a dress, or a top that covers her tummy.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Agra, India



I need to wear neater clothes if I'm going to help witness to these people!

Tsk, tsk, a sloppy Westerner.

For boys it might be okay to wear a certain style in one country, but in another country this same style might offend the local people. And if people are offended, they won't be eager to listen to you when you try to tell them about Jesus.

RELIGION

Even though you want to teach people about Jesus, it's still important

to understand about their religion. People's customs are often related to their religion.



Diwali: This is perhaps the most well known of the Indian festivals. It is also known as the "festival of lights," as the common practice is to light small oil lamps (called *diyas*) and place them around the home, in courtyards, verandas, and gardens, as well as on roof-tops, and outer walls. It signifies the renewal of life, and accordingly it is common to wear new clothes on the day of the festival. It announces the approach of winter and the beginning of the seed-sowing season.



In some countries the food and/or clothing standards are also affected by the religion that is practiced.

THAILAND

I'm a missionary in this country where the religion is Buddhism.

I was born in the Family here.

Though we are Christians, we've learned that it's important to understand the Buddhist customs of the Thai people. That includes things such as showing respect by taking off our shoes if we ever enter a Buddhist temple.



We aren't here to make people live exactly like we do, or to change their customs. We're here to give them Jesus.

There are many other local customs we practice such as showing respect to elders and to Buddhist monks, and greeting them and others with the *wai* (a bow with the hands together).



Witnessing in Bangkok, Thailand

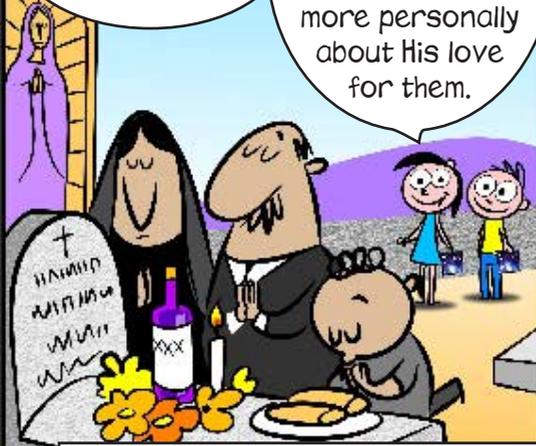
I don't want to change your customs. I just want to give you Jesus!

Ask your parent or teacher to explain to you about the Buddhist religion.

MEXICO

Here in Mexico many people are Catholics.

People here know about Jesus, but it's our job to help them understand more personally about His love for them.



Dia de Muertos: This is a holiday during which the dead are honored.

We tell them about eternal salvation, and that once they have Jesus in their hearts, they can't lose their salvation, even if they sin.

¡Gracias!*



*¡Gracias!: Thank you!
(Spanish)

We also teach them to read the Word, including the Activated mags.

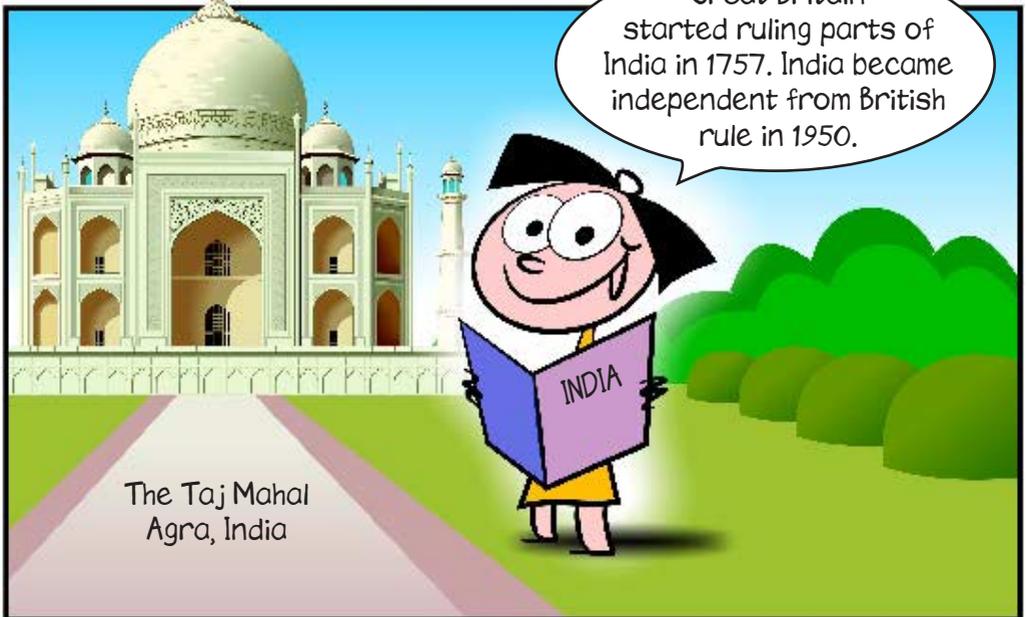
And we teach them how to pray, and talk with Jesus.



Ask your parent or teacher to explain to you about the Catholic religion.

HISTORY

One of the joys of being a missionary is learning about the land you are living in, about the local people's customs, religion, and even their history. When people find out you are familiar with their country's history, it helps them believe you are interested in them.



*landlocked: surrounded by land; no access to the ocean

LANGUAGE

One way to show people you love them is by speaking to them in their own language, which might be different from

your native language. Even if you're new in a country, you can learn to speak a few words and phrases right away in the local language. You can learn how to say hello and how to ask someone what his or her name is.

But don't stop there. Keep learning more of the local language. Make it your goal to be able to communicate well with the local people. You don't have to learn to speak their language perfectly, just do your best.



**Como você se chama?*: What's your name? (Portuguese)



**¡Jesucristo te ama!*: Jesus loves you! (Spanish)

When I lived in Tenerife (an island in the Atlantic Ocean that belongs to Spain) and Madrid* (the capital of Spain), I only knew how to speak very simple Spanish. But Jesus still used me, and I would witness to people who were well educated and spoke very good Spanish. They would listen to me, because they knew I loved them enough to try to speak in their language.

*Look up Tenerife and Madrid on a map

CHINESE

Yēsū ài wǒ, zhè wǒ
dāngrán zhīdào



Jesus loves me, this I know

SWAHILI

Yesu anipenda



Jesus loves me

SPANISH

Busca primero el
Reino de Dios



Seek first the kingdom of God

ICELANDIC

"Af því þekkjum vér
kærleikann, að Jesús
lét lífið fyrir oss."



1John 3:16a

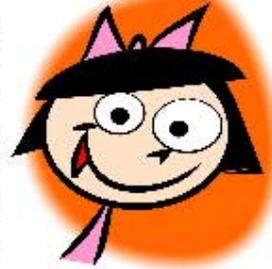
RUSSIAN



Jesus loves you

JAPANESE

Iesu sama wa anata o
aishiteimasu!



Jesus loves you

THAI

Pra-Yesu rak
noo



Jesus loves me

POLISH

"Tak bowiem Bóg
umiłował świat..."



John 3:16a

HINDI

"Unkay hato may
hai saray dunya"



"He's got the whole
world in His hands"



Why do we want to become one?

To show people we love them!

So that they can get to know Jesus as their best friend!

So they can live forever in Heaven!