

Session3, Part 1 — “The Intercultural Journey”



Watch this episode:



THINK

What do Robert and Tim mean when they say, “Everyone is on a life journey but not everyone is on an Intercultural Journey.”

“Experience teaches us nothing, one learns only from experience one reflects upon and articulates” Branson Pg.42



REFLECT

Robert suggested that “the gospel is more than the sharing of information. It is an invitation to relationship. Therefore, we need to develop the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately based on one’s self-awareness, knowledge, skill, and attitude. In what ways are you and your church being intentionally in developing intercultural competence?”



DISCUSS

Why did Robert describe the Intercultural Development Inventory as a Global Positional System (GPS). How does it help us in understanding our I.C. Journey?

Listen to Tim as he describes the five stages of moving from a mono-cultural to an intercultural mindset. Which stage do you think you might be in on your I.C. Journey?

Denial: Does not see any cultural differences

Polarization: Tends to be critical of other cultures

Minimization: Tends to focus on commonalities rather than differences.

Acceptance: Recognizes and appreciates cultural differences of others.

Adaptation: Ability to shift one’s behaviour to adapt to different cultural contexts.



ACT

In this course we would like to challenge you to step outside of your personal cultural safety zone. People in Denial and Polarization need to begin slowly. Perhaps going to a different ethnic restaurant or attending a cultural festival.



Session3, Part 2 — “Ongoing Intercultural Development”



Watch this episode:



THINK

Denial: Can you give an example in your workplace or church where activities were planned without paying any attention to cultural differences? This might be a good time to reflect a bit more on the parable of the Monkey and the Fish.



REFLECT

Polarization: This is the us v them mentality where a person might be on the defensive towards cultural differences. Do you think polarization might be happening with the intergenerational clash between 1st, 1.5, 2nd & 3rd in some of our ethnic specific churches i.e., Chinese, Korean etc.

Minimization: Here people respect other cultures but may focus on the commonalities without going deeper into the hidden aspects of culture. Some have said that multiculturalism in Canada is at this stage. Would you agree or disagree? Minimization seeks unity through uniformity (Babel) rather than unity celebrating diversity. (Pentecost) .



DISCUSS

Acceptance: Does this leader appear to be accepting diversity? How do we see this attitude reflected in some of our places of work or our church?



"We need to focus on diversity. Your goal is to hire people who all look different, but think just like me."

Listen to Roberts discussion on “cultural relativity” what is your response to this?



ACT

Adaptation: Robert shared his challenge of adapting his “direct Irish communication style” while serving in a more indirect Filipino culture.

Can you share an adaptation challenge you experienced in your ministry? What helped you resolve the situation? How were you able to adapt your behaviour to not offend those you were serving with?

Session 3, Part 3&4 — “Journey through IDI — Biblical Leaders”



Watch BOTH this episode & this episode:



THINK

Session 3, Pt 3 goes into greater detail on how to interpret the IDI. We would encourage you to take the IDI assessment (additional fee).



REFLECT

In Session 4, Part 4 Tim and Robert discuss examples of biblical leaders on their intercultural journey. Take a few minutes and reflect on how Abraham and Ruth were open to grow and develop in their Intercultural journey.

Pause and reflect: How are you and your church being intentional in developing intercultural competence? What signs do you see that people are becoming more open and accepting of people from different cultures?



DISCUSS

Not all biblical characters developed in their IC Journey. Jonah’s refusal to go to Nineveh was an outright denial that these people were worthy of being welcomed into the divine embrace. Jonah demonstrated a posture of “polarization” and a “us v them mentality.

Sadly, he never opened his heart to experience God’s compassion to bless the nations.

Contrast Jonah to Peter who allowed the Holy Spirit to transform his heart to embrace Cornelius the centurion (Acts 10) What is the lesson for us from the lives of Jonah & Peter?



ACT

Robert and Tim conclude this session reminding us of Philip and his willingness to embrace difference. How can you apply those lessons to you and your church?

Reflect on your I.C. Journey. Is there a gap between your Perceived and Developmental orientation. What practical steps can you take to narrow that gap and become like the biblical leaders we considered in this session.

In what ways might this developmental model be applied to your church. Reflect on what lessons we can learn from the council in Jerusalem (Acts 15). Remember it takes time & effort to develop IC Competency. Find a friend from a different culture and begin applying what you have learned in this course.

