***A Church Called Tov*** **Book Study: Session #1**

***Discussion Sheet for Introduction and Chapter 1:***

**Theme**: The culture of our churches

**Goal**: To help participants begin to reflect on the culture of their church communities and the way that culture shapes assumptions, behaviors, and expectations of participants (for better or for worse).

1. *Culture socializes us into what is considered proper behavior. For Christians, this is true in our churches as well as in society at large.* p. 13

What are some beliefs, convictions, behaviors, (helpful or not so helpful) that you learned and absorbed through participating in your church and its ministries (this could include beliefs about children, practices in worship, expectations of leaders)?

What two or three words or phrases might you use to describe the culture of your church or the culture of a church you would like to be a part of?

1. *The language of worldview tends to imply . . . that we can think our way into new ways of behaving. But that is not how culture works. Culture helps us behave ourselves into new ways of thinking.* p. 20

In the Reformed tradition, we put a lot of emphasis on right thinking with the assumption that this will lead to right behavior. Andy Crouch (along with a growing number of scholars) suggests that transformation and change come not necessarily through right thinking but right behaving. What do you make of this notion? How have you experienced or seen this concept play out in your circles?

1. *I learned it, I practiced it, and then I passed it on to others.* p. 21

Give an example from your own life or that you have observed where behaviors in the church were learned, practiced, and passed on to others. What does this suggest about the importance of attending to the culture of our church communities?

1. What other ideas from the chapter struck you as new or important as you read through the chapter?