Listening Hearts 4

Session 6: Understanding Cultural Change

Reminders

- Listen well
- Share discussion time
- Be kind and courteous
- Respect others' boundaries
- Limit distractions
- Maintain confidentiality

Silence Practice

“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

Romans 12:2 (MSG)

Learning to Receive Promises from God's Word

- Take turns reading the verse you chose about mission.
- Considering your verse:
  - How would you like God to use you?
  - Is there a promise in this verse for you?
- Pray for each other that God will affirm these promises in your lives.

Missional Focus: Understanding Postmodernism

There has been a massive cultural shift in recent generations as we move from modernism toward postmodernism. Here are some examples of what that might look like:

- Modernism believes that reason will lead to universal truths all cultures will embrace while postmodernism believes there are no truths that humans can fully comprehend and hold as universal.
- For moderns, knowledge is most valued and science and rationality are the best ways of determining truth. For postmoderns, experience is most valued and multiple perspectives give a fuller picture of the truth.
- Moderns strive for order and control; postmoderns strive for relationship and connectedness through consensus building.

SHARING PROCEDURE

- Read the question aloud.
- Let one person answer while the others listen without comment.
- The whole group pauses. Take a few deep breaths. Let what that person said sink in.
- Practice reflective listening by reflecting back what you heard the person say and allowing them to respond.
- Invite the next person to answer.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to answer the question while the others listen, pausing briefly after each one.
- Repeat these steps for the next question.

THE QUESTIONS

- As a group, try to think of other examples of the differences between modernism and postmodernism.
- How do these differences show up in your church, home, or community?
- How does your particular culture affect your worldview and the changes you see happening in your culture? What are some positives and negatives about the changes you see?
- Which group do you feel you belong to? Where might you need to grow in order to connect well with those who feel they belong to the other group?
- How does the verse that you chose about mission relate to how you respond to today's cultural changes?

Pray Together

- Focus on Romans 12:2 (MSG) as you pray together.

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Mission Assignment

- What is hospitality? Where is it currently present in your life?
- Read Hebrews 13:2. This verse uses the word “stranger” to emphasize that hospitality extends beyond those we are already familiar with. Spend some time quitely reflecting on the passage.
    - How does God show hospitality?
    - What is God inviting you to? What is your response?
    - How does your hospitality become missional?