



Sometimes we sing “this world is not my home.” Other times we sing “This is my Father’s world.” Which is it? The answer, of course, is “yes.” This is an important truth when discussing how to engage culture. And it helps us adopt the role of “witness.”

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker questions:

(1) How would you define “culture”?

(2) Share a time you engaged with the culture in a way that you are proud of. (Or, share a way others engaged with you that you wish to model/copy).

WHAT IS CULTURE? Which song better captures the world we live in: “This world is not my home” or “this is my Father’s world”? Discuss your reasons with the group. **Follow up:** can you name an example (or a hot button issue) where Christians may come to different conclusions on when it comes to engaging culture?

OPTION #1: WELCOME. Read Gen 1:31. Psalm 19:1; Matt 11:19; Rom 13:1-7; Rev 21:23-26. How can a Christian look at culture and say “this is good”? How do these passages help us appreciate Christians who have a “welcome” attitude toward culture? **Follow up:** Read 1 Cor 5:1. Name some things the church has been wrong about, or too slow on, and had to learn from the culture around us? **Follow up:** What are some weaknesses of the “welcome” model?

OPTION #2: WITHDRAW. Read Matt 12:13; 14:13; John 15:19; 18:36; 2 Cor 6:17; 1 John 2:15-16. How can a Christian look at culture and say “this is bad”? How do these passages help us appreciate Christians who have a “withdraw” attitude toward culture? **Follow up:** What are some admirable examples in history? **Follow up:** What are some weaknesses with this?

OPTION #3: WIN. Read Luke 4:18-19; Jn 12:19; 2 Cor 10:4. How can a Christian look at culture and say “this can be conquered”? How do these passages help us appreciate Christians who have a “win” attitude toward culture? **Follow up:** What are some admirable examples in history? **Follow up:** What are some weaknesses with this model?

OPTION #4: WITNESS. Read Matt 5:13-16; 10:42; 13:33; 2 Cor 2:14-17; Rev 2:13. How does the imagery of “salt,” “light,” “leaven,” and “sweet aroma” suggest the power of a witness attitude toward culture? What does it look like to bear witness to the gospel in a way that neither welcomes evil, nor withdraws from the fight, nor seeks to win and dominate the other through power or manipulation? Imaginatively share real-world examples. How is witness a “third way” in a discussion of culture wars?

AWARENESS, COURAGE, & HUMILITY. There may be times when a Christian is called to any of these options. Pray for discernment, and then discuss how to have a “witness” mindset even when engaged in one of the first three options. How do awareness, courage, and humility fit?