



# ACTS





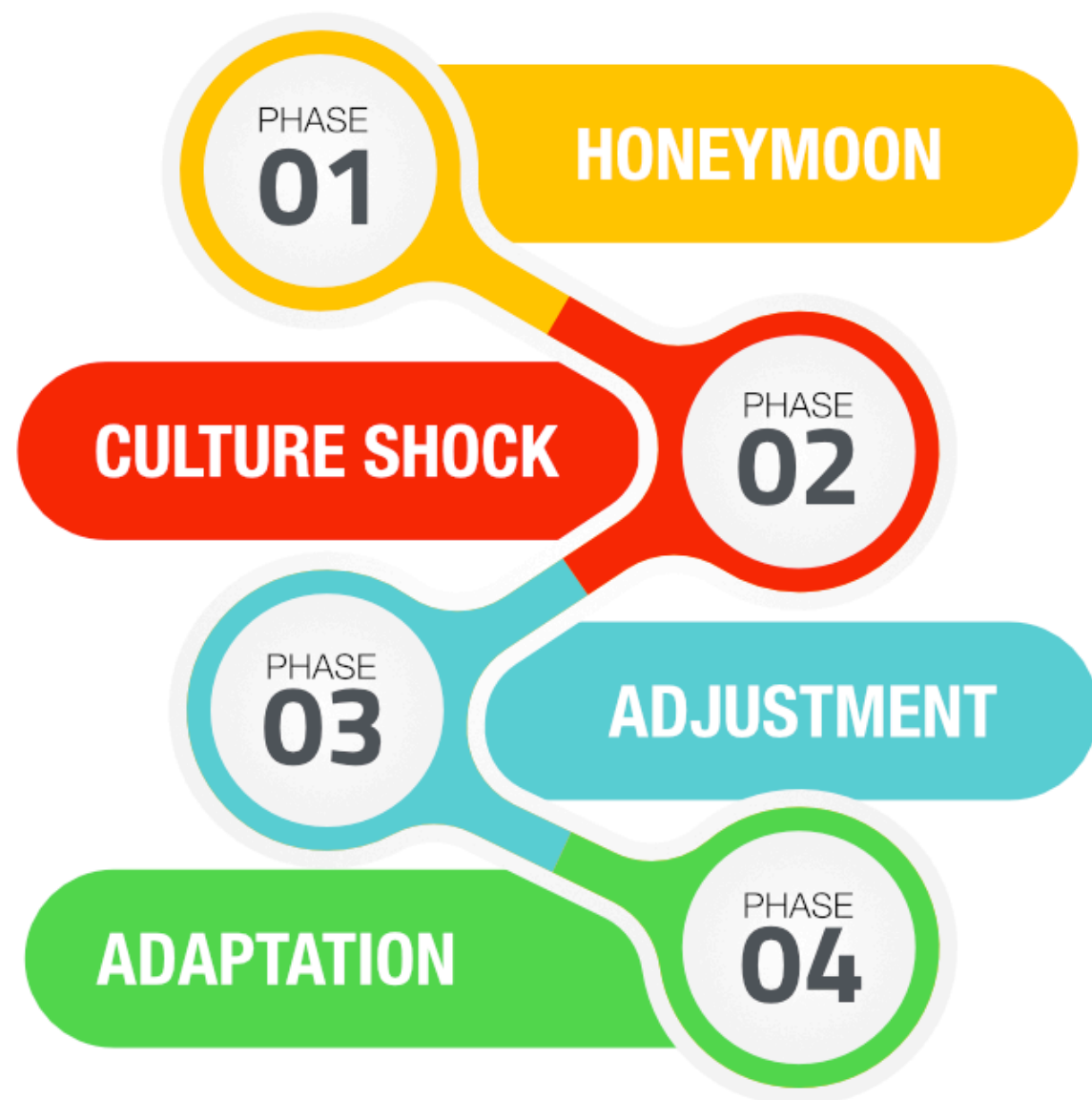
# STAGES OF CULTURAL ADAPTATION

**1.** You arrive and everything is new and wonderful. It's all so exciting.

**2.** Things irritate you. Everything is hard work — even buying bread! You don't know how some things work and the effort makes is starting to exhaust you. You're really thinking of quitting.

**3.** You begin to make progress and see small victories. Maybe you can actually handle this!

**4.** A few ups and downs, but you feel like this could be home, at least for a while.



**Scene 1:**  
**Cornelius' Vision**

**Scene 2:  
Peter's Vision**

**Scene 3:**  
**Peter in Cornelius' Home**

**Scene 4:**  
**Peter & Jerusalem Disciples**

# **GOD'S BURNING DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION**





Multiracial congregations have gained a greater share of American churches over the past 20 years, but as my colleagues and I have found, they are not delivering on what they promised. Multiracial churches often celebrate being diverse for diversity's sake. They aren't challenging racial attitudes that reinforce systemic inequality.

Korie Edwards

Reconciliation is the ongoing spiritual process involving forgiveness, repentance, and justice that restores broken relationships and systems to reflect God's original intention for all creation to flourish.

Brenda Salter McNeil

**HOW COULD I POSSIBLY  
HINDER GOD?**

**1. We connect reconciliation to our gospel calling.**

We must...do nothing less than engage in a radical rethinking of the Christian conception of salvation...What you present as the gospel will determine what you present as discipleship.

Dallas Willard

**The Gospel is the good news that God himself has come to rescue us from sin and to renew the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and to establish his kingdom through his people in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

So then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh—called “the uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised,” which is done in the flesh by human hands. At that time you were without the Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In His flesh, He made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that He might create in Himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. He did this so that He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross and put the hostility to death by

Ephesians 2:11-16



But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned. For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas in front of everyone, “If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Galatians 2:11-15

**1. We connect reconciliation to our gospel calling**

**2. We commit to learning**

# Learning about ourselves:

My family of origin:

- How did my family talk about the following groups - african american, white, asian, latino/a/hispanic, native american, middle eastern?
- Who are the people I was taught to fear? Why?
- Who are the people I was taught are beneath me?
- What assumptions do I hold?

# Learning about ourselves:

My faith tradition:

- Race & Ethnicity?
- Image of God?
- Sin? (Personal, social, institutional, cultural, spiritual)
- Social justice & the Prophets?
- Corporate solidarity & responsibility?
- Legacy of reconciliation in church history?

# Learning about ourselves:

My faith tradition:

- Race & Ethnicity?
- Image of God?
- Sin? (Personal, social, institutional, cultural, spiritual)
- Social justice & the Prophets?
- Corporate solidarity & responsibility?
- Legacy of reconciliation in church history?

**Learning about other cultures**

**Learning new cross-cultural  
skills, practices, values,  
attitudes**

**1. We connect reconciliation to our gospel calling**

**2. We commit to learning**

**3. We lament, repent, and resist the racial sins that continue to shape our world today**



Racism is usually defined as intended individual acts of overt prejudice and discrimination.

Michael Emerson

Racism is an entire culture - a comprehensive way of being and doing that is embedded in our structures of meaning, morality, language, and memory and expressed in our patterns of individual, social, and institutional behavior.

Duke Kwon & Gregory  
Thompson

**1. We connect reconciliation to our gospel calling**

**2. We commit to learning**

**3. We lament, repent, and resist the racial sins that continue to shape our world today**

**4. We normalize complexity & discomfort**

- 1. We connect reconciliation to our gospel calling**
- 2. We commit to learning**
- 3. We lament, repent, and resist the racial sins that continue to shape our world today**
- 4. We normalize complexity & discomfort**
- 5. We celebrate progress**