



2020: What Do I Do? Say? And Post? | Shawn Johnson | 9.6.20
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What was your favorite part about summer? What is one thing you are looking forward to this fall?

SHARE

Welcome to Week Four of Kingdom Culture. Two thousand years ago, Jesus started the process of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. In this series, we are talking about what it means to continue the process.

The "Kingdom" is God's presence on this earth, and "Culture" is a specific way of walking and talking. When we put those two words together, we get a great reminder that our calling is to carry God's Kingdom with us wherever we go. Our job is to walk and talk like Jesus's followers. We are agents, called to bring slices of heaven down to earth everywhere we go!

This week, Shawn gave us some practical ways to navigate this difficult season we find ourselves in. But before we dive in, take some time to check in with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

How was your week on a scale of 1 to 10?

What is the most challenging thing going on in your life?

What is the most inspirational thing you saw or learned this week?

G R O W

Read Luke 10:25-37

What stuck out to you about this passage?

Who do you relate to the most in this passage?

We are living in very polarizing times. As Shawn reminded us this week, that in these days, it is very difficult to know what to say, what to do, and what to post. Fortunately, we aren't the first group of people to ever struggle with this. Two thousand years ago, the world was even more divided than it is today.

The passage you just read is an excellent example of this. In a politically polarized world, Jesus stood up and told a story where a Samaritan is the hero. Jesus is doing this on purpose. People hated Samaritans at the time, so Jesus is showing everyone listening what it looks like to build a Kingdom Culture!

If we want to build a Kingdom Culture, we have to learn to love everyone!

When we walk and talk with the Kingdom of Heaven in mind, we begin to create a Kingdom Culture on earth! When we do this, we don't get changed by the culture of the world. Instead, we begin to bring a culture with us wherever we go!

As Shawn reminded us this weekend, we aren't called to be thermometers; we are called to be thermostats. Thermometers can tell us what the room's temperature is, but a thermostat has the power to make a change in the room. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be thermostats, not thermometers! We are called to change the culture wherever we go!

Would you describe yourself more as a thermometer or a thermostat?

What do you need to do this week to be like a thermostat?

M O V E

Read John 8:1-11

What is your initial reaction to this story?

Who do you relate to most in this story?

The passage you just read is an excellent example of Jesus handling a difficult situation with truth and love. A woman is caught in adultery and dragged out to the temple courts to be stoned by the religious leaders. Tension is high. But Jesus steps between her and the stone-throwers and utters his famous words, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7).

Jesus disarms the hostile crowd.

The mob wakes up and realizes how judgmental they are being, and instead of doing something awful, they walk away. On the other hand, the poor woman thought her life was over, but Jesus hits reset, and she gets to go free. He turns a lose-lose situation into a win-win.

We aren't going to change the world by being the best at mocking, or judging, or throwing stones at each other. We are going to change the world by the way we love each other!

Have you ever found yourself in a difficult situation like this one? How did you handle it?

Have you ever said, done, or posted something you regretted? Tell the group about it.

What guardrails can you put up in your life to make sure you do better next time?

Take-Home Assignment: Love someone you disagree with!

This week Shawn challenged us to reach out to one person who:

- Doesn't look like you.
- Doesn't vote like you.
- Doesn't believe like you.

Identify one person who fits into each of those categories and reach out to them this week. What is one way you can have mercy on them and love them?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

T O G O

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- John 13:35