

## **Radical Culture**

### Acts 2

#### **Discover**

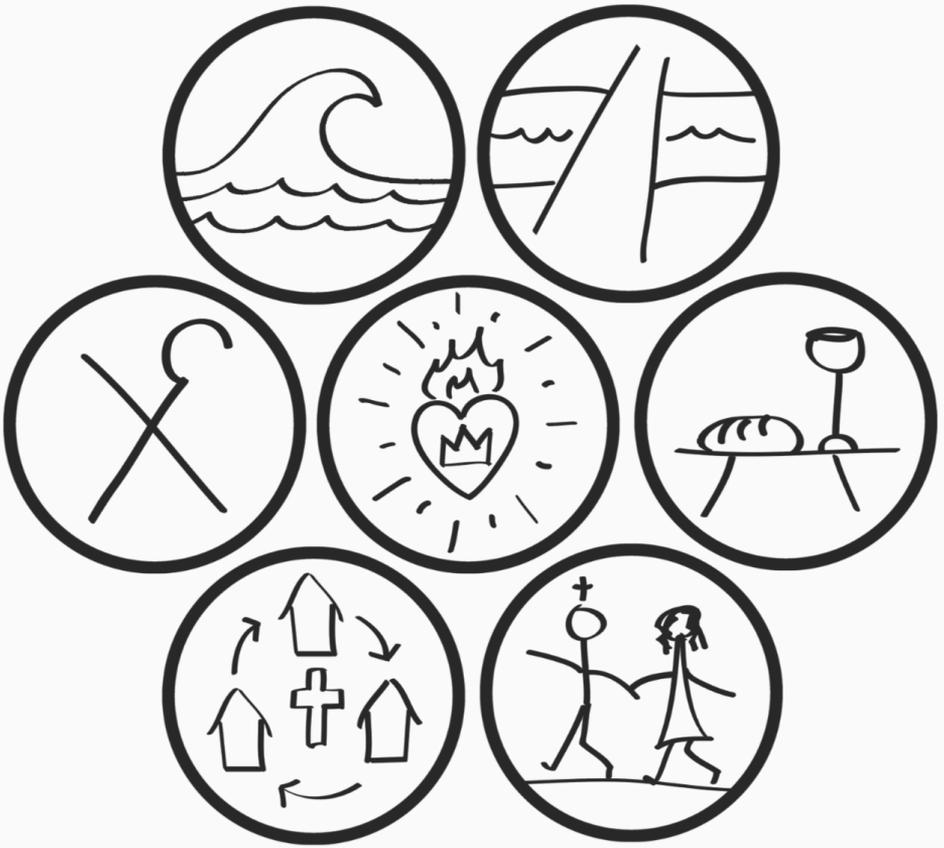
Radical means thoroughly affecting the fundamental nature of something. A culture is the beliefs, values, and practices of a people group connected through a united identity.

Israel's Commander Joshua led their army through a bold conquest of God's Promised Land. He gathered everyone together after they had settled in the region, and presented them different cultures to choose from. The leaders verbally reestablished their covenant promise to worship only Yahweh. Joshua prophesied that this culture would fail, because they would eventually rebel. (Joshua 24:14-28)

Joshua's prophecy came true; Israel rejected God. They lived among the nations, experienced other cultures and pagan gods, and chose to embrace the world. At this time in history, only the faithful kings and prophets could receive the Holy Spirit. Even though God's people witnessed waves of astonishing miracles, all these signs and wonders could not save them from their wicked, dead hearts. (1 Samuel 8)

Everything changed with the most well known birth of our age. God's Word clothed himself in flesh and bone, and became a man. Our Father breathed resurrection life over Mary, and she gave birth to Jesus Messiah: God with us, Savior of the World, Rescuer of Mankind, Banner for All Peoples, Prince of Peace, the Great I AM. He brought with him the gift of a marvelous culture that no one is able to understand or receive without the Holy Spirit. (Luke 2:1-35)

This lesson focuses on truths very difficult to express if you have not experienced God's love. Jesus makes all things new, transforming our desires and dreams. Now, all we really want is to praise Jesus and see his face. (Psalms 148)



# RADICAL CULTURE



## ACTS 2

## **Draw**

Zion Vision: heart, crown, flame, & light - Zion is the New Jerusalem. Heaven is the perfect city where we will live forever with our Father, Jesus Messiah, and the Holy Spirit. Our vision is to remain in his rest and promises. (2:29-36)

Adventurous Feet: road over water - Jesus' disciples welcome the Holy Spirit's guidance and counsel. He comes to live within us and shepherds us out of comfort, scattering us everywhere to invite all nations into his family. (2:1-12)

Open Invitation: table, bread, & cup - We keep the door open to salvation for everyone around us. Anyone who cries out to Jesus will be saved. Between now and when our Lord returns, we speak the truth in love as the Holy Spirit reveals whom to engage and what to say. (2:16-24)

Embrace Jesus: Jesus & disciple walking - Salvation is not the result of simply knowing the truth. Jesus tells us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him into suffering. We must fully surrender everything, and count the cost of participating in his kingdom as a faithful disciple. (2:36-41)

Storytelling Assemblies: houses, arrows, & cross - We are not disciples because we visit church services. The gospel must live in our hearts and homes; our hope is anchored in Christ. Jesus' Church is a Spirit-baptized, storytelling family. His stories come alive as our faith breathes. (2:25-32)

Guardian Shepherds: shepherd's rod & staff - Jesus suffered, and so will every one of his disciples. We need spiritual leader teams to cover all of our fellowships with prayer, wisdom, compassion, and teaching. (2:37-42)

Resurgence Waves: moving wave & water - God still moves. The Holy Spirit is waking up our cities and every nation. He gives dreams, visions, and revelations to everyone. (2:16-21)

## **Discuss**

Read Acts 2:1-13. How did the disciples experience God physically? How have you experienced God? What would it be like to speak in a language you do not know? Why did the Holy Spirit give the disciples gifts of many languages?

Read Acts 2:25-36. How did David prophesy about Jesus? Why was David not afraid of death? How does Jesus' revelation about God's eternal pathways fill our hearts with joy? Where is Jesus now? What is Jesus doing right now?

Read John 13:1-17. Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet? Jesus washed the feet of his disciple who betrayed him. What does that mean? Have you ever blessed anyone this way by washing their feet? Whose feet can you wash soon?

Read Revelation 21. How does John's vision describe heaven? What do you notice about heaven's radical culture? What are some differences between our age and the age to come? How is God already dwelling with us?

## **Disciple**

Let's get practical. What are your most essential values? Does the way you spend your time reflect what you believe? Why or why not? Are you ready to stand before our Lord Jesus on Judgement Day? How can you begin to practice heaven's radical culture today? What are some questions you want to ask Jesus when you see his face?

## **Dedicate**

Father, thank you for inviting us into your radical dominion. We love you, Abba, and we are awestruck in your holy presence. For the rest of our days, we will live to enjoy your presence, praise your name, listen to your Spirit, and draw disciples, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.