

Session 2: The Culture We Carry

Scriptures:

- Romans 12:2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
 - Matthew 5:1–16 – (The Beatitudes and call to be salt and light)
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Focus:

We have been rescued from the dominion of darkness, not just to survive, but to carry the culture of Heaven into a broken world.

The question isn't just, "*Who are we?*" It's also, "*What do we carry?*"

We were not redeemed to mirror the world; we were reborn to reflect the King.

When we embrace Heaven's culture, it reshapes:

- Our mindset (renewed, not conformed)
 - Our values (aligned with Heaven's Beatitudes)
 - Our influence (impacting through difference, not similarity)
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Topic 1: Renewed Mind

Introduction:

Heaven's culture begins with Heaven's way of thinking.

You can't carry Heaven's culture while thinking like earth.

A renewed mind is the portal through which Heaven's ways invade earthly realities.

A. Renewal Over Conformation

- Earth's default setting is conformity, if you do nothing, you drift into worldly thinking.
- Heaven calls us to intentional transformation by renewing our minds through truth.
- What fills your mind eventually shapes your life.

Scripture:

- Romans 12:2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Teaching Point:

Transformation is not about trying harder; it's about thinking differently.

B. The Mind of Christ

- We are called to think like Jesus, seeing with Heaven's vision, responding with Heaven's heart.
- The mind of Christ leads to peace, humility, and unshakable trust.
- Without a renewed mind, even saved people live powerless lives.

Scripture:

- Philippians 2:5 – "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Teaching Point:

Renewal isn't just new thoughts, it's a new mindset rooted in Christ.

Visual Summary Flow:

Conformed Mind → Renewed Mind → Transformed Life → Carriers of Heaven

Mini-Activation: Renewed Mind**Step 1: Reflection (1–2 minutes)**

- Ask the Lord:
 - "Father, where has my mindset conformed more to culture than to Christ?"
 - "Show me one thought You want to renew today."

Step 2: Declarations

I have the mind of Christ.

I reject conformity to the world.

I embrace transformation by the truth of God's Word.

My life will reflect Heaven because my mind is renewed daily.

Step 3: Group Discussion

Question:

"Where have you noticed the most tension between worldly thinking and Kingdom thinking in your life?"

Topic 2: The Beatitudes , Heaven's Culture Manual

Introduction:

Jesus didn't just teach the Kingdom, He described its citizens.

The Beatitudes are not *to-do lists*; they are *identity markers* for Kingdom people.

A. Upside-Down Values

- Heaven values brokenness, meekness, mercy, purity, peace, and endurance through persecution.
- Earth values pride, power, image, and self-preservation.
- Kingdom culture flips human expectations upside down.

Scripture:

- Matthew 5:1–12 – (The Beatitudes)

Teaching Point:

Heaven doesn't measure success the way earth does.

B. Formation, Not Performance

- The Beatitudes describe what we are becoming, not what we perform.
- They invite internal formation, not external image management.
- You can't fake the Beatitudes, they must be born in you through the Spirit.

Scripture:

- Matthew 5:3 – "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Teaching Point:

The Beatitudes are not spiritual goals, they are spiritual birthmarks.

Visual Summary Flow:

World's Values → Upside-Down Kingdom → Beatitude Formation → Living Witness

Mini-Activation: Beatitudes Alignment**Step 1: Reflection (1–2 minutes)**

- Ask the Lord:
 - "Which Beatitude are You inviting me to grow in right now?"
 - "Where am I resisting the upside-down values of Your Kingdom?"

Step 2: Declarations

I embrace Heaven's value system.

I choose mercy over judgment, meekness over pride, purity over popularity.

Form in me the heart of the Kingdom, God.

Step 3: Group Discussion**Question:**

"Which Beatitude challenges you the most personally, and why?"

Topic 3: Influence Through Difference

Introduction:

We were never called to blend in; we were called to stand out.

Salt preserves by being different.

Light shines because it pierces darkness.

A. Impact Without Imitation

- Influence doesn't come by imitating culture, it comes by embodying Heaven.
- You are most powerful when you live noticeably different, not weird, but gloriously set apart.
- The world is hungry for hope that actually looks like hope.

Scripture:

- Matthew 5:13-16 – "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."

Teaching Point:

What makes you different is what makes you effective.

B. Shine, Don't Shout

- Light doesn't argue with darkness; it simply shines.
- Salt doesn't beg to be noticed; it quietly preserves and flavors.
- The Kingdom way is gentle, noticeable, and irresistible.

Scripture:

- Isaiah 60:1 – "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."

Teaching Point:

Kingdom influence is natural when Kingdom culture is internal.

Visual Summary Flow:

Heaven's Nature → Set-Apart Life → Unshakable Influence → Glory to God

Mini-Activation: Influence Through Difference

Step 1: Reflection (1–2 minutes)

- Ask the Lord:
 - "Father, where have I been tempted to blend in instead of standing out for You?"
 - "Show me one area where I need to shine brighter."

Step 2: Declarations

I am salt.

I am light.

I was born to carry Heaven's difference into the earth's darkness.

I will not blend in, I will shine with the glory of my King.

Step 3: Group Discussion

Question:

"Where has God asked you to be distinct lately, even when it's uncomfortable?"

Final Closing for Session 2

Landing Thought:

"We carry the culture of Heaven not by striving harder, but by living surrendered.

Heaven is not a faraway dream, it's the Spirit within you, shaping you to look like your King."

Commissioning Blessing:

I bless you to carry the fragrance of Heaven into a thirsty world.

May your thoughts be renewed, your values reformed, and your life radiate the light of Christ.

You are an ambassador of the Kingdom, walk as salt, live as light, and glorify your King in every place you go.