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experiencing life in Jesus



Discussion Prompts on Race & Identity

Your Family & Church	Your Race or Ethnicity
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Share about your cultural heritage or your family's journey to America, or give a characteristic of your culture or family that you value or have adopted.2. What is your first memory of being aware of race, whether your own identity or someone else's?3. How has race & ethnicity influenced your experience of and understanding of Church?4. What thoughts, feelings, or questions do you have in response to this subject?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. How do you describe yourself to others? What aspects of your ethnicity or race do you think are important for others to understand (or are often misunderstood)?6. How has God affirmed you in your ethnic identity, or used aspects of it to glorify God?7. What are some ways that you have grown in your racial or ethnic identity?8. What has been particularly confusing or frustrating for you as you try to understand yourself ethnically (in American culture or in the Church)?
Your Past	Your Future
<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Growing up, what racial feelings, attitudes, or ideas (positive or negative) shaped you?10. What people groups did you and/or your family grow up fearing or distrusting? Why? How have you or are you working through this?11. Describe a situation related to race or ethnicity that has impacted you personally. What did you learn from it?12. In what ways has your culture been affirmed or neglected in your Church experience?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">13. How do you hope to apply your experience of racial healing and reconciliation to your personal relationships and/or your life at our church?14. What are steps you need to take to educate yourself or to act in the area of racial reconciliation? What are steps you believe our church must take?15. How does present-day racism affect you and your story, either directly or indirectly?16. How do you hope to grow in your ability to love God's people of every ethnicity and culture? What is your next step?

Racial Reconciliation Resources

Compiled for members & friends of First Free Church, Chicago.

Getting Your Feet Wet

- ❖ blog post: "[Which Topic Draws the Least Discussion on This Blog?](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff1
 - Scott McKnight, author of *The Jesus Creed*, addresses lack of Christian conversation around race.
- ❖ blog post: "[A Letter to White Evangelicals from a White Evangelical](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff2
 - Lovingly calling White Christians to task for ways we've responded to recent news events.
- ❖ EFCA blog: [All People: Bridging the Diversity Gap](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff3
 - A Free Church blog that "looks at multiethnic and multicultural ministry and the desire to see Matt. 22:37-40 come to life."
- ❖ cartoon: "[The Day I Started To Acknowledge Systemic Racism](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff4
 - A metaphor for racism.
- ❖ article: "[5 Tips for Talking about Racism with Kids](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff5
 - A starting spot for parents.

In the Shallow End

- ❖ blog post: "[How to Actually Fight for Racial Reconciliation](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff6
 - Practical ideas from a Christian perspective.
- ❖ blog post: "[Ok, White Folks, Here's How You Can Really Help](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff7
 - Five tangible steps written by our guest preacher, Pastor Jonathan Brooks.
- ❖ blog post: [Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff8
 - Seminal writing by Peggy McIntosh: "I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group."
- ❖ blog post: [What my bike has taught me about white privilege](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff9
 - If you chafe at the phrase "white privilege," you may appreciate the analogy of this avid bicyclist.
- ❖ blog post: "[How to Talk to Kids About Racism](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff10
 - Great practical suggestions & book lists by age (may not show in Chrome).
- ❖ TED talk: "[The Danger of a Single Story](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff11
 - Novelist Chimamanda Adichie warns against cultural misunderstanding from hearing only one voice.

Full Immersion

- ❖ documentary: "[Race: The Power of an Illusion](#)" ~ j.mp/rr-ff12
 - Highly recommended by our guest preacher, Pastor Jonathan. His words: "Episode 3 is [especially] helpful in breaking down the damage of systemic racism and privilege. It also deals with the notion that individual actions are not the only factors to be considered when dealing with racial reconciliation."
- ❖ books: [Divided by Faith](#) & [United by Faith](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff13
 - The authors were the first to conduct large-scale surveys to find what Evangelical Americans think about race. Powerful & eye opening.
- ❖ book: [The Heart of Racial Justice](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff14
 - Two ministers present racism as a spiritual problem and looks at how the Church should respond.
- ❖ book: [This Side of Heaven: Race, Ethnicity, and Christian Faith](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff15
 - A compilation of essays for the more theologically-minded (including essays by Robert Priest, Alvaro Nieves, Tite Tiéno, Peter Cha, others).
- ❖ resources: [Renew Partnerships: Empowering Multi-ethnic Pioneers](#) ~ j.mp/rr-ff16
 - Provides "Biblical, effective, affordable resources" for multi-ethnic churches.

Action Steps

- ❖ Pray!
- ❖ Share with someone what you've learned from participating in today's discussion.
- ❖ Commit to reading a blog or resource on the topic every week.
- ❖ Develop meaningful relationships with people from cultural backgrounds that differ from your own.
- ❖ Diversify the voices you read (social media, devotions, theology, etc).
- ❖ Speak out about justice and reconciliation in your spheres of influence.
- ❖ Involve your children in your journey toward deeper racial understanding through honest and meaningful conversations.
- ❖ Join an ongoing discussion group or prayer gathering on the topic.
- ❖ Start or join a book club to read more about racial reconciliation.
- ❖ Join the racial reconciliation prayer time on January 18 (next Sunday, 9am).

Live links to all of these resources and more can be found on the First Free Church website: firstfree.com

Questions? Contact us at reconciliation@firstfree.com.