

# Syllabus

## Guilt, Shame, Fear... and Faith

### Course Creators

The course creators for this course are Jeff Cardell ([Adventures in Missions](#)), [Mark & Julie Morgenstern \(Grow2Serve\)](#), and Josh Sofaer ([Jews for Jesus](#).) Jeff lives and serves in Timisoara, Romania, equipping young professionals from different churches to live out the Gospel in practical ways. Mark is the director for continuing learning through the *CIT Next* ministry of [Center for Intercultural Training](#). Julie is the operations director for Grow2Serve. They both formerly served as church-planters in Ukraine and training leaders with ReachGlobal and in leadership roles at [South Suburban Evangelical Free Church](#). Josh is the branch leaders for [Jews for Jesus in Los Angeles](#).

### Course Description

*Guilt, Shame, Fear... and Faith* is a one-week CIT Next online course designed to help you understand some fundamentals of culture and ministry contextualization and personally enhance your ability to proclaim salvation and faith in the context of your new culture. The course asks you to make an **investment of 6-8 hours of learning time over the 8-day period**.

Our personal experience of our faith journey as a disciple of Jesus is deeply influenced by where we are from and the communities we've been a part of. When we move into a new community with a new culture, the truths of God and faith are unchangeable. But at the same time the way individuals understand and talk about those truths can change drastically. The tricky thing is that the single perspective that most of us are familiar with may be quite "invisible" to us. A key first step towards effective, contextualized ministry is to realize that various perspectives exist and that the perspectives I personally hold are often subconscious to me.

As a result of participating actively in the course, you will be equipped to...

- understand that three paradigms — guilt/innocence, honor/shame and power/fear — are strongly present in Scripture for understanding the Gospel and faith. You cannot just use one, but one will generally be the starting point for most communities.
- realize that there may be a divide between how we live our lives (a subconscious worldview) and how we view our theology... and work on reconciling that difference.
- shift vocabulary while explaining the Gospel while collecting stories/metaphors/narratives that are useful for ministry in the context where you minister.
- appreciate that cultural constructs of guilt, shame and fear are a reality for contextualized ministry beyond just evangelism.
- identify points in ministry where a 3D paradigm shift would be helpful for more effective communication.

## **Content, Community, Consultation, Connections**

*Guilt, Shame, Fear... and Faith* will afford you not just the opportunity to explore some interesting information regarding ministry contextualization, but, more importantly, it will connect you with fellow learners who are in a similar stage of cross-cultural ministry themselves. You'll be able to help each other and learn from one another. Your course facilitator will also be a great resource for clarifying what you are learning and for providing you with input on assignments that you will complete and discussions in which you will participate.

### **Is this Course for Me?**

*Guilt, Shame, Fear... and Faith* is designed for those desiring to minister well in their new cultural environment. If you've been settled into your place of ongoing ministry for at least 2 months and have a commitment to grow in your cultural abilities, this would be a good course for you.

### **Course Materials**

All readings and materials required will be available on the course site or through other Internet sites.

### **Course Mechanics**

The key to successful learning in this course is interaction, both with the facilitator and with the other participants in the course. It is vital that each participant faithfully post responses on time and reply to the posts of other participants. You will not receive a grade or mark from your facilitator. Your success in learning will be measured by you and your team when they notice the impact of the lessons learned.

Please note that for maximum learning impact in this course, a learner will ideally spend 45–90 minutes daily (Monday–Friday) working on the material. Some of the coursework will involve reading, writing, listening, and viewing videos on the computer. Other pieces will involve practicing the skills you are learning by interacting with your facilitator and other learners, and by engaging in your local community while practicing the skills you are learning.

We want you to engage with each other as well as with the subject matter. Don't be afraid to articulate your unique ideas, to think critically, or to ask challenging questions of others in a godly manner. Of course, your words of encouragement to fellow participants are always welcome. Before you begin with the course content and activities, please carefully review and complete activities under "Getting Started." Important introductory information and course navigation tips are presented there.

The course will require 6-8 hours of work to complete the minimum activities asked of you, depending on your level of interaction with the other participants. All the material is presented online, and will be a mix of text, audio, and video.

Please complete all the activities in the order they are presented. A main part of the course is the interaction between participants and the facilitator through forums. This is an asynchronous course, so there are not specific times you need to be online. Participants will be in several different time zones around the world, so there is not one set time when everyone is online together. The assignments have due dates, and within the boundaries of those due dates, you are free to complete assignments according to your schedule (i.e., you can do them at night, in the morning, at lunch, etc.). Please note that in the instructions of forums, quizzes, and wikis, all references to days when an item is due (without a particular time on the clock included) refer to Eastern Time, USA (New York).

### **Copyright Issues**

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