



CultureBound
Information & Overview
Church Course

Our Church Course is a 12-week curriculum crafted for church small groups to build bridges across cultures and welcome the nations into their communities. This self-directed training empowers your group to shape the learning experience while providing essential guidance for navigating cross-cultural interactions within and around your church. Discover how to identify cultural patterns, enhancing your effectiveness in ministry and engagement with local cultures.

Curriculum Content

Lesson Videos: Our trainers dive deep into topics encompassing knowledge, attitude, and skills in each lesson video (typical length 20 minutes). These cover the Culture Tree, Languages of Culture, communication, relationships, intercultural attitudes, and more.

Leader's Guide & Student Notebook: Access the leader's guide and student notebook for dynamic group discussions. Download these valuable resources for your use.

Optional Live Session: Take advantage of a complimentary 1-hour session with our trainers, available before, during, or after your group completes the training. Use this opportunity to address any questions, clarify challenging topics, or explore how to apply your newfound knowledge within your church communities and ministries.

Format

Each lesson follows the learning cycle of Watch, Think, Guess, and Act.

WATCH	THINK	GUESS	ACT
Watch lesson videos instructed by our trainer	Discuss the content with your group	Think and share how you can apply the lessons	Pray for your church and ministry

Content

Lesson 1	What is Culture	Knowledge (what)
Lesson 2	Relational Culture Learning	Attitude (why)



Lesson 3	Culture Tree I	Knowledge (what)
Lesson 4	Core & Flex	Attitude (why)
Lesson 5	Culture Tree II	Knowledge (what)
Lesson 6	Growth vs. Fixed Mindset	Attitude (why)
Lesson 7	Culture Tree III	Knowledge (what)
Lesson 8	God's Culture	Attitude (why)
Lesson 9	Languages of Culture I	Skills (how)
Lesson 10	Languages of Culture II	Skills (how)
Lesson 11	Learning Cycle	Skills (how)
Lesson 12	Communication	Skills (how)

Explore our sample lessons below.

LESSON 1

What is culture?



INTRODUCTION

Everything God created was good because God is good. This includes the beginning of humanity when God created Adam (Genesis 1:26-27). It was God's good intent to pattern human culture after the divine culture of the Trinity. God created us for his glory and our good. Our culture is meant to reflect his beauty and love through our relationships with each other.

To learn how we can communicate and build relationships with people of different cultures, we first need to understand culture. There are many good definitions of culture proposed by anthropologists. Although their definitions may vary slightly, they all boil down to the same basic idea. Culture is shared beliefs, thoughts, interactions, and patterns of behavior related to any group of people. Culture is lifestyle and habits.

KEY TERMS

Culture

The patterns of thought, behavior, feeling, products, and interaction that are considered normal and appropriate within a specific group of people

Cultural Imbalance

The context in which a group of people from more than one culture lack a shared sense of identity or community

Deliberate Learning

Intentionally learning the life patterns that another group of people knows intuitively

BIG QUESTION

What is culture?

KEY VERSE

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

WATCH

What is culture?

Culture is the patterns of living that are accepted as normal and appropriate within a group of people.

The Scope of Culture

Culture ranges in scope. Do the patterns you see apply to a small group, a country, or the whole world?

- **Universal Culture:**

- **Ethnic or National Culture:**

- **Subcultures:**

- **Personal Culture:**



The Culture of Your Church Community

When intercultural interaction in the church is culturally imbalanced, people may feel:

-
-
-
-
-
-

When the church community is culturally balanced people should feel:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Deliberate Learning

1. Learning their normal patterns

- Learn by _____
- Learn by _____
- Learn by _____
- Learn by _____
- Learn by _____

2. Creatively engaging with them

- Communicate with _____
- Communicate with _____
- Communicate with _____
- Communicate with _____
- Communicate with _____

3. Considering your attitudes and theirs

- Attitudes about _____
- Attitudes about _____
- Attitudes about _____
- Attitudes about _____



GUESS

This session is designed to help you apply the course content into your own ministry context. This can be customized based on the needs and structure of your ministry.

- **Below is “Putting it into Practice” from the introductory content in this guide.**

Ask God to direct your learning group to an individual or individuals from a different cultural background that you can get to know better. Consider carefully. These should be people with whom you might build a long-term relationship. You will learn from them, but don't think of them as simply objects of learning. Pray and ask God to direct you to the people that he wants you to interact with and know better.

Some possibilities could include:

- An immigrant community near you
 - A like-minded church with people primarily from another culture
 - A church or group of people in another place or country whom you visit on a regular basis (perhaps visiting as part of your church ministry or profession)
 - An individual you know from one of the groups mentioned above
 - An individual from any other cultural background
 - An individual from a different generation or walk of life than you
- Now that you have thought about your church culture, think about those in and around your church with whom you would like to interact. Talk about this as a group and make a list of possible people/groups. On an individual level, are there people who you interact with or wish to interact with that come from a different culture? Write down who those people are.

ACT

Reflection and Prayer

- Share a takeaway from this lesson.
- Pray for yourselves:
 - that God will open your understanding of others
 - that he will direct you to those with whom he wants you to build relationships
- Pray for others:
 - those in and outside of the church who he will direct you to