

# Where Is God When We Hurt?

## Session 1 ~ Overview of Biblical Culture

**2 things we need to know before we can understand the meaning of Scripture:**

- 1.
- 2.

**Western culture is:**

- \_\_\_\_\_-centered
- Individualist

**Majority World culture is:**

- \_\_\_\_\_-centered
- Collectivist

**3 major worldviews:**

1. Guilt/Innocence
2. Honor/Shame
3. Fear/Power

**Worldview:** what we believe and assume to be true, the lens through which we see the world

**Culture:** how we express and live out our worldview

Our beliefs determine our behavior.

**The primary culture of biblical times was \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Honor:** the worth or value of a person in their eyes and in the eyes of their village, neighborhood, or society

**Shame:** the result of failing to live up to the group's expectations

**5 dynamics of biblical culture:**

1. Love of \_\_\_\_\_: People in collectivist Honor/Shame cultures always see themselves through the eyes of others. All of life is spent trying to gain honor and avoid shame.
2. Two sources of \_\_\_\_\_: Ascribed honor comes from family, birthplace, position, or social group. Achieved honor is based on accomplishments.
3. Belief in \_\_\_\_\_: Everything, including honor, exists in finite quantity. If you gain, I lose.
4. Honor \_\_\_\_\_: When a resource is in limited supply, people compete for it.
5. Emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_: People are either clean (insiders with a high honor status) or unclean (outsiders with a shameful status).

Overriding motif in the Bible: \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Questions**

1. What has been your experience with different cultures? What cultural values do we take for granted in our culture?
2. What factors do you consider important when you interpret Scripture? How could knowledge of biblical context and culture enhance your understanding of the meaning?
3. Explain your answer to the question: "Is the Bible intended to be a mirror reflecting readers and their meanings or a window into the worlds and meanings of the authors?"
4. What do you hope to gain from this study?