**Rural Ministry As A Cross Cultural Encounter**

Presenter: Pastor Ryan Schnee, Village Missions

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1. How would you define or identify your home culture?
2. List some of your cross cultural experiences.

A major component of cross cultural encounters is our emotional reactions. Pick one of the cross cultural experiences you've had and reflect on some these types of experiences, what happened, and what you were feeling.

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| **Event/ Experience** | **What happened?** | **I was feeling....** |
| Initial plans and projections. |  |  |
| The journey or entry into your new culture. |  |  |
| First clues that it wouldn't be as easy as you thought. |  |  |
| Navigating your new environment. |  |  |
| What questions were people asking you? |  |  |
| **Event/ Experience** | **What happened?** | **I was feeling....** |
| I had difficulty understanding what was acceptable/ expected. |  |  |
| I broke an unwritten law and found myself in conflict. |  |  |
| I felt like I needed to watch everyone and everyone was watching me. |  |  |
| I felt abandoned by the people that I thought were there to help me. |  |  |
| I found some rotten things about my new culture. |  |  |
| I wasn't sure that I could trust the people that I needed to trust the most. |  |  |

1. How do we deal with challenging emotions that come with cross cultural situations?

***Luke 10:11-12***

*‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.’*

1. Some of the great things about living in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are: (slide 41)
2. I have safe people to talk to and safe places to escape to. Yes No
3. Can I accept that some things are just "different" and I am able to overlook minor irritations? (‘Dealing with Nonsense’)
4. Word travels fast in small community. I am aware that my opinions of the community and the people I meet will be common knowledge if I express them. (‘Dealing with People’)
   1. Have some patience and reserve making \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. Say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things about people, or try not to say anything.
   3. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. I take time to learn how much weight to give the things I experience and whether or not my experiences represent an individual or the community as a whole.

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1. Value local knowledge and learn where to find it.
   1. Knowledgeable people
   2. Communication systems
   3. Special sources of local information like history books and municipal maps.
2. In your last move, did you move up or down cultural context scale?
3. Listening is a key skill in learning about your community, practice it often. In a place where things happen slowly, quick moves are a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thing.
4. Practical tips for entering a low context culture:

* Find someone else who is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entry into the culture to help you.
* Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and forgiving.
* Have a sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Find the local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ book that lists the town and family histories.

1. Mark down the "pivotal" events that life in your community revolves around.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Spring** | **Summer** | **Fall** | **Winter** |
|  |  |  |  |

***Philippians 2:6-11***

*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being found in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

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