



Discussion Guide

Racial Justice Teach-In

PART 3

SUGGESTIONS FOR FACILITATORS

- This is Part 3 of a 3-part series.
- If you are watching this Teach-In as part of a Sunday school class, Part 3 will likely extend past your allotted time limit for one class. We suggest giving each part 2 weeks and either breaking the video into two parts, or watching the bulk of the video in one week and having discussion in the second week.
- Consider beginning each session with a few verses of scripture, a grounding prayer, or silent meditation.
- Below we offer a sample set of questions to guide you in conversation. Please feel free to adapt or adjust for the particular dynamics of your group.
- This discussion guide is intended to offer a framework for your conversations about racism and white supremacy. We encourage you to dig into the work and consider how the content is relevant for your particular setting.

CONVERSATION GUIDELINES

- Seek knowledge about yourself and others. Every conversation is a chance to learn.
- Use “I” messages. Speak from your own experiences.
- Experience discomfort. Talking about race does not create divisions itself. Talking about race opens doors.
- Say “ouch” when something bothers you. Explain or write how you feel.
- Breathe: This conversation is a beginning. We will not finish today.

From Challenging Racism: Getting Started through Stories and Conversations (challengingracism.org)

SCHEDULE

- Introductions:
State your name, your pronouns, and answer the question: What do you think of when you hear the topic of decentering whiteness?
- Watch the Teach-In
- Discussion/Reflection

Special thanks to Blair Moorhead and the folks at Clarendon Presbyterian Church for your collaboration on the content for this guide.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

- What are your initial reactions to Part 3?

- How do you respond to the way the trainers define the concept of decentering whiteness?

- What can we as individuals and congregations do to decenter whiteness?

- Where do you see whiteness being centered in your own life?

- What are the benefits of decentering whiteness?

- What do you make of the relationship between individualism and whiteness? How do we address it?

- What is your key takeaway from the Racial Justice Teach-In, Part 3? What is resonating with you and what do you most want to enact from this conversation?

NOTES

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

These resources were named on Part 3 of our Racial Justice Teach-In as essential reading, people to follow on social media, and ways to take action. This list is not exhaustive, of course, but is merely the resources suggested by the trainers as essential reading.

White Supremacy Culture - <https://bit.ly/3j270Ky>

This article by Tema Okun is “a list of characteristics of white supremacy culture that show up in our organizations. Culture is powerful precisely because it is so present and at the same time so very difficult to name or identify. The characteristics listed below are damaging because they are used as norms and standards without being proactively named or chosen by the group. They are damaging because they promote white supremacy thinking. Because we all live in a white supremacy culture, these characteristics show up in the attitudes and behaviors of all of us - people of color and white people. Therefore, these attitudes and behaviors can show up in any group or organization, whether it is white-led or predominantly white or people of color-led or predominantly people of color.”

Dismantling Racism.org

Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community Churchwide Antiracism Policy, PCUSA collection of resources! <https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/>

For updated resources, check out <https://mlp.org/racial-justice/>