



## Interview with Simran Jeet Singh: A Guide for Parents and Educators

Interview by Ken Chitwood



Following the reading of *Fauja Singh Keeps Going*, Ken Chitwood spoke with author Simran Jeet Singh about the inspiration for the book as well as his hope for how parents and educators in the LRJ community can further conversation within their spheres of influence to spur us to action. This guide is intended to be used by parents and/or educators and administrators to spark conversation about the ways in which we talk to our children about diversity and inclusion as well as the way in which we model showing love to all of humanity and where we can improve.

### **Discussion Questions:** Follow along with the interview or discuss at the end.

+ “If we can teach our kids to see the humanity in those who seem most different from them then they can learn to see the humanity in every one they meet.” *In what way have you lived out Simran’s thesis well? In what way may you improve in this?*

+ Fauja Singh dealt with disability, agism, racism, xenophobia, classism. *In what way have you seen your children as perpetuators of those prejudices and in what way have you seen them as victims? What proactive measures are we taking to prevent this? What reactive measures do we take when they occur?*

+ “It’s easier not to talk about the things that make us uncomfortable and also, we don’t know how to have these conversations because no one has taught us.” *Do you agree with what Simran observed about conversations regarding racial and religious differences in America? How might you engage these conversations with your children? In what way would these conversations better prepare your children for the future?*

+ Ken talked about “guarding ourselves against racial and religious differences” as Lutherans. *Do you agree with this observation? Where can we better relate to others who are different than ourselves?*

+ *What do you know about Sikhi (sm)?* Check out the following document to learn more.

+ Simran condensed his Sikh beliefs to these 3 core teachings: Oneness, Love, and Service.  
“There is one connective force that unites all of us. Everyone has the same divine light.”  
“If you really believe that [oneness] and you’re constantly remembering the divinity in everyone you meet, everyone you encounter, then you’re practicing love.”  
“Love moves us to act and serve those whom we love.”

“You serve because you love. And you love because you’re connected.”

*In what way do these ideals line up with Christianity and how can that common ground help our children to see the humanity in all people?*

+ Ken asked where we can move beyond just reading a book as parents or educators. Simran challenged parents/adults to model humility to our children. *What do you plan to do as an influential adult in children’s lives and as a family to put these conversations in action?*