

SACRED GROUND: A film-based dialogue series on race and faith

SYLLABUS

Session 1: Stepping onto Sacred Ground

To watch beforehand or (preferably) in the session

- Documentary: *American Creed* (86 min.)

To read beforehand

- Summary sheet: [Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice](#)
- Sacred Ground preparatory documents: "Invitation and Introduction," "Organizing a Dialogue Circle" and "Participant Preparation Guide" (all found on the Sacred Ground "[Getting Started](#)" webpage)
- Column: "[Black History Is Everyone's History](#)" by Leonard Pitts, Jr.
- Excerpt from essay: "[Not Somewhere Else, But Here](#)" by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker
- Excerpt from book: [Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World](#) by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill
- Selection from book: [America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America](#) by Jim Wallis (bottom of p. 103 to p. 109 from hardback edition)

Handout(s) to print ahead of time for use during session

- "[Key Distinctions for Understanding Race and Racism](#)" by Katrina Browne and James Perry
- There are further suggestions in the Session One section of the Study Guide as to whether to make some of the readings above available as handouts.

Session 2: The Roots of Whiteness, and Deeper Roots

To watch beforehand or in the session

- Short video: [The Myth of Race Debunked in 3 Minutes](#) (3 min.)
- Short video: [Decoded: Are Cracker, White Trash, & Redneck Racist?](#) (5 min.)

To read beforehand

Note: There is more reading for this session because there is no full film to watch (just the two short videos above). These opening sessions are a time to lay some important foundations.

- Article: "[Roots Deeper Than Whiteness](#)" by David Dean
- Article: "[A Geography Lesson for the Tea Party](#)" by Colin Woodard in *Washington Monthly* magazine. The core of this article provides a digest of his book: *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*. (You can just read from the paragraph that starts, "We're accustomed to thinking of American regionalism..." and stop at paragraph that starts, "Which brings us to the Tea Party movement...")
- Selections from book: *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (15 assorted pages from paperback edition)

- Blog posts: “[On the Five Stages & White People Waking Up to Racism](#)” and “[On White Tears](#)” by Tad Hargrave
- Core book: *Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving – Introduction and Chapters 2-3

Session 3: Whose Land? Exploring Indigenous History

To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *We Shall Remain*, Episode 1: “After the Mayflower” (77 min.)
- Short video: [The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery](#) (14 min.)

To read beforehand

- Audio story and article: “[The Map of Native American Tribes You’ve Never Seen Before](#)” by Hansi Lo Wang from NPR. Please look at Aaron Carapella’s map – the link is at the very bottom of the article – to see which Native tribes lived at the time of European conquest in the region where you live now.
- Article: “[Unshackled by Visions and Values](#)” by Martin Brokenleg
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman – Forward and Preface
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 1, 4-6, and 30

Session 4: Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery: Exploring Black History

To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, Episode 1: “The Black Atlantic: 1500-1800” (56 min.)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Ghana](#), three short videos featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and Bishop Andrew Waldo (23 min.)

To read beforehand

- Article: “[New England’s Hidden History](#)” by Francie Latour in *The Boston Globe*
- Essay: “[The White Man’s Guilt](#)” by James Baldwin in *Ebony* magazine
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – first part of Chapter 1 (up to paragraph that starts “In the face of these alternatives...,” on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter 11

Session 5: Whose Land? More Layers: Exploring Latino History

To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *Latino Americans*, Episode 1: “[Foreigners in Their Own Land](#)” (53 min.)
- YouTube video: [Guns, Germs, and Steel: How Europeans Came to Dominate the World, in 7 Minutes](#)

To read beforehand

- Selection from book: *Ripe Fields: The Promise and Challenge of Latino Ministry* by Juan Oliver (pp. 5-18 from paperback edition)
- Op-ed: “[Moving Beyond the Black-White Binary](#)” by Roberto Lovato
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – second part of Chapter 1 (from paragraph that starts “In the face of these alternatives...,” on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition, to the end of the chapter)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter 13

Session 6: Americans, Not Foreigners: Exploring Asian/Pacific American History

To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *Ancestors in the Americas*, Episode 2: “Chinese in the Frontier West” (61 min.)

To read beforehand

- Article: “[The real reasons the U.S. became less racist toward Asian Americans](#)” by Jeff Guo, in conversation with Ellen Wu about her book, *The Color of Success*
- Article: “[Asian Americans speak out against a decades-old ‘model minority’ myth](#)” by Yanan Wang
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – first part of Chapter 2 (up to paragraph that starts “The crucial question, then, is this...,” on p. 36 of 1996 paperback edition)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 14 and 16

Session 7: Selective Access to the Melting Pot and the American Dream: 1830s-1960s

To watch beforehand or in the session

- Documentary: *Slavery by Another Name* (in the interest of time you can just watch the first 32.5 minutes, or first 36.5 minutes for people who are prepared to view a graphic section on lynching)
- PBS series: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, Episode 3: “The House We Live In” (56 min.)

To read beforehand

- Article: “[An interview with Noel Ignatiev](#)” about his book, *How the Irish Became White* – first 4 pages of article
- Please review or research your family’s 19th- and 20th-century history in connection to the relevant racial history covered in this session’s films and readings
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – second part of Chapter 2 (from paragraph that starts “The crucial question, then, is this...,” on p. 36 of 1996 paperback edition, to the end of the chapter)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 7, 17-18, and 23

Session 8: Divisions in Present-Day White America

To watch beforehand or in the session

- National Geographic series: *America Inside Out with Katie Couric*, Episode 4: “White Anxiety” (48 min.)

To read beforehand

- Article: “[What So Many People Don’t Get About the U.S. Working Class](#)” by Joan Williams
- Selections from book: *Beyond the Messy Truth* by Van Jones (13 assorted pages from the hardback edition)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 3
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – first 3 pages of Chapter 35

Session 9: Legacies: Racism’s Long Life

To watch beforehand or in the session

- Documentary: *Healing Justice* (66 min.)

To read beforehand

- Selection from book: *Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome* by Joy DeGruy (pp. 8-10 of paperback edition)
- Article: “[Ghosts of the Masters: Descendants of Slaveholders Reckon with History](#)” by the Rev. David Pettee and Susan Hutchison
- Selections from book: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander (pp. 1-4, 16-19, and bottom of p. 202 to p. 208 of hardback edition)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 4
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 26-27 and revisit p. 175

Session 10: Becoming Beloved Community

To watch beforehand or in the session

- Documentary: *Dawnland* (abridged, 54 min.)
- Documentary: *Repairing the Breach: The Episcopal Church and Slavery Atonement* (31 min.)

To read beforehand

- Selections from book: *America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis (Chapter 4 and p. 215 to the top of p. 217 of hardback edition)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 5