
Week 2 - White Fragility & Racial Diversity Audit

Note: Of course, adapt or change whatever you feel is best for your context, tradition, or theology (or just to allow more time to discuss some of the content and not feel rushed). However, the planning team strongly encourages you to ensure that the biblical reflection is essential and that the videos are included so that the small group regularly hears from UKME / Global Majority Christians each week.

Flow of Session:

- Opening Prayer (3 to 5 minutes)
- Welcome (2 minutes)
- Reminder and recommit to the Group Covenant (2 minutes)
- Lectio Divina (3 minutes to remind group + 10 minutes to do lectio)
- Biblical Reflection Video No. 2 - Isaiah 1.10-20 (about 12 and a half minutes)
- Moment of Silence
- Reactions to Biblical Reflection Video (5 minutes)
- Jen Jenkins No.1 Video: 'Why & What' (about 11 minutes)
- Read short 'White Fragility Reflection' Article (5 minutes)
- Small group discussion followed by plenary (15 minutes)
- Video explaining the Racial Diversity Audit (about 5 minutes)
- Close and Prayer (2 minutes)

What you will need:

- A Candle (and matches)
- Bibles (or biblical verses printed to give participants) for Isaiah 1.10-20
- The Collect for this week (the one from last Sunday)
- 'The Prayer for Courage' from the Corrymeela Community
- Biblical Reflection Video No.2 - Isaiah 1.10-20 (Download from website)
- Copies of White Fragility Reflection Article (Download from website)
- Jen Jenkins' Video No. 1 - 'Why & What' (Download from website)
- Racial Diversity Audit Video (Download from website)
- Copies of the Racial Diversity Audit for the group (Download from website)

The Session:

1. Opening Prayer

Please note: Feel free to use this short liturgy or open with extemporary prayer - or a combination of both. (Whatever works best for you and your tradition).

Light a candle in the centre of the group

Keep a moment of silence

Leader: Let us start by bringing our focus onto God
and recognise God's presence among us.
May the love and desire for justice of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: We put aside of stresses and preoccupations of the day,
we acknowledge our hopes, fears, and anxieties
as we start this session.

We ask you to be with us, Lord.
Help us to be open and vulnerable
to your presence and the learning you have for us today.
We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Leader reads the collect for this week

Leader: We gather together our thoughts and prayers using the prayer that Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

All: All pray 'The Prayer for Courage' from the Corrymeela Community by Pádraig Ó Tuama to close.

2. Welcome

Review Principles of Learning Community:

- We're here to learn
- No experts
- Be challenged by the gospel
- Be challenged by the stories and experiences of others
- Will prioritise the voices of UKME / Global Majority Christians
- We acknowledge the leading of the Holy Spirit.

A reminder to:

- Be Present
- Be Open
- Be Truthful
- Be Gracious
- Be Kind

Explain the flow of this session (it would help to put on PowerPoint or White Board or A3 paper as well).

3. Reminder of the Group Covenant

- Review your group covenant
- Ask that everyone agrees to those principles again for this session by raising their hands.

4. Lectio Divina - Isaiah 1.10-20

May we suggest people get into groups of 3 or 4 with those near them. Make sure everyone has a bible or a copy of the passage. There are many variations on how to do Lectio Divina. Here's a variation that we will use today:

Listening for God in the Word:

- i. One person reads aloud the passage of scripture. Listen for a word or short phrase that strikes you.
- ii. **Keep silence for a moment.** Then, another person reads the same piece of scripture aloud (preferably a different gender or age or accent with a different translation of the bible).
- iii. **Keep silence** for 2 minutes. Each person silently repeats the word or phrase that attracts them during that time.
- iv. Then, when given the cue to share, share aloud that one word or phrase that has attracted each person. Please be sure to keep it a simple statement of one or a few words with no elaboration

Then... How God speaks to ME and what I am invited to DO:

- i. Now, a Third reading of the same passage by another person (again, preferably with a different gender or age or accent or translation of the bible).
- ii. **Keep silence** for 2 minutes. Each person reflects on: 'God invites me to do/be/become today/this week.'
- iii. When given the cue that the 2 minutes are up, share aloud the results of each person's reflection. **Something brief** like: 'I hear, I see, or God invites me to...'

Please note that anyone may "pass" at any time. If a person prefers to pray silently instead of sharing with the group, then simply state this aloud and conclude your silent prayer with Amen.

Watch

5. Biblical Reflection Video - Isaiah 1.10-20

Watch Rosalyn Murphy's Biblical Reflection No. 2 - Isaiah 1.10-20 video.



6. A moment of silence

7. Reactions to Biblical Reflection Video

Opportunity to share observations or reflections in partners. If time, bring some of that back to the larger group.

Watch

8. 'For Such a Time as This' : Jen Jenkins

Watch Jen Jenkins' Video No. 1 'For Such a time as This: Why & What' Video.

We are very grateful to Jen Jenkins, who is the RE & Spirituality Officer for the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education. This video is an extract from a longer video she gave for the Diocese of Derby's Learning Community



Read

9. 'White Fragility Reflection' article

Without giving time to discuss the video, hand out and individually read the 'White Fragility Reflection' Article.

10. Small Group Discussion

In groups of 3 or 4, here are some questions to consider:

Questions to consider:

- What is your reaction to the videos you just watched?
- What is your reaction to the 'White Fragility Reflection Article' you just read?
- What are your initial reflections to the resources sent between sessions this week?
- What are your next steps? Commit to process, read books, explore resources

Watch

11. Racial Diversity Audit Video

Hand out copies of the Racial Diversity Audit and then watch the video together with Revd Julius Anozie, curate in the Diocese of Derby.

- What immediate steps can we take as individuals and a community?
- Can someone or a team of people be designated to complete the audit to establish where your church / school / community / pioneering context is now?



12. Explain what next week's focus will be: 'We Need to Talk about Race'

As you did last week, let the group know that you will email them with further material in the next couple of days to consider during the week. We know people have varying degrees of time, so we will share everything from a book to read to short videos / articles and podcasts. This is not intended to be a book group or to require you to do hours of homework between each session. There is no guilt or pressure to engage with everything, but people are encouraged to engage with at least something (and all are invited to include this learning community in their prayers) before we meet again next week.

13. Prayer to Close

Say a short prayer to close, committing our actions to God, inviting the Holy Spirit to enable our continued learning with courage throughout the week.

14. Blow out the candle

Email tomorrow for next week's session:

As before, thank them for joining you on this Amazing Grace Learning Community journey and please be sure to encourage the group to pray for each other throughout the week.

Book:

For our next meeting, we are looking at issues introduced in Ben Lindsay's excellent book 'We need to talk about Race.' You may like to get hold of a copy of his book and read it in advance (at least try to read the first chapter), but the intent is that this is not a book group.

Other Online Resources:

We recognise not everyone has time to read a book in the next week, so if you prefer, you can find out more about his work and listen to a number of Ben Lindsay's talks here: <https://benlindsay.co.uk/>

Or, take a moment to check out the Church of England Evangelical Churches (CEEC) page for short videos of biblical discussions on racism, ethnicity, and justice here:

<https://ceec.info/resources/one/>

Other Print Resources:

A Church Times article. Download from the Church Times website (or send link) and email the 8 February 2022 'Lord Boateng holds Synod's feet to the fire over Church's racism record' article by Hattie Williams (and another more recent relevant article to the group if appropriate).

White Fragility Midweek Reflection Questions