

**Christ & Culture (4 of 7)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, October 2nd, 2022**



**Series Focus:** As followers of Jesus, we are called to embrace his teachings and example, proclaim the truth of the gospel, and engage the world around us by embodying the good news. What does that look like today? As we read the Bible, we can see that it takes a mixed view of all human cultures. While many elements of culture can be affirmed, we must avoid uncritically accepting aspects of culture without first examining them in light of Christ and the gospel. Therefore, we must learn to contextualize the gospel and use cultural discernment as we live in the world as faithful disciples. In this 7-part sermon series—*Christ & Culture*—disciples of Jesus are invited to apply the gospel to every area of life as we seek to follow him in a fallen world.

**Sermon Title:** Growing Our Gospel Imagination

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 4:23 - 5:12; Ephesians 3:14-21

**Sermon Focus:** God's heart for his church is to be a counter-culture for the common good. But often we are not offering a compelling vision of Christianity. As we enter culture and affirm what we can, then challenge our culture's idols, we must not miss the third step of appealing to its listeners with the beautiful story of the gospel. In the fourth message of our series, Pastor Melissa will seek to move us to re-capture our gospel imaginations so that others will be drawn to the God who exceeds them.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Matthew 4:23 – 5:12. What stands out to you about the kind of people Jesus describes as “blessed” (i.e. happy, content, successful)? How are these values in line with or contrary to the qualities elevated in our society?

2. This passage in Matthew shows how the hurting, broken, and poor are drawn to Jesus. Who are considered outcasts in our society? Who in your life do you know that is hurting or broken? Are these kinds of people drawn to you? To our church? If not, why?
3. Take some time to imagine what would be unique and compelling about a person and community shaped by the characteristics outlined in the beatitudes. What would make you a person (or us a church) that people would look at and say "I want some of what they've got!"? Consider specific situations (e.g. at home, at work, in the community) and reflect on how they might draw people to Christ if we were living from a place of "blessing" as Jesus describes.
4. Melissa suggested that, in order to grow more into a "blessed" person, one must first be captivated by the character of Jesus; our gospel imaginations need to be recaptured each day. What does (or could) it look like for you to make space each day for the story of the gospel to shape your heart and life?
5. Read Ephesians 3:14-21 and let that lead you into prayer that the love of Christ would fill your heart and flow out to others through you.