



## **Week 7: Lift Up the Manhole Cover**

*Theme: A Vision for Cultural Engagement*

### **Icebreaker:**

What cultural things defined your teen years?

### **Message Bible Text:**

Romans 12:2; Isaiah 5:20; Mark 16:15

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In your own words describe culture. Does culture change?  
What does not change?
2. What are ways you identify how culture contrasts with our Christian faith?
3. What are the dangers of assimilation (go with the flow) and escapism (run away and hide)? Romans 12:2, Mark 16:15

### **Supplemental Bible Texts:**

John 17:14-18; Jeremiah 29:1,7-9

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How are we to be in the world but not of the world?  
(gospel transformation)
2. What are examples of pushback in your Christian life that you have experienced?
3. What are the dangers of insider/outsider thinking?

4. How does your faith influence how you live out your daily life (e.g. work, parenting, retirement living, recreation, finances)?

## Take-Home Thoughts:

- Reformed theology says “everyone is lost without Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24
- We are called to impact culture in how we live for Christ.

## Prayer Requests (use the extra bullets to place your own requests or your small group's requests):

- Give thanks for the sovereignty of God and the bountiful harvest.
- Pray for discernment and wisdom for our consistory as they lead.
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## Memory Verse:

**Romans 12:2** - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## Prayer:

*Lord, we know that you are interested in every aspect of our society. You want us to shape and change the world around us. Help us to neither run away and hide, nor to go with the flow and float down stream. Help us to stand with what is right and good, declaring a gospel of hope and transformation to a world that is dying. We pray that we would step up and lean in by being gospel people no matter the cost and no matter where we are sent. Thank you for enabling us by your Holy Spirit to change the world around us. Amen.*