

Wednesday Wisdom: The Kyle Korver Affect

By now you have probably seen the compelling article written by NBA player Kyle Korver that has lit up social media in the past few days. If you haven't come across the article yet, you can read "Privileged" here.

<https://www.theplayerstribune.com/.../kyle-korver-utah-jazz-n...>

In "Privileged", Korver writes about his own personal epiphany regarding white privilege and racial injustice. Korver recounts a situation with a teammate that led to a deeper understanding of his own prejudices. This event sent him on a journey of deeper understanding and has provoked him towards greater action.

Over the next few weeks of MELD's Wednesday Wisdom series, we hope to generate dialogue that leads to deeper understanding and action through discussion around a few of Korver's ideas. How can one NBA player affect a broad community? Let's find out. Grab a friend or co-worker, head to lunch, and use these questions as discussion. Listening, learning, and digging deeper into your own thoughts about race and privilege will help you to lead more effectively in your own life, with your teams, and in your organization.

Here are a few thoughts to get us going this week:

1. Take a few minutes and read the article "Privileged" by Kyle Korver. What are your general thoughts about the article (agree or disagree? feel inspired? frustrated?).
2. Korver challenges majority culture people about the privilege of "opting in or opting out" of the discussion about racial injustice in our country. Do you agree that "opting out" is an example of advantage or privilege?
3. If you are of the majority culture, what happens when you "opt out" of these conversations? How does it affect your environment? Minority teammates? Community? How does being willing to engage in issues of racial injustice (opting in)

help us personally and as diverse communities?

4. If you are of a minority culture, how do you feel when you see people choosing to "opt out" of these vital conversations and spaces that could lead to deeper understanding and transformational change?

5. As you go about your week, take a minute to recognize what "opting in" looks like for you. Will you take Korver's challenge and choose to stay engaged in conversations about race and privilege?

That's it for this week's Wednesday Wisdom. Join us next week as we take another look at Korver's article. We would love to hear your comments and thoughts about these topics. Email us or jump over to our Facebook page and share your wisdom with our MELD community!

If you are interested in bringing MELD to your campus or organization for training, contact us for more information. MELD exists to equip coaches and college athletes to thrive in our racially diverse world.

Wednesday Wisdom: The Kyle Korver Affect; Part 2. Racism and the NBA

Welcome back to Wednesday Wisdom for the second part of our discussion on the Kyle Korver Affect. Last week we used Korver's recently published article, "Privileged" to tackle some tough perspectives on race and privilege.

This week we are posting the full video published by the Players' Tribune of Korver and three of his Utah Jazz teammates discussing "Racism and the NBA." It is a fascinating conversation about their experiences and revelations regarding race and racial injustice. Why not watch the video, grab a teammate or co-worker, then head to lunch and use these questions as further discussion. Listening, learning, and digging deeper into your own thoughts about race and privilege will help you to

lead more effectively in your own life, with your teams, and in your organization.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn6CVpmmrno>

Discussion:

1. Watch the video "Racism and the NBA."
2. In the video, Korver brings up the idea of colorblindness (5:00). How does the concept of "not seeing color" hinder our understanding of one another?
3. Korver talks about "becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable" (11:20). Think about a time when you felt uncomfortable discussing a topic connected to racism. What do you think was the root of your discomfort?
4. Why do you think people find the topic of race and injustice so difficult to talk about? What are the benefits of leaning into the discomfort and having more open conversations about race and racial injustice?
5. Georges Niang challenges us on how we choose to react when we see/hear/experience racist acts. What steps can you take to be proactive when you see racism? Where do you have influence that could make a difference?