

Engaging with different cultures

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’”
Luke 2:10 (NIV)

This session guide outlines suggested elements you might use to help answer the key question below and achieve the aim of the training session. The time allocations can be adjusted according to the amount of time you have.

Key question: How can I share the gospel with people from different cultures?

Aim: To show how we can be humble, patient and courageous Gospel Translators so that people of different cultures can understand and respond to the good news of Jesus.

Pre-video ice breaker / discussion starter (3 min)

Before you became a Christian, what wrong perceptions about Jesus did you have?

We would recommend people split into pairs or triplets to discuss this and further questions. If you are doing more than one session over a period of time, it may be helpful for people to stick to the same pairs/groups so that they can build trust and support one another consistently.

We'd also recommend you either print the list of questions or display them on a screen if meeting in person. Put them into the chat feature before you head into breakout rooms if you're meeting online.

Play video by Felix Aremo (approx. 15 min)

Download here: apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7-vid-download

Practical exercises and discussion questions (15 min)

Below is a list of questions to consider using. You will not have time for all of them, so select those that you think will be most helpful for people to internalise and apply what they've just heard. Maybe you can think of others.

1. Read Acts 17:16-34 and compare it with: Acts 13:13-52 and Acts 14:8-20. Who is Paul speaking to? What do you notice about the way Paul attempts to communicate the gospel?
2. How would the characteristics of humility, patience and courage help us in communicating the gospel to people of other cultures and faiths? *It's good to be mindful that even though someone*

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may identify themselves as part of a certain culture or faith, we shouldn't assume that they believe in all of the generally known aspects of it.

3. "The only barrier should be the gospel itself, not misunderstandings or other cultural barriers." How does this statement help us as we journey with people toward faith in Jesus?
4. Think of someone you know who is of a different culture from you. Come up with some questions you might like to carefully ask them to help you listen and understand their background and beliefs more.

Prayer time (12 min)

We would recommend leaving some time for people to pray in their pairs or groups. You may like to ask them to reflect and pray about what has encouraged or challenged them from this session. They may like to include these points:

- Praise God for the gospel and those who patiently helped you to understand and believe.
- Confess and repent of when you may have ruled out sharing the gospel with someone because they are from a different culture. Say sorry for when you may not have been humble, patient and courageous while trying to explain the gospel.
- Ask God to be at work in the lives of those of different cultures that you know. Pray for His help and guidance to get to know them better and help them hear the truth about Jesus Christ.

Further Bible Reflection (10 min)

This is an additional Bible reflection to go deeper into the main theme. You may choose to use it as part of the training session. Alternatively, you could hand it out on a printout / email it around for reflection during the week, along with the "take home" questions.

Read Revelation 7:9-12

Context: In the Revelation to John, we are given a remarkable insight into the spiritual warfare that rages as the church of Jesus Christ, the all-conquering and victorious Lamb, seeks to live for his glory in the time between His first and second coming.

Commentary: In these verses we are given a stunning picture of an innumerable gathering of people from every tribe, tongue and nation, redeemed for the honour and glory of the Lamb, standing before the throne of God.

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Comment: How does this vision of what will be in the future, inspire you to take time to listen, to understand and to seek to share your faith across cultures that you have perhaps previously neglected?

Take home

You may like to print out / email around this section so that people can re-watch the video and reflect further.

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7-view

Think of someone you know who is of a different culture from you. Take time to find out: What is their outlook on life? What is important to them? Who are their heroes? How do they view Christianity? [Take time with this.]

Given this context, how might you communicate the gospel in a way which resonates with them? [Discuss with other believers before attempting to speak with them]

Take some time to pray for an opportunity to speak with them about Jesus. Maybe even invite them to do this by saying: “I realise I haven’t ever properly told you what I believe as a Christian. Would you be up for getting together some time to discuss?”

The training video is available for anyone to watch at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7-view

More stories from everyday believers can be viewed and downloaded at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7