

Session 2: Cultural Stories



INTRODUCTION

Who am I? How does my faith in Jesus affect how I answer that question? How does our culture shape our response to this question of identity? Is there a conflict? As Christians, the story of Scripture and the person of Jesus shape the whole of who we are. And yet we often experience tension with our culture, which provides alternate answers to this question. We are told we must choose who we want to be, rather than receive our identity as a gift given by God. This session discusses some of the ways our culture shapes us, and why this so often leads to a crisis of identity.

“As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.” —Luke 24:15

EMMAUS ROAD REFLECTION

1. What has God been saying to me through this episode (e.g. encouragement, challenge)?
2. What was significant or new? What questions did it raise?

DISCUSSION

1. What was Christine struggling with in how her identity was being shaped?
2. What are the cultural messages that try to shape who we are? What does culture tell us makes a happy and full life?
3. Where do you feel cultural pressures in your life?
4. What activities help you, or could help you, remember that your identity is rooted in Christ?

ACTIVITY

We're surrounded by cultural messages that are trying to shape our identity (e.g. advertising, movies, workplaces). These messages have an underlying story about what it means to be a person—defined by what you do, or have, or feel. Part of connecting faith to all of life involves being aware of the patterns of the world around us, and in our own lives.

Discuss an example of something in your week that represents a cultural story about identity—positive or negative. This could be an advertisement, article, song, product, place, conversation or experience you had.