



## 2. CROSS-CULTURAL CHALLENGE



What happens when two cultures collide?

Can different cultures co-exist?

What's the difference between Joshua's and our context?

### Introduction (5 min)

-Review the previous study - Abraham's journey

### Sharing Time (10 min)

-My favourite movie and why?

-My favourite food and why?

### Discussion with Video Clip

"Boston Legal" (30 min)

#### Framework for Group Discussion

1. Background
2. Cultural Groups in the story
3. Conflicts and Relationships
4. Cross-Cultural implication for us

#### Background: Majority and Minority

--> What happen when the majority oppresses the minority?

--> Has America, being a Christian Country, been helpful for peace?

#### Cultural Groups

--> Identify cultural groups in the story.

--> Can different religion coexist?

#### Conflicts and Relationships

--> Think of the cases when Christian oppresses minority.

--> What are the similarities between religious conflict and marriage?

#### Cross-Cultural Approach

--> What are the requirements for the religious conflict to be settled?

--> Do you want to live in a mono-cultural or multi-cultural society?

#### Article- Story of Monash Congregation

Several years Monash congregation was a small, ageing Anglo-Australian congregation. Today the Monash faith community is a lively multicultural group with approximately 50% of its members of non-English speaking backgrounds. How did this change happen?

With the social profile of the neighbourhood rapidly changed and Monash University's strong

recruitment of international students, the elders of the congregation asked: "What is God calling us to do in our changing environment?" A comment from one of our international students pointed us in an important direction. "When I go to an Australian Church," he told us, "I am made to feel that the Anglo way of worshipping and expressing the Christian faith is the only way." It was a comment that reminded us that being a warm, welcoming, friendly church was in itself not enough. It was important to recognise and acknowledge that all cultures and different cultural expressions of the Christian faith were of equal value. (*Walking Together* Helen Richmond p.117)

#### Discussion with Bible Story

#### Joshua's Cross-cultural challenge(30 min)

Joshua 1:1-11

**1** After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, **2** "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. **3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. **5** No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. **9** I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**10** Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, **11** "Pass through the camp, and command the people: "Prepare your provisions; for in three days you are to cross over the Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God gives you to possess.'" (NRSV)

## Questions for Group Discussion

### Background: Who was Joshua?

- > Read the Bible reading
- > check the map where Israel people actually traveled

### Cultural Groups

- > Identify different cultural groups and languages
- > What were the differences between Israelites and Palestinians?

### Conflicts and Relationships

- > What kind of challenge did Joshua confront?
- > What did God assured to Joshua?

### Cross-Cultural Approach

- > What are the condition for peaceful coexistence?
- > Find the differences between Joshua's context and ours?



**Joshua:** Son of Nun, also called Hoshea (Nu 13:8,16). Fought Amalekites under Moses (Ex 17:9-14). Servant of Moses on Sinai (Ex 24:13; 32:17). Spied Canaan (Nu 13). With Caleb, allowed to enter land (Nu 14:6,30). Succeeded Moses (Dt 1:38; 31:1-18; 33:9).

Charged Israel to conquer Canaan (Jos 1). Crossed Jordan (Jos 3-4). Circumcised sons of wilderness wanderings (Jos 5). Conquered Jericho (Jos 6), Ai (Jos 7-8), five kings at Gibeon (Jos 10:1-28), southern Canaan (Jos 11-12). Defeated at Ai (Jos 7), Deceived by Gibeonites (Jos 9). Renewed covenant (Jos 8:30-35; 24:1-27). Divided land among tribes (Jos 13-22). Last words (Jos 23). Death (Jos 24:28-31)

-from NIV Concordance-

## Question Time (15 Min)

Next Study: Tue. 4th April, 1pm or 7:30pm  
Study 3. Pentecost: Cross-cultural Event (Acts 2)

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