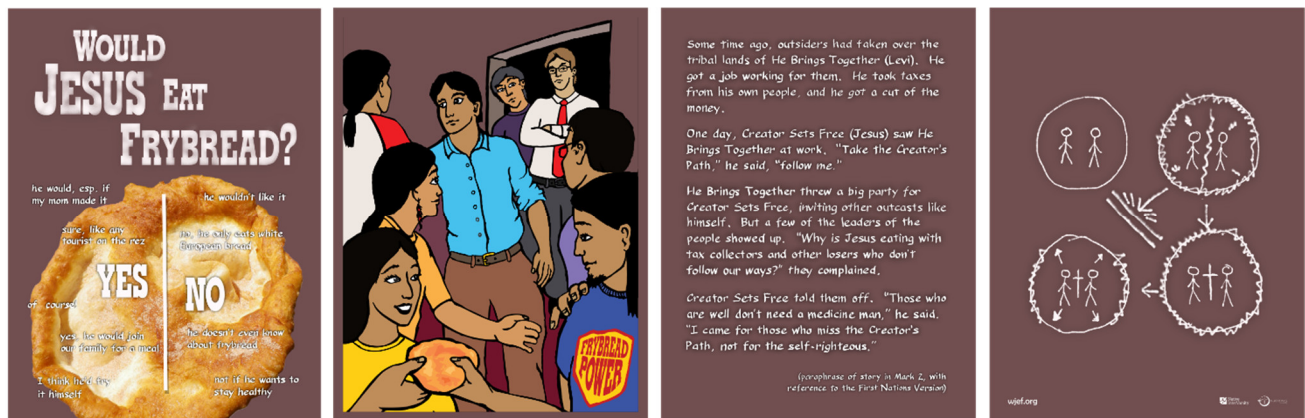


## WJEF Proxe Leader's Guide (Big Story Version)

### About the Proxe

The WJEF proxe is designed to be (1) a recruitment tool for the WJEF conference and (2) a way to connect with Native students for evangelism or planting.



**Panel 1.** The question “would Jesus eat frybread?” has been used extensively in Native ministry as a non-threatening way to get into spiritual conversations. It almost always elicits a smile, getting behind some of the barriers that come between many Native people and Christianity or Jesus. Panel 1, therefore, our “conversation starter.”

**Panels 2 & 3.** We meet Jesus at Levi’s party in Mark chapter 2, having a good time and sharing some frybread. The tension in this proxe is captured in the moment the religious leaders show up at Levi’s party in the background of the picture, prompting the sincere question, “should Jesus be there?” The Pharisees express their disapproval as well as shaming the party-goers. Many people can relate to feeling shamed by White people, church people, or other Natives. How Jesus responds in this moment of tension reveals both his acceptance of the party-goers and his own authority as a spiritual leader. The implicit irony is that Jesus (who is so often depicted as White) is the one who identifies with and defends the Native party-goers.

The scripture passage is a paraphrase from the FNV. It attempts to add in enough background to contextualize the tensions in Levi’s job (Native people who have worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, for example, might be seen like the tax-collectors in Jesus’s day – as traitors of sorts).

Asking “should Jesus be there?” has another layer of meaning, a cultural layer. Many Native people have been given the message that saying “yes” to Jesus means saying “no” to our culture (is church culture White? is White culture better?). It is significant that Jesus identifies with us, enters in to our culture, and is even the one who ultimately provides our culture as a gift.

## Preparation

1. Practice on each other. Run through the script below, getting comfortable with the exact wording before you improvise.
2. Fill in a some "follow-up" post-it notes (try for 3 to 5). These are possible "next steps" for a proxe participant. They may be chapter events of various kinds, such as a frybread party, going to WJEF, a post-proxe GIG, etc. Some should be easy, others more "intense." Put these across the top of panel 4, moving left to right "easy" to "intense." Be ready for these opportunities:
  - a. to *bless* in a practical ways that come up, such as help finding a ride
  - b. to *invite* (to things you've listed on your post-its or to more one-to-one talking)
  - c. to *pray* for a need, such as healing
  - d. to *guide*, in case the participant would like to pray to respond to Jesus
3. Plan out your proxe logistics, such as who and when your are setting up and tearing down, how you will collect contact information, etc.. If you are dividing up roles during the proxe (some people to pray, some to gather, some to guide participants through the proxe), plan that out now, too.

## Script

### Introduction

**Ask:** *What do you think? Would Jesus eat frybread? or Would you like to vote about Jesus and frybread?*

**Say:** *We're with Native InterVarsity/Cru Nations and we're talking with people about how something like frybread can be spiritually important. Would you like to participate?*

### Panel 1

**Say:** *Take a sticker and vote.*

**Ask:** *Why did you pick that? and Who makes the best frybread in your family? (or if negative) Do you think he could be won over?*

**Share:** *(something like) In my family...*

### Panels 2 & 3

**Say:** *Here is a story that helps answer the question. It's from the Bible. In Jesus' tribe, people used names more like Native people do. Jesus' actual name means 'Creator Sets Free.'"*

**Read** the story

**Ask:** *What would it be like for you to be at this party? or Can you relate to a situation of public shaming?*

**Ask:** *What are your thoughts or reactions about how Jesus handles the situation?*

## Panel 4

**Say:** *Jesus is intentional about his actions towards others because as his name suggests, he came to free us. This last panel explains the reason Jesus came and what he accomplished.*

**Ask:** *Would you like to hear more about Creator's Path?*

### Circle One: The Creation

Creator formed a beautiful and harmonious world and creation. All people were made in His image and created for good. He made us with purpose, dignity, and beauty. We were designed to live in peace and harmony with ourselves and one another, with Creation and with Creator.

### Circle Two: Bad Hearts & Broken Ways

But this is not the world we are living in today. Creation is broken, and death and discord bind people. Like in the story of He Brings Together, there are things like oppression, shame, racism, and exclusion. The bad hearts and broken ways of people grieve Creator's heart.

Our world is clearly divided and hurting, and in need of real hope. And the brokenness is not just out there, it's also within us. The broken things done to us by people with bad hearts often leave scars. Our hearts become scarred, and we become misguided as we too follow broken ways. Accuser, the evil spirit enemy of Creator, works to twist the hearts of all peoples. All of us need new hearts and new ways.

### Circle Three: The Chosen One and His Ceremony of Redemption

Jesus came to save us from our bad hearts and broken ways and to free us from the road of death. That's what Jesus' name means: Creator Sets Free. Maker of All Things sent Creator Sets Free to sacrifice himself in this Cross Ceremony and to be raised from death, redeeming us all.

By performing this ceremony he took back the power from the evil Accuser. He broke the bonds the Evil One had put on us and he opened the way for us to walk the good road. To receive this gift we must simply trust in the Creator's Son and follow him.

This is the Son of the Creator who came to our land of tears, war and brokenness to save us and give us a way out. He came to heal our bodies and our hearts and to make us fully alive because he loves us so much and wishes to see no one suffer death and separation. And he calls us to strive to do his will in his Sacred Family (the Church).

This good news, this invitation to walk on the Jesus Way, is for all peoples and languages and cultures. The Jesus Way does not replace cultures – it makes cultures more true to themselves.

### Circle Four: Inviting Others into the Story of Creator Sets Free

Experiencing this healing story together, we await Creator Sets Free's return as we participate in telling this Good Story of Healing and inviting others to join us on the road that leads to life.

This is the Jesus Way. By giving our lives to Jesus, we get to follow Him on the Jesus Way and receive restoration from Him. We are also sent and empowered to be a source of healing for others: our friends, family, communities, and world.

Ask:

*How about you? Do you think Jesus has some medicine to help you on Creator’s Path?*

(or, more leading)

*If you were to meet Jesus at a party, is there something you might want to receive from him or something you want to say to him?*

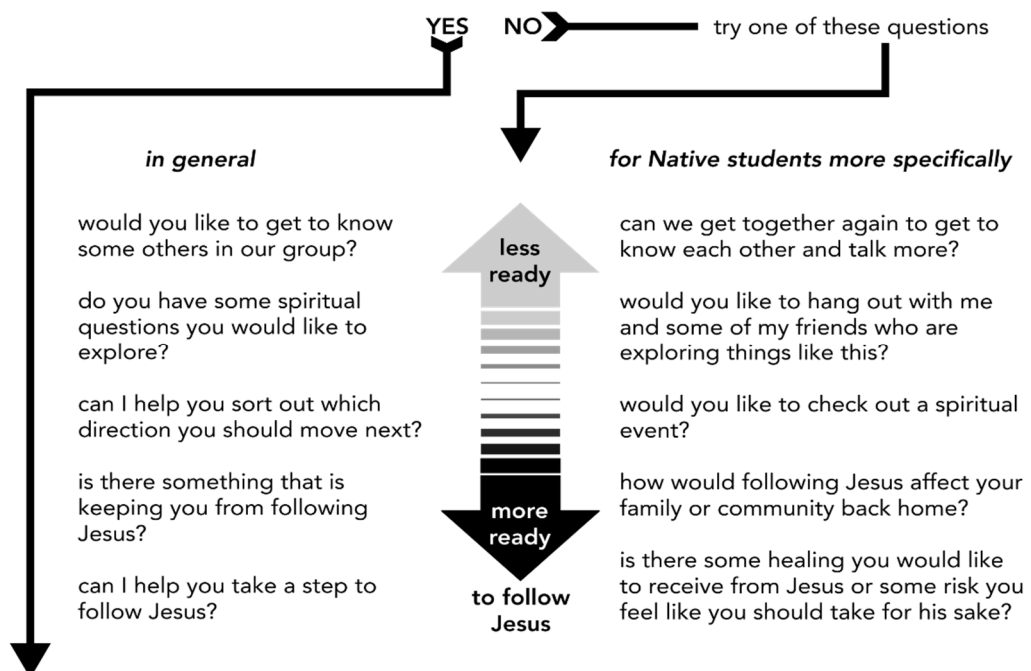
then possibly

**Why?**

Discern can you think of a good next step?

Pick a next step based on the conversation.

- *bless* in a practical way that has come up, such as help finding a ride



- *invite* (to things you’ve listed on your post-its or to more one-to-one talking)
- *pray* for a need, such as healing
- *guide*, in case the participant would like to pray to respond to Jesus

Say: Would you fill out a contact card for us? You could just check “don’t want to be contacted” if you aren’t interested.

Say: *Thank you for participating in our display!*