



CULTURAL CONVERSATION CARDS

INTRODUCTION

“Where am I from?” This is a profound question if we consider how we are deeply influenced by our past, our families and our day-to-day cultural experiences.

I Am From: Cultural Conversation Cards was co-created by over a dozen racially, ethnically and culturally diverse women and men.

They designed these cards to help anyone better understand their own and others’ cultural journeys and experiences.

These cards help people be known, feel understood, bond with others and become more empathetic and culturally self-aware.

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MINISTRY VISION

Genuine ethnic diversity and unity will be difficult to achieve without engaging people from every cultural background at every stage of their spiritual journeys.

I Am From: Cultural Conversation Cards can help us to better see, know and understand each other. This is vitally important so all people can thrive spiritually, relationally and professionally within our ministries and churches.

We pray God will use these cards to help us conform to Jesus' prayer in John 17:
"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one."

By God's grace may we better love one another and help fulfill the Great Commission.

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ANCESTRY GUIDE

Ancestry has both genetic and cultural aspects. We are culturally influenced by our ancestors who have passed their cultures down to us.

Sort these Ancestry cards by those which are true for you, those you don't know, and those which are not true for you.

Then answer the questions on the other side of this card.

Note: In these cards the word 'here' could mean where you live, or grew up or where home is.

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ANCESTRY

My ancestors
came here many
generations ago

ANCESTRY

At least one of
my parents or
grandparents
is an immigrant
or refugee

ANCESTRY GUIDE

- 1.** When you think about your family's history, what are you grateful for?

- 2.** If you feel comfortable sharing, what bothers or grieves you when you think about your family's history?

- 3a.** If known, what significant things have your ancestors passed on to you?

- 3b.** If unknown, what do you wish you knew about your ancestry?

GROWING UP

I grew up
belonging to a
faith or spiritual
community

FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

My family is multicultural and has conflicting cultural expectations of me

CULTURAL VALUES

Honoring my family
or community
and maintaining
or restoring
our reputation

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

There are many people from my cultural background in positions of leadership and influence

GOSPEL TRANSITIONS

SAMPLE GOSPEL TRANSITION

"I'd love to hear your thoughts on what the Bible says about God's love for you and your culture. Do you have some more time to share your thoughts with me?"

CONNECT DESIRES TO TRUTH

Listen for people's deep desire for the gospel. Then ask yourself, "*What is the hope the gospel can fulfill that would best connect with them?*"

Hopes could be: never feeling alone, justice, eternal life, healing, forgiveness, peace in light of uncertainty, or shame taken away.

Hope can even be communicated through a gospel transition question.

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GOSPEL TRANSITIONS (CONTINUED)

Here is an example of a hope-inspired gospel transition: *“You shared a deep desire to be accepted by your family. Could I get your thoughts on what I believe about God’s plan to invite people from all cultures into God’s family?”*

CONNECT TRUTH TO CULTURE

Listen for the truths of the gospel people would best relate to. Then ask yourself, *“What truths of the gospel can I emphasize to best relate to them and their culture?”*

Here is an example for a culture that values avoiding shame instead of guilt: *“We have brought shame upon ourselves, but Jesus can give us the honor of being children of God.”*