



# SERVING CROSS- CULTURALLY

*WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A  
CROSS-CULTURAL SERVANT?*

## LIST OF TOPICS

1. ~~What is Discipleship~~
2. ~~What is Missions~~
3. ~~His Mission, not ours~~
4. ~~Discerning God's Will~~
5. ~~Helping the poor~~
6. ~~Spiritual Readiness~~
7. **Serving Cross-Culturally**
8. Relationships and conflicts

# LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Understand cross-culturally servanthood is Biblical
- Help you reflect, assess or prepare for serving cross-culturally

# INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Share one cultural trait/values that you hold

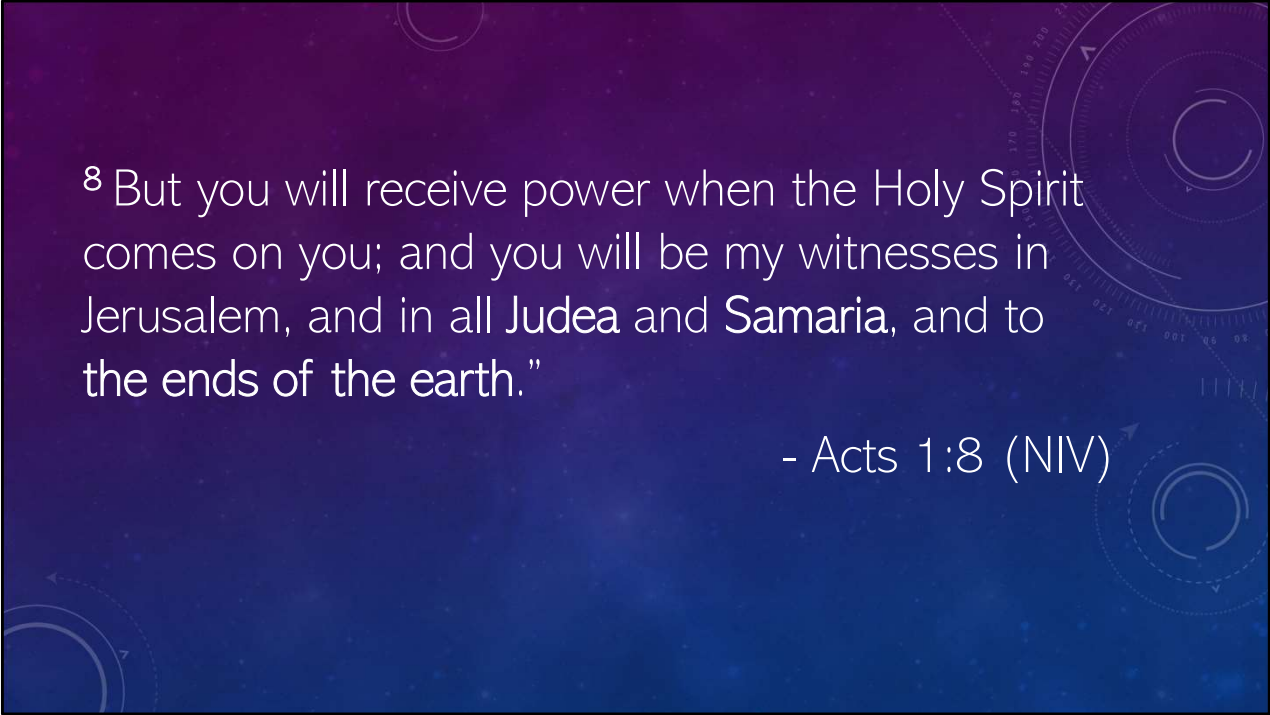


# 1. WHAT IS CROSS CULTURAL SERVANTHOOD

SERVING OTHERS WHO ARE  
CULTURALLY DIFFERENT  
FROM YOU



Is this Biblical?



<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Judea – local  
Samaria – diff  
End of the earth very diff!





14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- John 1:14 (NIV)

# JESUS

- A Jewish Man
- Son of a carpenter
- Speak in local language
- Rabbi/Disciple system

And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

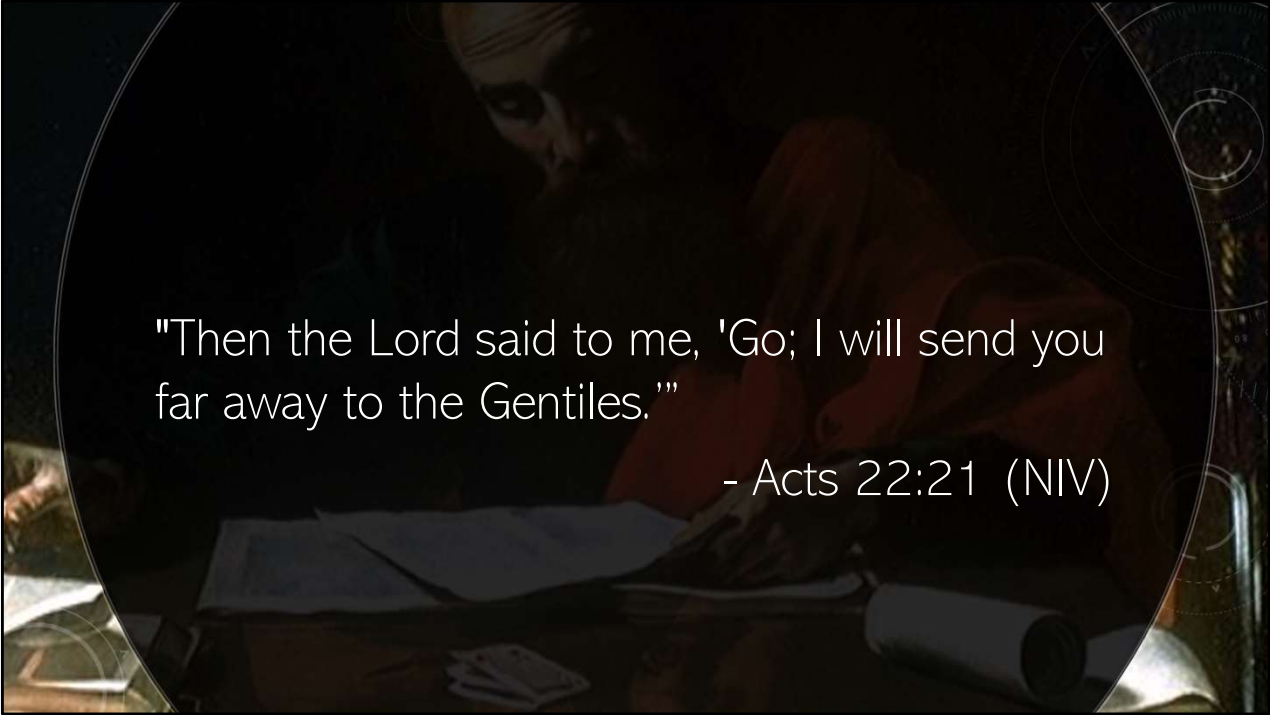
- Mark 15:34 (NIV)



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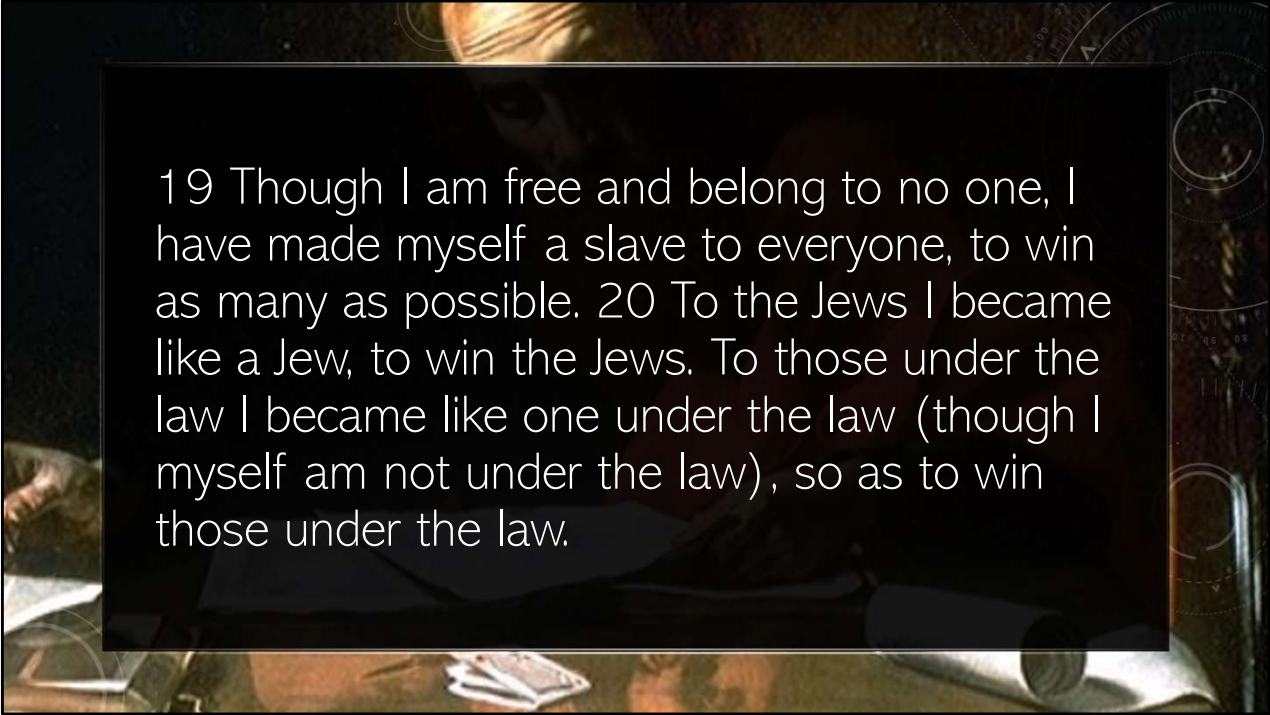
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Preach to the Gentiles

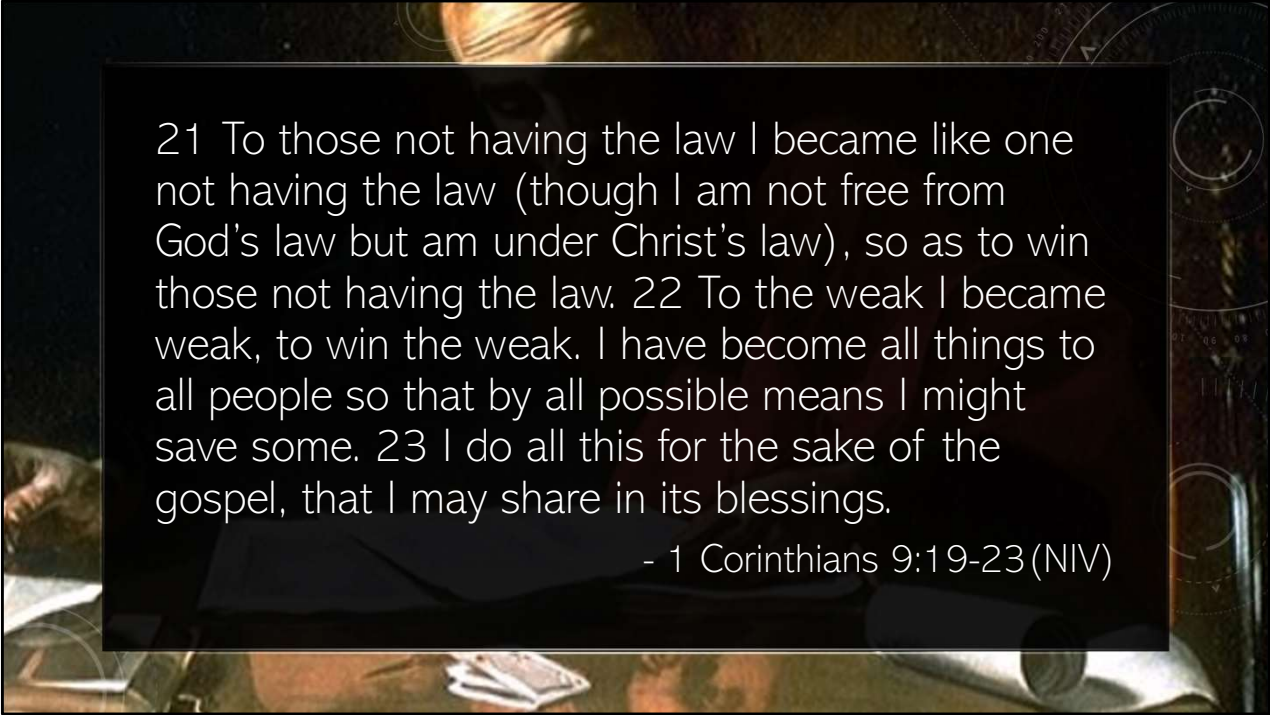


"Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

- Acts 22:21 (NIV)



19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.



21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

## PREACHING TO THE JEWS

32 “We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors 33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

“‘You are my son;  
today I have become your father.’”

- Acts 13:32 (NIV)

At Psidian Antioch



## PREACHING TO THE GENTILES

23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

- Acts 17:23 (NIV)

## PREACHING TO THE GENTILES (CONT.)

28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

- Acts 17:28 (NIV)

He used Roman gods and idols to point them to Jesus



Image source:

<https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/588ada483a0411af1ab3e7ca/1485566659453-YH10XIK4LR9VAPMXTZR7/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kNoaCHIKxrHxiRKBG0dxJfBZw-zPPgdn4jUwVcJE1ZvWEtT5uBSRWt4vQZAgTJucoTqqXjS3CfNDSuuf31e0tVHrl-QBnzT44GRDieLg7hn1EJUFMOW27jF5ceSZcZkQNNLHFR29LORum-3QbYcontQ/Moravian-Missionary.jpg>

Sold themselves as slaves to reach the slaves -  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian\\_slaves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian_slaves)

“We shall work as slaves among the slaves.”

“But,” said the official, “that is impossible. It will not be allowed. No white man ever works as a slave.”

“Very well,” replied Nitschmann, “I am a carpenter, and will ply my trade

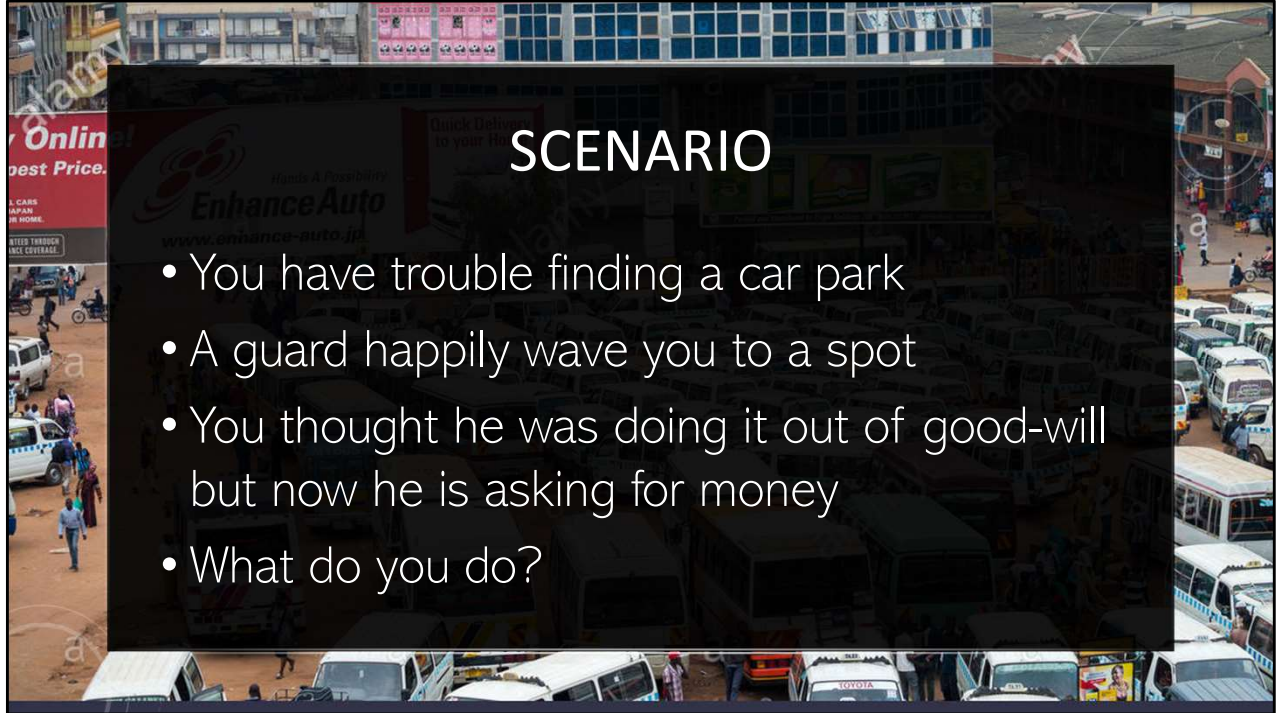


Image source: <https://vancechristie.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Members-of-the-China-Inland-Mission-in-Chinese-garb-Hudson-Taylor-is-seated-in-middle-of-second-row-and-wears-a-long-white-beard-1024x576.jpg>

- Speak, eat and dress like Chinese
- Even dyed his hair black
- So this is not a hindrance



## 2. WHAT ARE CHALLENGES TO SERVING CROSS-CULTURALLY?



## SCENARIO

- You have trouble finding a car park
- A guard happily wave you to a spot
- You thought he was doing it out of good-will but now he is asking for money
- What do you do?

# DIFFERENT IN EVERYTHING!

Source: adapted from Guide to Cross-cultural Communication.

<b>Individualist Culture</b>	<b>Collective Culture</b>
1- Transaction oriented (focus on results). 2- Short-term gains 3- Emphasis on content (facts, numbers, ratios, statistics) 4- Independent 5- Competitive, decision-driven 6- Direct, explicit communication 7- Personal accountability 8- Private offices 9- Linear time, impatient	1- Relationship oriented (focus on process) 2- Long-term growth 3- Emphasis on context (experience, intuition, the relationship) 4- Interdependent 5- Collaborative 6- Indirect, circuitous communication 7- Protection of face 8- Open office plan 9- Flexible time, patient

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# DIFFERENT IN EVERYTHING!

- Time
- Communication styles (direct/indirect)
- Food
- Language
- Dealing with conflict
- Formality

Image source:

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Even the same Lang, diff words mean diff things




**Coach** **Managing Cultural Differences**  
Six Fundamental Patterns of Cultural Difference

**What's different?**

1. Communication styles
2. Attitudes towards conflict
3. Approaches to completing tasks
4. Decision-making styles
5. Attitudes towards disclosure
6. Approaches to knowing

**What's hidden below surface?**

1. Beliefs
2. Values
3. Perceptions
4. Expectations
5. Attitudes
6. Assumptions

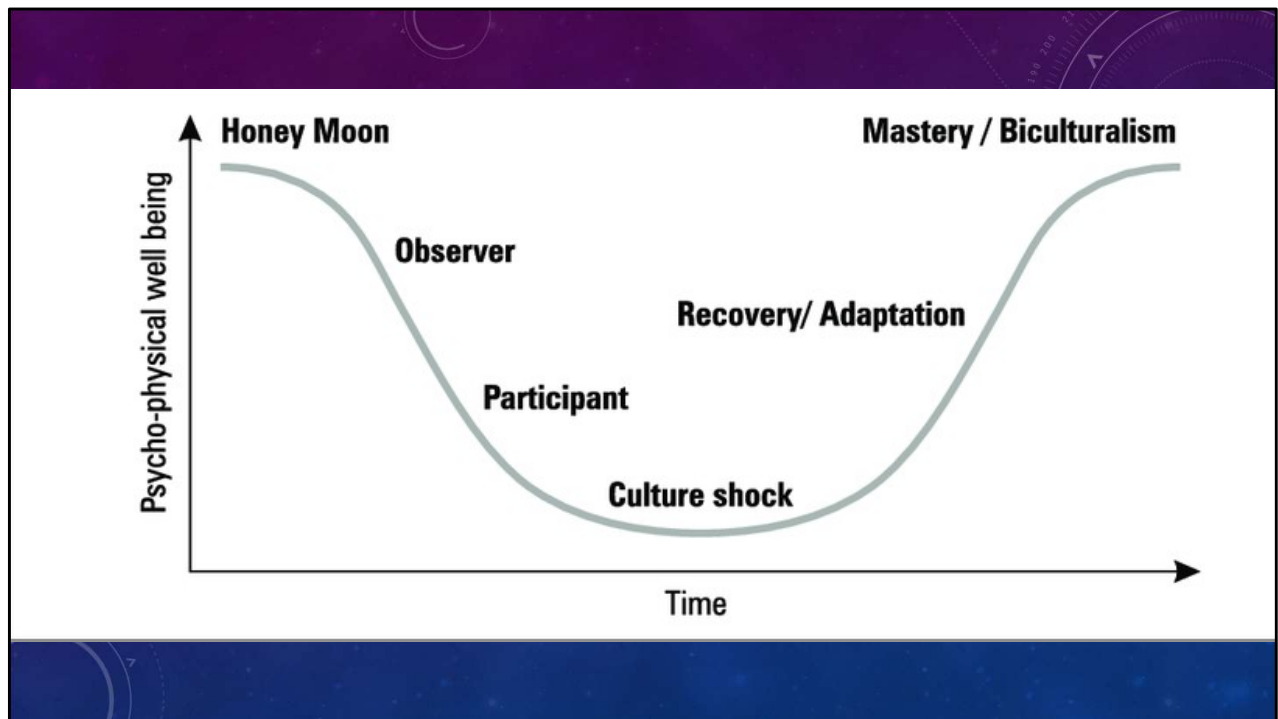


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Image source: [http://www.1000ventures.com/business\\_guide/crosscuttings/cross-cultural\\_differences.html](http://www.1000ventures.com/business_guide/crosscuttings/cross-cultural_differences.html)

There are a lot of subtle cultural beliefs they can't tell you because they are not aware of or conscious





[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Anna\\_Paszowska-Rogacz/publication/311440032/figure/fig4/AS:669366186160137@1536600743554/Phase-s-in-culture-shock-in-the-U-model.png](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Anna_Paszowska-Rogacz/publication/311440032/figure/fig4/AS:669366186160137@1536600743554/Phase-s-in-culture-shock-in-the-U-model.png)



### 3. HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL CROSS- CULTURAL SERVANT?

- 
- Humility
  - Willingness to learn and change
  - Self consecration
  - Drawing strengths from other cultures

encourage them to develop their own worship style/music and not copy from the West (aka no Hillsong!)







Suits!







Dress up



Gather together  
Eat what they eat  
Drink what they drink



Matuke!



Grasshoppers



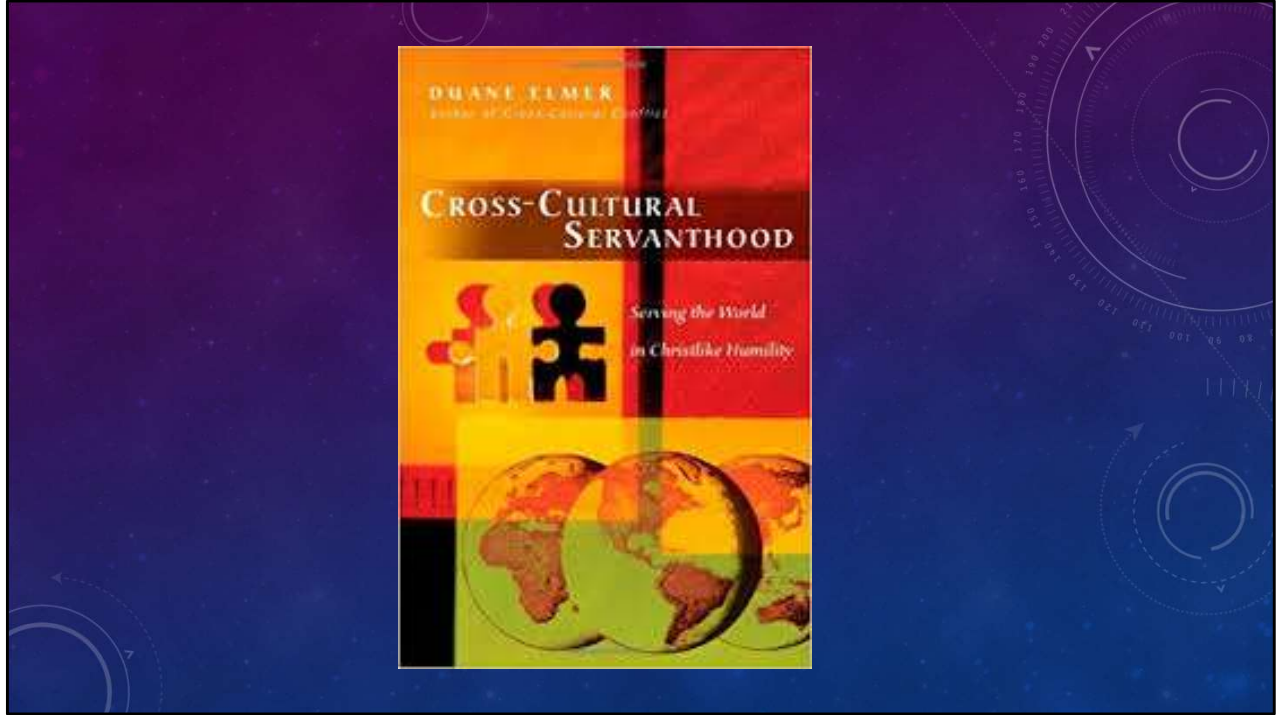


Use their tech and ways  
Simple



Dress for Ugandan weddings





Additional resources:

<https://www.amazon.sg/Cross-Cultural-Servanthood-Serving-Christlike-Humility/dp/0830833781>

## NEXT WEEK: RELATIONSHIPS AND CONFLICTS

- Need to do some reading before hand
- Write to [cliff.tam@gmail.com](mailto:cliff.tam@gmail.com) for any questions, suggestions, and thoughts!
- Feedback at [bit.ly/audienceofonefeedback](http://bit.ly/audienceofonefeedback)