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CultureBound

MAGAZINE

Culture in Home

How has the global pandemic affected your home environments?

MARCH 2021



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Often you consider your neighbors part of your home. How can you best build lasting relationships?

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Locked Down at Home

Dr. Terry Steele, Ph. D., Dr. of Missiology

A little over a year ago, whisperings arose about a mysterious disease that was affecting hundreds, then thousands in the East. The illness began to spread, eventually invading different nations until it seemed everyone in the world was isolating themselves at home. Human interaction became a luxury most lost. Our worlds shrank to the confines of our homes. Our social groups became those who lived within the boundaries of our four walls. A year later, what is the state of our families? Have the dynamics improved or deteriorated? How has COVID affected our households, be they family or friends? Looking back at this period of isolation, many questions arise.



Take time to note the changes, both good and bad, that have taken place during the COVID lockdown. Note the flow of tension and good-will, the waves of fear as well as the peace that has washed over your household. The history of 2020 had many ups and downs despite the lockdowns. How did the mundane or common place events of life change or shift to work with or around COVID-19? Was it business as usual or was an extra measure of creativity necessary? Did the common place become extraordinary or did it remain mundane? What crises occurred this year? Were they COVID related or were they due to other factors?

How has the lockdown and COVID-19 changed you? Are there alterations that have improved who you are as a representative of Jesus, or has the fallen nature taken dominance? If a friend who had not communicated with you in the last year met you for lunch, would they notice any changes? Would the changes be good or less so? How would the people who live with you describe your progress during the previous 12 months? If Jesus were to come into your house for a day and see the interaction of the occupants of your house, what would He say about the changes? What would He say about the changes in you? Would he feel

more or less welcomed in your house? Without assigning blame, what needs to change to make his presence an expected event? How do the members of your household need to change? If you are one of those houses that saw positive growth, what can you thank Jesus for right now? How can you pass that positive growth on to other households? The good part of the state of the world right now is that progress is being made towards reducing the restrictions brought on by COVID-19. The sight of freedom is either within view, or we can see the light over the hill. Instead of reacting with impatience

or frustration, potentially changing the atmosphere of our households, maybe we should look at this time as an opportunity to choose how we would like to be changed by the pressure of isolation and fear of the pandemic. We still have time. Remember, Jesus says to his children, "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Revelation 3:19-20). Fellowship with God and with others is possible when we live in the light of His grace no matter the circumstances.



No Place Like Home

When you think of “home,” many things could come to mind. For most people, home signifies the place they spend the most time and are the most comfortable. For others, home could be a place of tension and bad memories. No matter where home is for you, the ideas, patterns, and lessons you learned in your home are the foundation for how you act in the world. The culture of your home is important - not just for you, but for all who share that special space with you.





CultureBound teaching highlights the need for building relationships with those from other cultures. While this is important, it is equally as important to maintain positive relationships with those in your home culture. What are some ways you can be intentional with the people closest to you? You could make an effort to spend time with them, pray for them, or do something nice for them that they aren't expecting. As you go about your day-to-day, it's easy to grow distant from those who are in closest proximity to you. When you take initiative to keep these relationships secure, you go into the world with a solid foundation.

Methods and routines are another vital element of the home culture. Does your family have structure in place with chores and tasks? When the home is organized and comfortable, it removes stress that might already exist in other areas. Working together makes the situation better for everyone. Think about ways you can improve the order of your home to help those you live with.

Since your home is usually where you spend the most time, home culture is important for your health and well-being. Acknowledge the areas that you are succeeding and address the tough issues with your loved ones. Ultimately, you have to consciously decide to build a safe and loving environment that supports you when you leave.

Pandemic Home Habits

A survey was taken of US individuals who stayed home during the pandemic. Values represent the percent of respondents who indicated they had increased that particular activity. Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1110483/activities-since-staying-at-home-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>



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CultureBound + YOU

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Our ChurchCourse Teaches You How to Love Your Neighbors

When you live in a home for awhile, your neighbors can become family. The closeness of their home becomes convenient for gatherings, sharing items, and community. Have you ever experienced difficulty building relationships with those who live close to you? It's not always an instant connection. It can be even more difficult if your neighbors come from a different culture than your own. CultureBound can help! Our ChurchCourse is designed to teach you how to make connections with those in your community who may have a different culture than yours.





ChurchCourse is designed to train church leaders and members on culture, the CultureBound Culture Tree, God's Culture Tree, and practical steps for inter-cultural communication. In order to best accommodate the schedules of many, this course is presented in two parts. Each part is a total of 6 hours over the course of two days. Our next ChurchCourse Part One is scheduled for April 13-14. Times are alternated and this course will be presented from 4P-7P PST. You can follow up with ChurchCourse Part Two on April 27-28, also presented from 4P-7P PST.

\$150
per person

Apr 13-14
Apr 27-28

Online

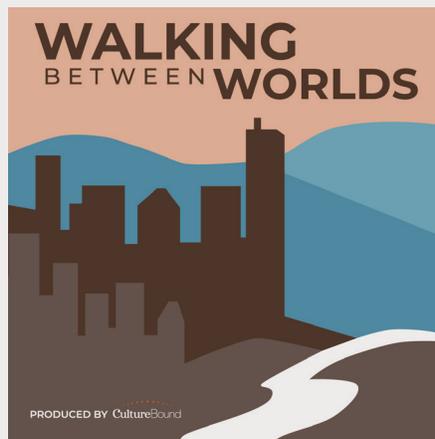
Because we feel this training is so valuable, we have set the costs low - only \$150 per person, per part. That equates to \$300 for 12 hours of training that will transform you from a neighbor into a community coordinator. This is a great way to improve your home and neighborhood culture. Ultimately, we know this training will serve as a catalyst for making disciples in your community. In the age of a global pandemic and travel restrictions, this is how we go.

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<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1110483/activities-since-staying-at-home-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

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