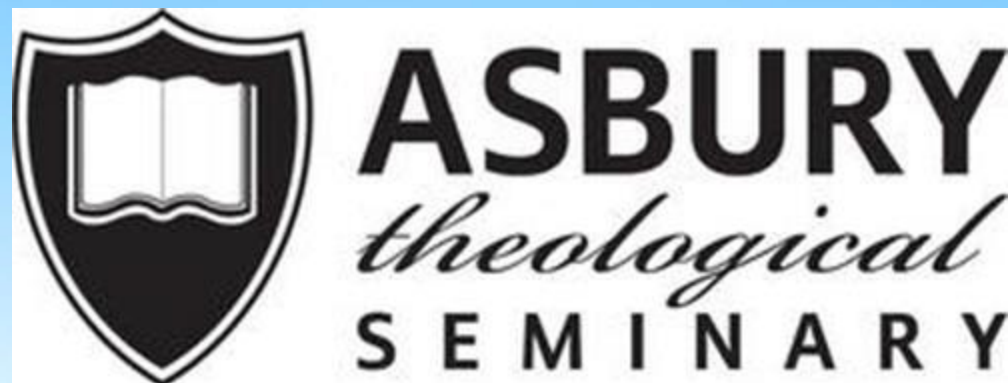


Practical Evangelism in the 21st Century's Pluralistic Communities

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**Great Commission Research Network
Conference 2017**





Theological Basis

“We have to reckon with three different types of reactions to transgressions of religiously sanctioned codes: fear, shame, and guilt.”

-Nida, p. 150

“Interpreting a text is not only a literary exercise; It is also a social, economic and political exercise. Our entire context comes into play when we interpret a biblical text. One therefore has to concede that *all* theology.... is, by its very nature, contextual.”

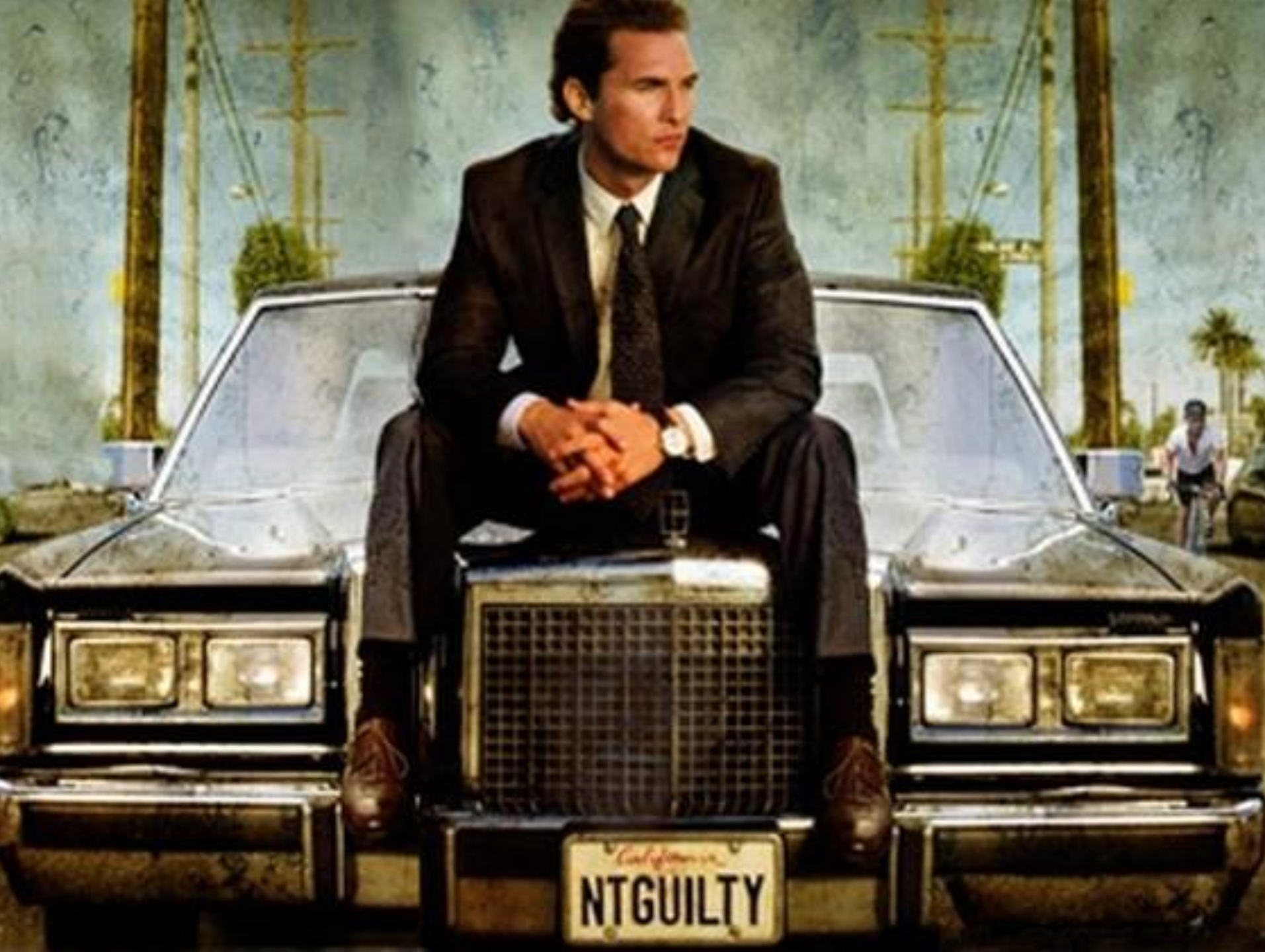
-Bosch, p. 423

“All theology is culturally conditioned and is relative in the sense that language, symbols and images are subject to interpretation. No theology is perfect or absolute.”

-Wu, p. 34







Innocence-Guilt Perspective

- **Our entertainment choices reflect our cultural preferences**
- **Ingrained in us from Childhood**
- **Westerners are reflexively drawn to the Apostle Paul**
- **Penal Substitution model prevails.**



Innocence-Guilt Perspective

- **Loss of Innocence/Scourge of sin emphasized in this version of the Eden narrative.**
- **In Global South: Lawmen often can't be trusted; Courts not necessarily a force for good.**
- **Look for nuanced/personal approaches within Justice-Guilt. Millennials less prone to guilt feelings, more concerned with experiential reality.**





Honor-Shame Perspective

- Honor-substitution is an essential facet of the atonement. Romans 3:25-26 “God allowed previous offenses to accrue, unpunished.”
- 190 biblical references to honor-shame.
- Honor-shame prevalent in Eden narrative.
- Prodigal son story is a good starting point.





Power-Fear Perspective

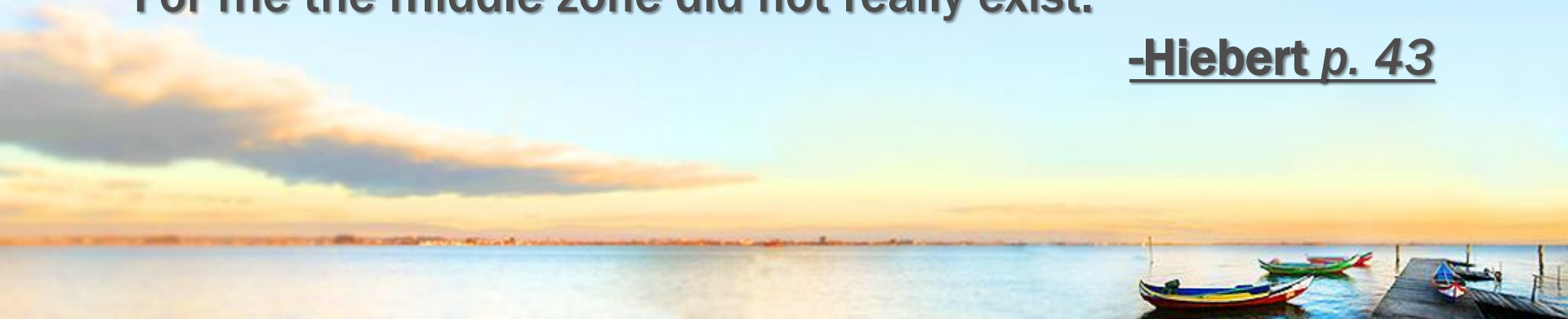
- Excluded middle issues (Hiebert)

Real World Problems

- *How did I get sick?*
- *Why is there a drought?*
- *How can I get him to love me?*

“As a scientist, I had been trained to deal with the empirical world in naturalistic terms. As a theologian, I was taught to answer ultimate questions in theistic terms. For me the middle zone did not really exist.”

-Hiebert p. 43

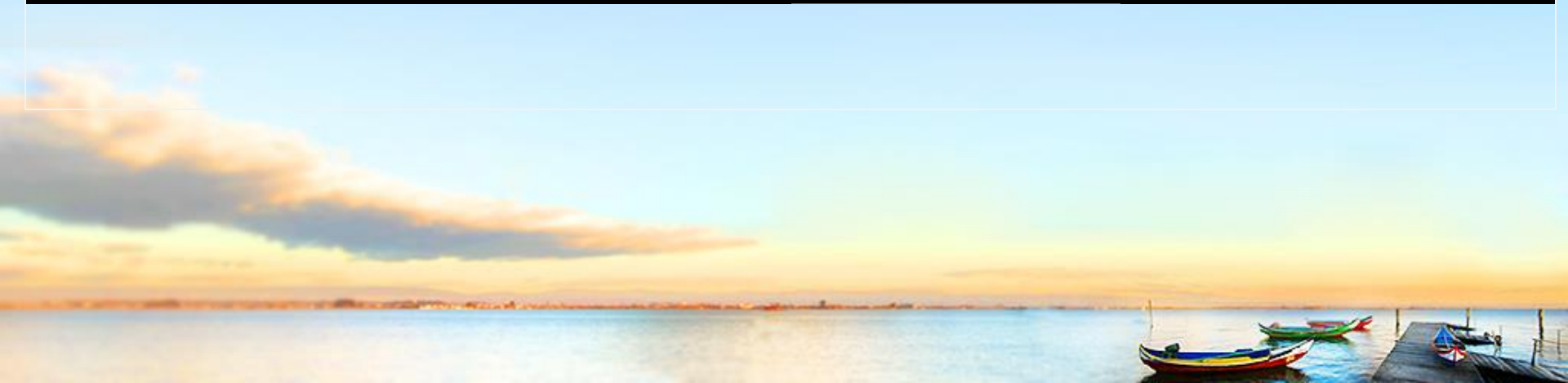


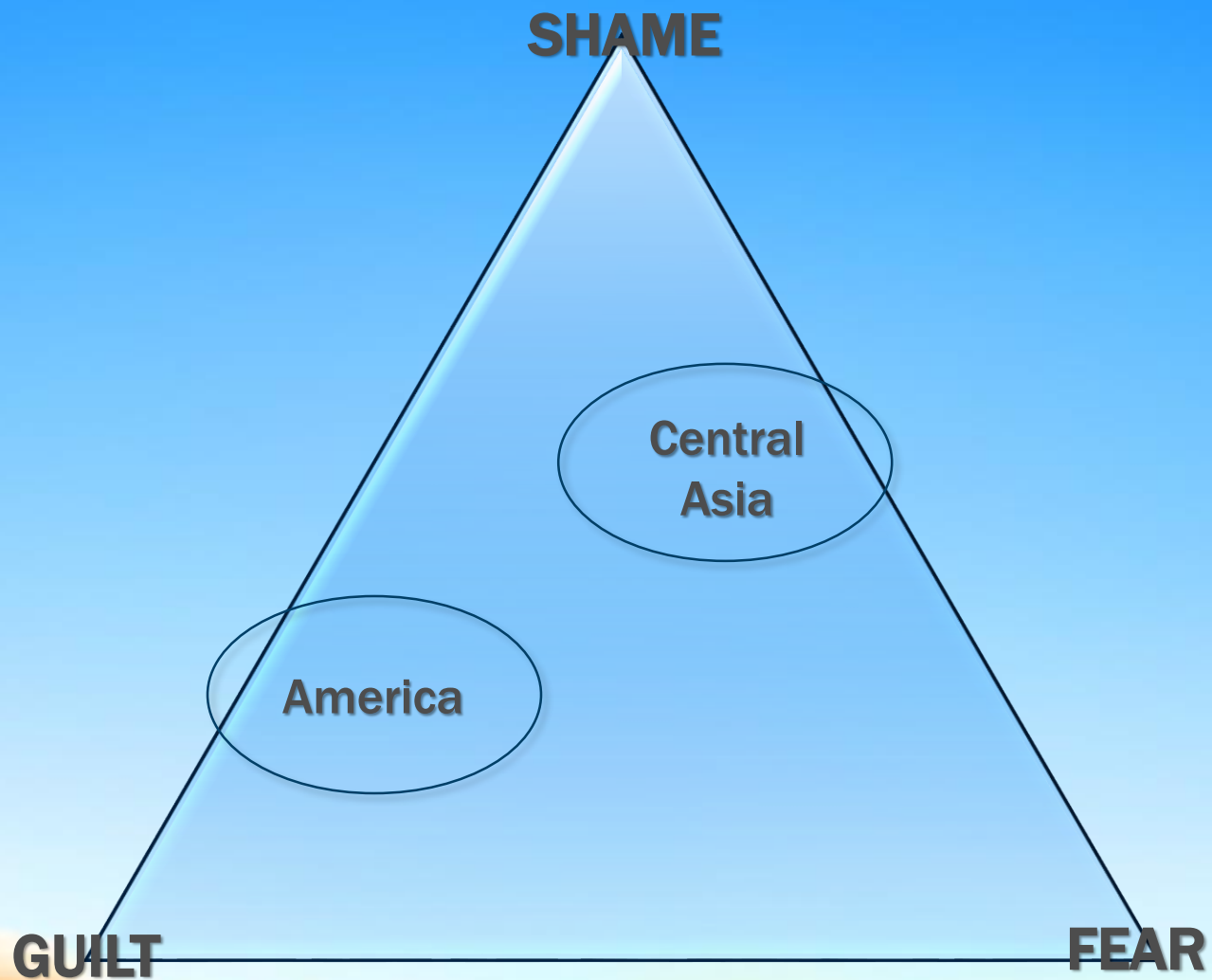
Power-Fear Perspective

- Ephesians 6 is a good starting point. “Our struggles... are against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
- Scriptures involving deliverance (Gadarene demoniac) or healing (Gate Beautiful).
- Power-fear in Eden narrative.
- Power-fear embraced by Pentecostals and Non-Pentecostals alike.



Worldview	<i>Innocence/Guilt</i>	<i>Honor/Shame</i>	<i>Power/Fear</i>
Typical Location	West (N. America, Europe)	East (M. East, N. Africa, Asia)	South (Sub-Sahara Africa, Tribal, Caribbean)
Sin's Result	Guilt/separation	Shame	Fear/curse/bondage
Solution	Payment/Substitute	Restore/Cleanse	Deliverance
Image	Courtroom/Justice	Relationship, Cleansing	Power, Freedom





Faith-Sharing Card Game

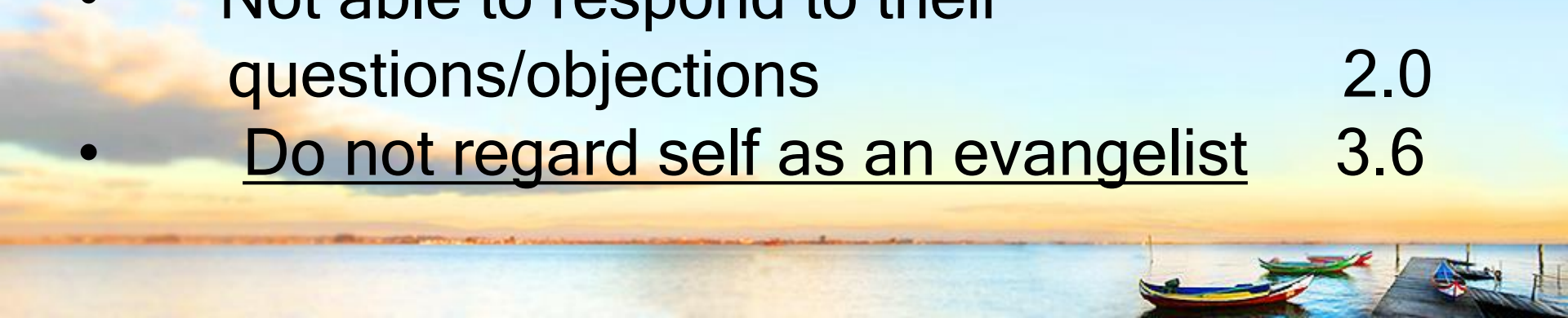


Averages on Evaluations(scale 1-5, 5 highest)

I am fearful about evangelizing due to:



- Not knowing what to say 2.0
- Not knowing how to get in conversations of faith 1.9
- Not around non-Christians very much 2.6
- Feeling I will get rejected 2.5
- Not able to respond to their questions/objections 2.0
- Do not regard self as an evangelist 3.6



Student Observations

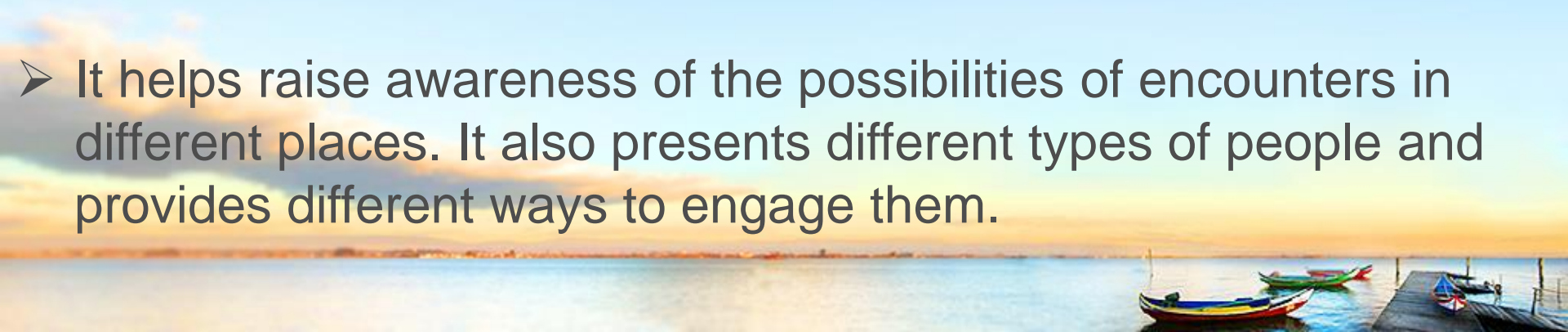
- It is helpful!! This was fun. We enjoyed playing this game



Helpful



- It brought me out of the four walls [of the church]. This was totally different.
- I don't have to just share "Jesus died for your sins." I can relate to their story
- It helps raise awareness of the possibilities of encounters in different places. It also presents different types of people and provides different ways to engage them.



Helpful



- It makes you want to learn the Bible stories, you realize more tools to work with.
- Gives you confidence and competence
- “I was not comfortable with the Power-fear worldview (talking about demons) so this made me learn more about it.”



FUN!!!



- It makes it (evangelism) more fun and relaxing, so we don't feel so tense. We can sit and think about the different worldviews.
- This game sensitizes us; It helps us to recognize how other cultural responses will be present in the encounter
- You are not alone reading the four Spiritual laws it's participatory.
- You don't have to prepare a sermon, games are easy to invite one to play with you than read the Bible.



Recommendations

- Include Bible verses in parentheses after biblical story
- Make people cards with real social issues, such as homosexual, atheist, agnostic, alcoholic, teen pregnancy, abortion, suicidal.
- Have people with greater diversity
- Include instructions for players



Indifference



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- For more copies of the “Faith Sharing” card game, contact W. Jay Moon at jay.moon@asburyseminary.edu
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