

## 6 Facets of Cultural Differences

Understanding the different ways each culture answers the following will help us make friendships across cultures:

### **Where are we? The Importance of Context**

The role things like setting, process, body language, and appearance play in communication.

<b>High Context Cultures operate on the following:</b>	<b>Low Context Cultures operate on the following:</b>
The context of an event is as important as the event itself	The content of the message is more important than the context
The listener is responsible for understanding communication	The speaker is responsible for the communication
There is no distinction between the idea and the person	People are defined by their recent achievements
Experience is equal in value to fact	Analytical thinking is preferred
Life is viewed holistically	

### **What Drives Us? The Value of Activity**

How does the culture group define and understand activity? Doing cultures value results and products; being cultures value relationships and quality of life.

### **Who's in Charge? The Influence of Authority**

Is equal treatment expected, or is a hierarchy the norm?

### **Who Am I? The Source of Identity**

Do people tend to view themselves as individuals, separate from family or community? Or do they see themselves as part of a group?

### **When Do We Start? Our Sense of Time**

### **What's Really Real? Differences in Worldview**

From Lane, Patty. *A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2002.

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