

Influencing Culture

*How the Cultural Mandate Empowers the Great Commission
(And How it Can Make an Immediate Difference in Your Sphere of Influence)*

A Small Group Series

By Rod MacIvaine

Study Guide: Week Two

Patterns of Cultural Influence in the Old Testament

Group Response

Questions for Discussion

1. Imagine that you are a godly farmer engaging in subsistence farming, and an impoverished person enters your fields to glean. What emotions are you going to experience as you watch that person?
2. Still thinking about the situation above, how are you going to feel about leaving good fruit on the ground and ripe fruit on your trees?
 - To think your way through this question, review the following verses: Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19-22
3. On the other hand, if everyone else was doing this, what would the impact be on the culture?
4. Adversity initially makes us think only of ourselves. What would have made Joseph think about others, especially improving the culture of the jail? Has adversity ever called forth new ministry vision within you? Explain how?
5. Daniel continually confronted challenging situations in his secular job. He was forced to navigate the boundaries between following God and giving into the world? How did Daniel do this? What challenges do you face (and your spouse face) in secular settings?
6. What would it take for you to infuse your work situation with a positive culture founded on God's transcendent principles?
7. The arts have, historically, been used by Christians to express truth in creative and culturally relevant ways? How have artists influenced culture in the past?
8. What influence do the arts have in our community? What are some ways that we could influence the arts community here in Bartlesville?

Memory Verse – Daniel 1:8-9

⁸But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

⁹Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials....

Next week

We will examine patterns of cultural influence from the New Testament and use these examples to consider how we might influence our culture in concrete ways.

Reading that will challenge you in the area of culture

Ron Hall and Denver Moore – Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound them Together

Read pages 65-114