

### Activity 3.3

#### Cultural Interview

Allow 45 minutes for this activity. The following is based on Chapter 3 of Garland (1999), *Family Ministry*.

Pair up and learn more about one another's culture, using the handout (below). Gather again in the large group and share what you learned about *yourself* in this interview. What did you learn about culture?

Imagine that this group of people and their families are a church—with all their various cultural flavors. Imagine that we want to help families in this church deal with conflict in creative, constructive ways, both in the home, and in the congregation and community.

What are **goals** that would be culturally relevant? What are goals that would be culturally irrelevant or maybe even disastrous?

What are **processes** that would be especially relevant? What would be disastrous?

#### Cultural Interview

Use these only as prompts. Try to get stories, not just facts.

1. Place(s)
2. Religion(s)
3. Ethnicity/culture
4. Values: What is/was valued based on how time and money are/were spent?
5. Power: How and by whom were daily decisions made? Important decisions made?
6. What special symbols or language were used? When and why?
7. How has the family changed over time?
8. What are the patterns of life that you remember with nostalgia (or regret, or joy) that you no longer do? Which have you kept up?

**After you have finished the interview, see if you can determine the family's core values based on what you have heard.** (Core values answer basic human questions--the relationship of individual and group, the meaning of time,

the natural world, human nature, and the spiritual dimension of life. These values find expression in preferred strategies for handling daily expectations and challenges. Core values explain why families behave the way they do. A family may never express their core values in words; instead, those values can be inferred by observing how families invest their energies and other resources.)

What is the difference between stories and facts?

<http://www3.baylor.edu/CFCM/old/TR/activity03-3.htm>