

Session 6



Bridging the Gospel
into Culture

Step 2

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
- 14.

Session Summary

Professor Beck takes us into the 2nd step of bridging from gospel into culture: blowing up the anti-gospel and anti-God underpinnings of any given culture, to deconstruct for people their false beliefs. The third step, that of rebuilding a faith-system for people, takes us to effective ways we can appeal to people's longings with the gospel.

Fill in the Blanks

1. "God has not given us only specific (written/ "special") revelation, but also _____ revelation."
2. Level one of challenging anti-Gospel culture is dealing with _____. Level two is _____.
3. The best way to start with "dynamiting" them is finding _____.
4. Think of some person you might want to communicate the Gospel to and think what might be the level one belief you would agree with them about (this would be the theme which will be useful for you to start challenging their worldview with). _____.
5. Think of the words to say which will describe to your conversation partner the truth about those level 2 beliefs in the Word of God (The Holy Scripture). Remember the Greek word *keressein*=preach/heralding/ 'confront bad situations or thoughts with good news'. Speak out of the confidence you have as someone who was truly touched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. What "appeal" spoke to you most which led you to accept the new covenant in the blood of Jesus? (Self contemplation- no written answer required).