



WHAT GOES WITHOUT BEING SAID

SUMMARY | Does your perspective impact your understanding of the Bible? It's easy and understandable to see things through our worldview. Author and educator Randy Richards returns to *Discover the Word* to help us gain a broader perspective on Scripture. His knowledge on individualism and collectivism will give us insights to read the Bible better and understand the context that can be literally lost in translation. Follow along as we discuss the questions below and engage in an eye-opening conversation about cultures.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Listen to Frank Sinatra's song "My Way" at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQzdAs-jWGPg> . Is this an inspiring song to you? Would someone from an Eastern/collectivist culture feel the same way about the song's message?
2. Does your workplace have guidelines about nepotism? In a family business, what challenges arise for family members? For non-family members?
3. Why do you give gifts? Do you think the best gifts are those given with no strings attached?
4. What are the advantages of "cutting out the middleman"? Can you think of any disadvantages?
5. How might our Western/individualist perceptions of kinship, patronage, and brokerage influence our reading of the Bible?

Challenge

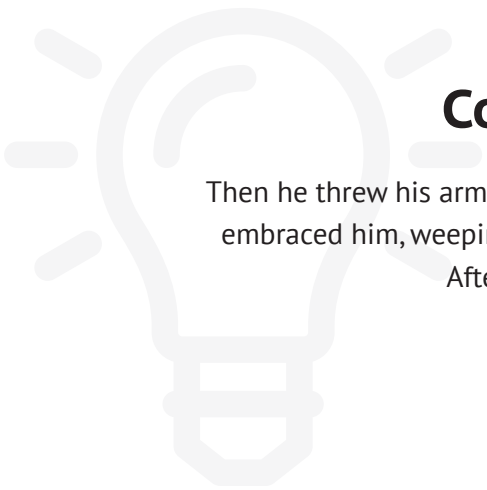
We want you to continue the conversation! Think of one Bible story you may have viewed in an individualistic way and how a collective viewpoint might bring a new perspective. Then have a discussion with someone in your family about your new insights this week.



Commit To Memory

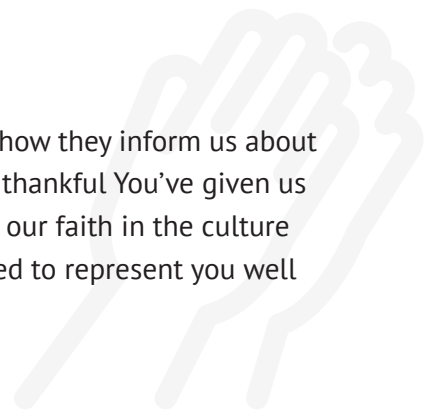
Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Genesis 45:14-15 NIV



Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the Scriptures and how they inform us about how much You love us and are at work in the world. We're thankful You've given us the Holy Spirit to guide us as we read and as we live out our faith in the culture where You've placed us. Please give us the insight we need to represent you well to those we meet. Amen.





WHAT GOES WITHOUT BEING SAID

SUMMARY | In week 1 of our series “What Goes Without Being Said,” author, biblical scholar, and missionary practitioner Randy Richards helped us see that the Bible was written within an Eastern collectivist culture and how easy it is to miss or misinterpret important scriptural elements when you’re not part of that culture.

In week 2, we explore three more concepts—honor, shame, and boundaries—that were and are part of the Mediterranean world. Discover how stripping away our individualist assumptions about those concepts can help us read the Bible better.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. What Western/individualist values are taught by each of these stories: the boy who cried wolf; the tortoise and the hare; the little red hen; Cinderella. What Eastern/collectivist value is a common thread in most biblical stories?
2. Randy states that “all public questions in the New Testament are ‘honor contests.’” Read the following passages (Mark 10:1–10; Luke 10:25–37; 20:1–8, John 3:1–21). Which were honor contests? Which were not?
3. Why do you think Randy warns us in the West of the danger of using shame in our interactions with others? Could shame ever be used properly?
4. How does the biblical use of boundaries often differ from our view of boundaries?

Challenge



Former *Discover the Word* group member Haddon Robinson combined the individualist and collectivist perspectives when he said, “While it’s true we have a personal faith in Jesus, at the same time we don’t have an individual faith. We were never meant to live the Christian life alone.” This week’s challenge is to think of the ways the faith community has impacted your life and how you can share the same impact with others.

Commit To Memory



Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water, welling up to eternal life”.

John 4:13-14 NIV

Prayer



Heavenly Father, help us to understand and be able to share clearly with others the message of the gospel. May Your Holy Spirit enable us to love others in a way that makes that message attractive to them. Amen.

