

Hi OM's,

Earlier I sent you the exercise --

RESPONSE TIPS ~ Try to find the PERSON in the initial email

Last year, I had an OM in training whose name is Vas, she's from India and now lives in the US. I asked Vas to find the person in the email below, because she's from India, she sees this email in an entirely different way than we see it. I'd like for you to read how she "finds the person" in the initial email.

This is my note to her:

Hi Vas,

I'm curious, how would you reply to this email, and try to meet the need of this young lady, using the information that's in this response tip? Thanks, Sharon

Assigned_to: ilcadmin

Domain: marriageandgod.com

Name: Kumari

City:

State:

Residence: India

Age: 26-35

Gender: Female

Indicated Spiritual Decision: I have not prayed to receive Christ and I would like to investigate more

Summary: age 26-35 female sj_hearing rcvd marriageandgod.com

Organization: GMO

Language: English, SIL: ENG, ISO: eng

Comment/Question: What kind of Marriage I will have? Is it arrange or Love Marriage

Dear Sharon,

Regarding the ARC from India: As an Indian, I can see quite a bit of the background just from the information there.

First, this is a young lady comes from a fairly big city,-----, in North India.

Second, she most likely comes from a traditional family where arranged marriage is the norm. I see this from her question where she has mentioned arranged marriage.

Third, I see that she is in the 25 - 36 age group. In India, when girls get older than 25, both the parents and the young girls begin to get anxious if their marriages are not arranged by then. The older they get, the harder it gets to arrange their marriage.

Fourth, from the fact that she has also mentioned love marriage, I think she may be seeing someone without her parents' knowledge. This happens in bigger cities where the girls work in offices.

Fifth, she has not committed her life to Christ, which means she is a Hindu.

Sixth, since as a Hindu not ready to receive Christ, she is most likely simply seeking some approval for a love marriage from marriageandgod.com site.

Indian families are very close-knit. Parents consider it their responsibility and duty to see their children properly married and settled at the proper age. In most Hindu families (as in many Christian and also in Muslim families) in India, arranged marriage is the tradition. The children are not allowed to date. If a girl sees a boy, it is considered bringing dishonor to the family and it would be very difficult to arrange a marriage for the girl with another boy, since it casts a shadow on the girl's character as well as on the the family. Somehow, it doesn't seem to affect the boy's character much.

Under such a culture, in our Indian Christian families, this is what we advise the young people:
"God has placed you in this family where we have arranged marriages. He wants you to honor your parents by having their blessing on your marriage. If you want to marry someone of your choice, first pray and ask God if it is His will for you. If it is, He will open your parents' hearts to give their blessing to your marriage. If it is God's plan for you, He will open the door without any barrier. If He doesn't and there is violent opposition from the parents, you have to pray and wait. God may shut the door or He may open it slowly, bringing on a change of hearts in your parents." We've had a few such incidents among my family and friends while I was in India, going either way. In all cases, parents were extremely upset to begin with!

I have not had to advise any young girl from a Hindu family so far. To this young girl, I would tell her about the Saviour's love for her and that He wants her to honor her parents. I would tell her to read the Bible and pray to Lord Jesus. That He has a perfect plan for her including her marriage and will show it to her if she comes to Him, accepts him as her Lord and Saviour. (You may find it interesting that in India people, especially young girls, don't consider being unmarried as an option!)

Then I would pray that she comes to know Lord Jesus as the only God and not one of her many gods to all of whom she is probably praying.

Hope this helps.

Also one other tip I thought I might share: Most from India and also from middle eastern countries, who come to such romance sites or even from other sites don't write back. So this is the only opportunity an OM has to **personally** share the gospel with that person. So I always give them the gospel in simple terms, keeping in mind they also speak different languages and so may find it hard to understand biblical terms. For example, for seekers from mobi., if the Question/Comment is blank, I say,

“Lord Jesus loves you and died on the cross to pay the punishment for your sins. He is waiting to forgive you if come to Him and ask for forgiveness. He has a perfect plan for your life and will help you live a new life. And He will take you to heaven when you die.”

I add the part about heaven because it is very important to them.

Blessings,
Vas