



1. DEFINING MULTICULTURALISM



What does 'Multiculturalism' mean?

Is Sociological definition different to theological definition?

What was Abram's Cross-cultural journey like?

Introduction (5 min)

Sharing Time (10 min)

- Name (and its story behind it)
- Country of Origin (and two things you are proud of your country of origin)

Discussion with Video Clip

"60 minutes-June 2007" (30 min)

Quotations from the Video

"'Multiculturalism', the official government policy anyway, has been a dead-set roll-go disaster, in my humble opinion"

"It's done nothing to bring our ethnic groups together, the opposite in fact, and you agreed."

"Nowhere in your 'Aussie Rules' story was there any mention of aboriginal Australians. No wonder they're in despair. They're strangers in their own country."

Framework for Group Discussion

1. Background
 2. Cultural Groups in the story
 3. Conflicts and Relationships
 4. Cross-Cultural implication for us
- I. Background: defining multiculturalism in Australia → Read the following articles
Multiculturalism is an ideology advocating that society should consist of, or at least allow and include, distinct cultural and religious groups, with equal status. The term "multiculturalism" or multicultural is also used to describe demographic conditions of cultural and ethnic diversity where it occurs, whether or not it is officially supported by state policy.
- Multiculturalism began as an official term in India in 1950 with the adoption of its new Constitution. In the English-speaking countries it started in Canada in 1971.
- The other country to have most fully adopted Canadian-style multiculturalism is Australia. While the White Australia Policy was quietly dismantled after World War II by various changes to immigration policy, the full political introduction of official policies of

multiculturalism was 1973. Following the initial moves of the Whitlam Labor government in 1973, further official national multicultural policies were implemented by Malcolm Fraser's Liberal Government in 1978. The Labor Government of Bob Hawke continued with these policies during the 1980s and early 1990s, and were further supported by Paul Keating up to his electoral defeat 1996.

The election of John Howard's Liberal-National Coalition government in 1996 was a major watershed for Australian multiculturalism. Howard had long been a critic of multiculturalism, expressing doubts in the late 1980s about levels of Asian immigration. Shortly after the new government took office, the new independent member Pauline Hanson made her maiden speech in which she was highly critical of multiculturalism, saying that a multicultural society could never be strong. Notably, despite many calls for Howard to censure Hanson, his response was to state that her speech indicated a new freedom of expression in Australia on such issues. (from Wikipedia)

...Being an intercultural Church means a church with "mutually respectful diversity and full and equitable participation of indigenous (first peoples), and second peoples (the Anglo Celtic majority and other cultural minorities) in the total life, mission and practices of the whole church". (Rev. Dev Anandarajan)

2. Cultural Groups in the story → Identify cultural groups in the story
3. Conflicts and Relationship → What are the conflicts we can anticipate?
4. Cross-Cultural implication for us → What do you think Australian image of multiculturalism? What are the differences between multicultural, Cross-cultural and Intercultural ministry? Is sociological definition different to theological one?



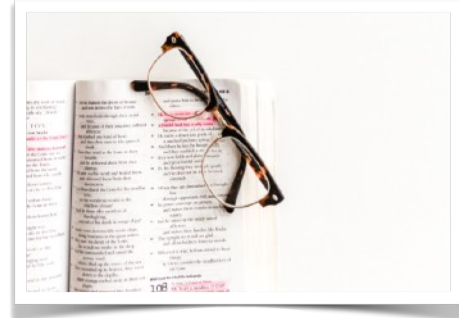
Discussion with Bible Story

Abram's Cross-cultural Journey(30 min)

Genesis 12:1-13

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. **2** "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." **4** So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. **5** He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. **9** Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. **10** Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. **11** As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. **12** When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will

let you live. **13** Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."(NIV)



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Framework for Group Discussion

1. Background → Read the Bible reading and check the map where Abram actually traveled.
2. Cultural Groups in the story → Identify different cultural groups and languages.
3. Conflicts and Relationships → What did Abram afraid of? Have you been in similar situation?
4. Cross-Cultural implication for us
 - What can we learn from Abram's journey?
 - What happened Abram crossed his own boundary?
 - Can you find similarity with your own journey?

Question Time (15 Min)

Next Study: Tue. 21st March, 1:30pm or 7:30pm
 Study 2. Joshua's cross-cultural challenge(Josh 1)

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