

## Partnering to Redeem the Culture

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

- A. I will learn how the Bible values, confronts, and transforms culture.
- B. I will prayerfully examine the culture of those I am discipling and examine my culture in light of Bible principles to help us grow more like Jesus.

### TEAM CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (20 Minutes)

1. Tell us about your experience helping your contacts grow as disciples of Jesus.
2. What other experiences have you had in following up on your international contacts. (Keep updating and referring to your *Contact Log* and/or *Disciple Log*).
3. What did you learn from study #9 in *My Favorite Missionary* and video clips?
4. What needs or challenges are you facing that we can pray for?
5. Pray together, especially for each other and the friends from other cultures whom you have met.

### PRESENTATION (14:50 Minutes)

Watch: *Partnering to Redeem the Culture*. Take notes using the following outline:

1. By observing creation, what can we see (Romans 1:19-20)?
2. By observing humans, what can we know (Romans 2:14-16)?
3. “We can trace the line of the world’s (a)\_\_\_\_\_ as far back as human records extend; but the (b)\_\_\_\_\_ was before them. As the moon and the stars of our solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as

their teaching is (c)\_\_\_\_\_, do the world's great thinkers  
 (d)\_\_\_\_\_ the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gleam of  
 thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world" (*Education* 13).

4. Four essential questions for redeeming a culture:

- i. What excellent (a)\_\_\_\_\_ do you see in this culture that match  
 biblical values and morals?
- ii. What aspects of this culture do you think are (b)\_\_\_\_\_,  
 conflicting with Bible principles, or connected with (c)\_\_\_\_\_  
 (d)\_\_\_\_\_?
- iii. What aspects of this culture do you think take away from the glory of  
 God as (e)\_\_\_\_\_, (f)\_\_\_\_\_,  
 (g)\_\_\_\_\_?
- iv. What types of things could you do to (h)\_\_\_\_\_ some of  
 those  
 wrong cultural values and practices with something  
 (i)\_\_\_\_\_?

**DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION (40 Minutes)**

1. How do you feel after watching *Partnering to Redeem the Culture* and what did you learn?
2. Read Romans 12:1-2. What should we do in order to avoid conforming to the sinful aspects of other cultures?

3. What good qualities have you observed in the cultures of the people of other ethnicities that you have gotten acquainted with so far?
4. What negative qualities and sinful practices have you noticed in the cultures of your international friends?
5. What about your own cultures? What good qualities and negative or sinful qualities and practices do you see?
6. Use the four essential questions for redeeming a culture to discuss what you should do in the following scenarios. Read and discuss one scenario at a time, covering all three if there is sufficient time.
  - A) Suppose an international friend of yours, who has come to faith in Jesus, invites you to join him and his Hindu friends to celebrate Diwali, a festival of lights celebration that originates in India. They plan to attend the Broadway style rendition of the Ramayana, the major Indian epic story of good and evil. "Please come with me," your friend says, "This is as important to us as Christmas is to you!" Afterwards they plan to go shopping and eat with family in the Little India district.

You've seen people celebrating Diwali on TV at Disneyland and other places. It looks so colorful and fun. "Tell me more what it means," you ask. Your friend says, "It is the celebration of good triumphing over evil with the clay lamps showing how our inner light triumphs over darkness." He also mentions it is an excellent time to receive blessings from Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity.
  - B) Suppose the sister of your newly baptized friend who migrated from Laos has suddenly died. You want to comfort him and his family. He texts that they are at the Buddhist temple in downtown Vancouver and to please come and join them. You have no idea what to expect so you call a church member who used to be Buddhist. "What should I do and what should I not do?" you ask. He says, "You'll have to figure that out, but expect that they will be offering incense and praying for the girl so that her ghost won't stay around and she can have a better future life."

You call your Laotian friend and ask him if there is anything you should bring. “Well,” he says, “In our culture people always bring rice or cash to feed everyone and to help pay for the monks to do the ceremony. “I don’t know what to do,” he adds. “My parents want me to shave my head and become a monk for a few days to make merit to help my sister. Can Christians do that to show their love?”

- C) Suppose you are a third-generation Karen Seventh-day Adventist who has just moved to Australia as a refugee. You attend the local church and hardly understand anything because you are just learning English. At this church everything seems so different. The music is super modern and people wear jeans and tee-shirts and call each other by their first names, even to the pastor. None of it seems respectful.

After church one of the young people invites you to go out to eat and then to a movie. You’ve never done that on Sabbath and ask if they have a potluck or an Adventist Youth meeting that evening. Your friend says, “No, but we are going to the club tonight. Can you come?” When you look shocked, he laughs and says, “Hey, you are in Australia now. You have your culture back home and we have our culture here. Our culture is to have fun. Hey, don’t worry, God made us to have fun and besides, He’s super forgiving.”

7. Read Romans 12:1-2. What should we do in order to avoid conforming to the sinful aspects of our cultures?

### **ASSIGNMENTS (5 Minutes)**

1. What have you learned today and how will you use it this week?
2. What do you plan to do to follow up on any of the friendships you have developed?
3. Prayerfully and on your own, read the *Field Activity-Search Me and My Culture*.
4. Talk with one of your friends about his or her culture and yours. Answer together the questions in *Field Report #10* (and complete the rest of the form). Be prepared to share what you learned and experienced with your team.

5. Mobilize and Multiply. Share with a friend or family member what you learned about valuing, confronting, and transforming culture. Encourage him or her to prayerfully go through the *Field Activity-Search Me and My Culture*.
6. Watch the following video clip (check online for updates):
  - Dr. Conrad Vine describes the deep worldview change that must happen for each new believer.
7. Complete study #10 in *My Favorite Missionary* and focus your prayers on those who are “Buddhist” in *Praying for the World Next Door*.

### **TEAM PRAYER (10 Minutes)**

Pray together for God’s word and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform your culture and the cultures of your friends; for God’s people to grow to reflect Him more and more; for the unreached people groups to have their first opportunity to know the living God.

Promises to Claim:

- *To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me (Acts 26:18).*
- *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:3-4).*
- *“Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Well-spring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God” (Gospel Workers 255).*