

Session 5



Bridging the Gospel into Culture

Instructor



STEPHEN BECK PhD

Stephen is a career church planter and church planting instructor. He has served with the Redeemer Church Planting network in Canada, more recently with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. He is considered one of the "cutting edge" Greater Europe Missionaries in this regard. He is Professor of Practical Theology at Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen, Germany. He has also been guest lecturer at a number of institutions on the European continent. He is married to Susan, and they have four children. In 2011 Stephen and Susan embarked on yet another journey: together with twenty-five college students they planted a multi-everything church for the Frankfurt metro region. Through the refugee wave that came over Germany, this church multiplied to fifteen congregations in 6 years.

Goals

This 13 session course about contextualization and models for intercultural church planting is one of the most overlooked subjects in the area of congregation multiplication. The course begins with the definition of contextualization and finds in the Bible the guidelines for practicing it in the work of the Kingdom of God. You will learn the theory of contextualizing and you will be given practical tools. You will understand how the Gospel is designed to be contextualized and how you can adapt it to your own church planting situation.

Sessions Overview

1. Introduction
2. Errors in Contextualization
3. The Gospel, Culture and Shaping your Church's Culture
4. Faithful Contextualization
- 5. Bridging the Gospel into Culture - Step 1**
6. Bridging the Gospel into Culture - Step 2
7. Active and Practical Bridging
8. Networking!
9. More Networking!
10. Research and SWOT
11. Church Planting Models
12. Church Plant Birthed out of Existing Churches, & out of nothing - part I
13. Church Plants Birthed out of Nothing Part II

Session Summary

The theory of actively bridging from the gospel into the culture: Beck follows the picturesque 3-step approach suggested by Tim Keller of how we engage evangelically with our culture. The first step is drilling into our culture: here Beck shares from the picture of onion skins how you drill down deeply into people's anti-God thinking and behavior.

Fill in the Blanks

1. There are 3 approaches to learn about the culture you're in: 1. _____, 2. _____ and 3. _____.
2. What does the first one mean?

3. What are the 4 layers of culture? Specify them.

4. True/False: When we challenge an ungodly element of a culture, we should target the 4th layer – their behavior. True/False: We should challenge their core layer – their worldview.