



home church

guide: Aim for meeting three times a month, at least. Ask who is missing and follow up!

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in, group celebrations: birthdays, life-events
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: “Ice-breaker” question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

for reflection & discussion:

1. Does Canada have a culture? What does it mean to be Canadian? Are there counter-examples?
2. Pastor Chan shared this quote: “Culture is the acquired knowledge people use to interpret experience and generate behaviour”. Late NAB/Pietist theologian Stanley Grenz writes: “The word culture is derived from the Latin *cultivare* (“to till the soil”). This etymological connection led to the original meaning of culture, namely, “the care and tending of crops or animals,” especially as this activity is aimed at improving or perfecting its object. The idea of a specifically human culture was likely a metaphorical extension of this “tending” process to the human person, so that culture came to be connected with the “development” or “refinement” of the person, especially through teaching”.
3. How would you define culture? How many cultures are you part of?
4. Is the church a culture? Does Pilgrim have a culture? What are the unique markers of its culture?
5. 1 Corinthians 8 and 10, is wrestling with being a Christian in a culture(cultures) not influenced directly yet by the church and coming out of other religious cultures. What wrestling do you see here?
6. How does it apply to our living as Jesus followers who are also from various families/peoples, nations, and a part of Canada (those present are part of Canadian culture and therefore also shape it)?
7. How does sharing Jesus with others become a challenge when we think our own culture might be not simply different, but better? (e.g. how do we share without repeating past mistakes around colonization of all kinds)?
8. What else do you think about this topic?
9. Why might this be an important subject to learn more about in a many-cultures city and church?

JANUARY 22, 2023

WHAT'S TO EAT?

FAITH & CULTURE 2

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13; 10:23-11:1 WITH SHEL BOESE

It's impossible not to be located in a culture (or several)—this being both good and messy. When we say “yes” to Jesus, we bring our culture(s) with us to him. How do we know what to honour from our culture(s), what to modify with Jesus' teaching, and what to turn away from? The Early church wrestled with this and it blew up around food. Food becomes a teaching tool for all things we bring from our cultures. Join us as we celebrate and wrestle with these important experiences.

THE QUESTION: How do we assess practices from our families of origin, our cultures we are born into in the light of Jesus?

IMPORTANT CLUES TO THE ANSWER(S)

1. The Incarnation informs this

- Early church (See the New Testament!) re-reads Judaism through Jesus as Messiah. Coming up with new understandings that Jews who do not see Jesus as Messiah and really conservative and liberal Biblical scholars would not.

God's and flesh men involved both a crossing of boundaries and an allowance of boundaries to be crossed. Irenaeus points out that the way Jesus redeems our history is by being a part of every person's history at every stage of their lives, from birth to infancy to adulthood to death. This is what irony is called "recapitulation," or a retelling of history through the act of incarnation, or in fleshman. Jesus' story becomes the story of all humanity. His story is ours.
-Phuc Luu, Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded

2. Paul's Mission to expand the church informs this.

- Acts 17

- *2 Sm. 5.11; 1 Kgs. 5.15-32, 7.13-14

- Idol meat. 1Cor. 10.25-26; Acts 15.28

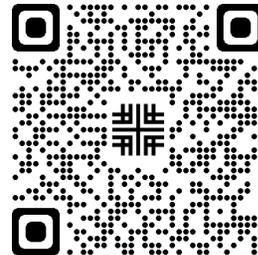
3. Discerning Practices for you/me

- When to reject:

When to embrace: when it can be re-envisioned through Jesus or simply as a common grace gift.

Answers for Pilgrim?

- Things shift based on who we are called to be in Christ as a local church.



connect

- need prayer?
- ask questions
- get information
- make comments
- meet with pastor Shel or Josh
- sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- join a Home Church