

7 Tips on How To Be a Culturally-Wise Leader

Everyday leaders need cultural wisdom to connect and influence their contexts. Use the below list to help you bring people together to break new ground wherever you are serving.

1

Commit to being respectful to the people in your community, particularly as you ask them questions about their lives and aim at getting to know them better. Showing curiosity about the people you serve will demonstrate that you care about what is important to—or valued by—them.

2

Understand that your own biases may be shaping your opinions and preferences about how and where you will do ministry work. Ask yourself if you're willing to change if you're called to do so.

3

Learn about the concerns, insecurities or fears that are common among the people in this community. This is key to helping you relate to—and lead—them, as well as contribute to their flourishing.

4

Talk frequently with others within the culture and learn some words and phrases that are common within—or unique to—this group of people.

5

Uncover biblical passages that help you arrive at truth that is congruent with biblical insight and meditate on them as you lead your community.

6

Request that a trusted cultural insider of this community become your “honesty broker” and help you assess the reliability and accuracy of your deductions, as well as the facts you've gathered while conducting research about the community's culture.

7

Examine preconceived ideas that you have about people in regard to their gender, ethnicity, race, age, etc. Prayerfully consider whether these ideas may be coloring your conclusions about them and making connecting with them challenging.

Adapted from *The Ways of the Leader: Four Practices to Bring People Together and Break New Ground* by Bill Mowry.

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