

Session 1—Really Seeing Ourselves

The Skin You Live In

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NOTES:

Introduction: Matthew 28:19-20 calls us to make disciples of “every nation [ethnicity].” To become cross-cultural ambassadors for Christ and reconcilers for His kingdom, we must engage in authentic dialogue and conversation about cultural perspectives, allowing us to see ourselves more clearly.

Reflection:

- What did/would the racial composition of your wedding look like?
- Imagine your own funeral service. What would be the racial composition of the service, based solely on the people your family thinks are close to you?

Video: Alex Wu from Taiwan/China on “the skin he lives in.”

• Paul’s prejudices exposed Galatians 2:11-16

- City of Antioch was very diverse ethnically
- Peter enjoyed fellowshiping and eating with non-Jews, until some Jews arrived
- Peter couldn’t really see himself clearly until he was in a cross-cultural setting, and it was pointed out to him

• Five levels of prejudice (from *The Nature of Prejudice* by Gordon Allport)

- Prejudice means “pre-judgment with emotions”
- **Spoken abuse**—talking about my dislike and discomfort
- **Avoidance**—isolating myself, preferring to “be with my own kind”
- **Acts of discrimination**—inequalities, differing pay scales
- **Physical attacks on people and property**—crimes, beatings, arson
- **Genocide and extermination**—ethnic cleansing

• Why was Paul so incensed with Peter’s behavior?

- Peter’s **platform** negatively influenced others
- Peter’s **perspective**
 - Limited by his mono-cultural history
 - EX: football players review videos with coaches to see themselves
 - Do you have a cross-cultural coach?
- Peter’s **practices**—
 - Our practices showcase our preferences
 - **Acts 10** experience with vision didn’t bring total change; it takes time for significant change



REFLECT and DISCUSS:

Take some time for individual reflection. Then discuss these questions:

1. Read **Matthew 28:18-20**, a passage that is foundational to The Navigators' calling. Of course, not all of us are called to move away from our home country. But how do you see God fulfilling (or would you like Him to fulfill) His desire to see disciples "of all nations [ethnicities]" through you?
2. So what did the racial composition at your wedding look like? (Or, if you're unmarried, would your invitation list look like?) What would the racial composition of your funeral probably look like? What does this composition tell you about the diversity of your friends and social circles?
3. Read **Galatians 2:11-16** again. What if Paul had not intervened? Peter's prejudice might have distorted some people's view of God or brought division or . . . What impacts can you imagine would have happened if Paul had "not rocked the boat"?
4. Paul did Peter a big favor by pointing out his cross-cultural blind spots. When has someone pointed out one of your blind spots to you? What was it? How did you respond?
5. Read the story in **Acts 10:1-35** about the vision God sent to Paul. What are two or three lessons that God wanted to teach Paul—lessons that could help us see ourselves more clearly?
6. Consider your own platform, perspective, and practices. If you could have a cross-cultural coach tomorrow, where do you think the two of you would start to help you really see yourself and make positive change?
7. Discuss any correlation you can draw between the racial composition at your wedding or funeral and Peter's choice to eat solely with the Jews. How might God be challenging you as you grow in really seeing yourself?

