



### Discussion Starter

1. Do you think it's important for the church to have a pulse on culture? Explain why or why not?
2. Do you feel like you're in touch with what's happening in the world locally, nationally, and globally? How about "popular culture"? Explain.

### Relevance to Culture Is Essential

1. Share something that resonated with you during the *Relevance to Culture Is Essential* message.
2. During the message, Pastor Jumaine described three potential responses to culture. When it comes to engaging the world as a Christ follower, where do you tend to fall on the spectrum? Explain.



#### Separate

*Distance oneself from the world and refrain from engaging culture*



#### Contextualize

*Embrace the tools, language, and style of the culture while swimming upstream*



#### Conform

*Embrace and follow culture*



### **Biblical Connection**

1. Read John 1:1-3, 14 and Philippians 2:5-11? Describe how God the Son engaged the world. What sacrifices and adjustments did Jesus make to redeem mankind?
2. Last week, we looked at Paul's conversation with some Athenians (see Acts 17:16-34). It's evident that Paul took time to observe what was happening in their culture, and he was familiar with prevalent philosophies. How did Paul leverage his knowledge of culture to share the gospel?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What stands out to you in this passage? Are there any points of tension for you? Elaborate.
4. Read John 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Considering these passages and the others discussed in this lesson, what was Christ's reason for entering the human experience and engaging culture? What was Paul's motivation for making intentional adjustments and engaging culture?
5. When it comes to how you engage culture, what determines your approach? Fear? Acceptance? A desire to see people turn to Christ? Explain.
6. How may The Bridge better accomplish its mission if you wholeheartedly embrace the core value *Relevance to Culture Is Essential*? Elaborate.

### **Moving Forward**

Identify 1-2 things you can do to intentionally engage culture? Additionally, share specific ways you can assist The Bridge's ongoing efforts to impact the culture for Christ. Specify when you will begin putting these actions into practice. Share your responses with the group and/or your accountability partner.



## **Assignment**

- Attend The Bridge's upcoming Sunday worship experience. If you're unable to attend, listen to the sermon online before your next group gatherings. Note anything that resonates with you in preparation for the Week 9 discussion.