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SEPTEMBER
22ND - 23RD

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
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Veterans Celebration **FREE** Concert & Lunch

Date: Saturday October 14th

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Awaken Las Vegas

7175 W. Oquendo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89113

Please RSVP using the QR code
or call 702-328-2639



Dennis Agajanian



REACHING THE CULTURE

GO!

CULTURE: READ IT DON'T JUST REACT TO IT
ACTS 17:16-34

WEEK 1

**People today want to know that Christianity works in your life
before they will believe that it's true.**

What is culture? It's an important question, and the answer may not be as apparent as you think. Some would say it's social sophistication, perhaps a refined palate. Maybe a Taylor Swift concert attended by seventy thousand Swifties. But the term is ubiquitous in society today. We talk of culture warriors, culture wars, and cancel culture. Sports teams are encouraged to have a winning culture, and then there's the underbelly of society with cultures of exploitation and worse. However, God created culture and humans to enjoy and continue its creation. Yet, in this fallen world, culture, and social constructs are marred by sin.

That being said, it's impossible to deny the reality that culture shapes people. The word culture originally had agricultural implications for growing, tending, or cultivating soil, referring specifically to the elements and activities surrounding the plant that influenced its growth. That is what culture is today. All the ways of life, including arts, beliefs, and institutions of a people, that influence and shape them. Considering that our Christ-given commission is to reach people (ethne), we have the task of being able to read the culture to understand and build bridges that will lead people to Jesus. When that effort is matched with a white-hot faith and a reignited spirit of evangelism empowered by the Holy Spirit, God will bring the long-awaited spiritual awakening our hearts have longed for.

(10 min) PRAY

As a Life Group, ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray for a fresh work of God's Spirit that will lead to a white-hot faith to follow Jesus and His ways, matched with a reignited spirit to evangelize.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them

1. Reread Acts 17:16-34. Discuss how Paul reacted to the idolatry in Athens. Consider how he was grieved at the idolatry. How he reacted by reasoning with Jews, the people in the marketplace, and the philosophers. How did he use their cultural influences to build a bridge to speak about the resurrection of Jesus?
2. Based on the study, what are some key things to consider about the post-Christian culture we are in today? Do you think the methods that we have used in the past to evangelize and simply hope that people will come to church will work to reach the average person today? If not, how can we effectively reach people with the gospel?
3. Are you considerate of people's backgrounds and influences when sharing Christ with them? What can you learn from Jesus and the diverse ways he reached out to people like Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **1 Corinthians 9:22** *To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.*

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: *As a Life Group, pray for the next 15-20 minutes. Ask God for a renewed passion to follow the Way of Jesus, to shine as a light for the gospel. Pray for the unsaved people God has placed in your life by name. Pray that God would give you the ability to understand them and the cultural influences in their lives so that you can build bridges that will lead them to Christ and His gospel. Ask God to enable you to love them like He loves them. Pray that God would bless the Awaken Church Community with a spiritual awakening.*

(5 min) LIVE IT

Based on the study, be intentional about understanding the unsaved people that God has placed in your life. Ask them questions about the factors that have influenced them, what they believe, and why they believe it. Be willing to listen and learn. Focus on building meaningful relationships to demonstrate Christ's love.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Tim Keller "How to Reach the West Again"

Michael Goheen "The Church and Its Vocation - Leslie Newbiggin's Missional Ecclesiology"

Mark Sayers "The Disappearing Church"

Andy Crouch "Culture - Making Recovering Our Creative Calling"

Mary Eberstadt "How the West Was Really Lost"