

Multi-Ethnic Christian Life Primer

Facilitator Guide

General Instruction

Your primary goal as a facilitator is to keep the conversation of the group moving productively on the topic that is outlined for that week. At times this may mean that you may need to step back and let dialog flow, and at other times it will mean that you need to guide the conversation. Because this is a very sensitive and difficult subject to talk about you will find that more often than not you will be needed to help guide the conversation and help reluctant participants in the group to speak. Below are a few tips to help.

- 1) Be cautious to keep your opinions out of the group as much as possible. It is best for the participants of the group come to their own realization or understanding. If the group lacks diversity and you have experience or understand from an unrepresented group then feel free to share that perspective.
- 2) Be biblical about everything. Use the scriptures referenced in the text to guide the conversation as needed.
- 3) Allow emotions to flow. Don't let anger or frustration dominate the group, but if people need to express themselves passionately that is fine. As long as they are not lashing out at someone else in the group.
- 4) Look for the quiet people. Help the people who don't talk much to stay engaged by asking their opinions often.
- 5) Don't rush through to get to the next question. The dialog is what is most important, only move forward if the conversation gets repetitive or only a few people are contributing.
- 6) Feel free to ask questions directly from the journal sections in the book to get people's opinion instead of the prompting questions we have below.
- 7) Open up each class with a word of prayer.

Week 1- Why Multiethnic?

First Go over the Group Rules

Weekly Relational Question:

Ask everyone to introduce themselves (Name, General Family Information) and ask them to share their short (2 min) testimony of when they gave their life to the Lord.
(The facilitator should go first to set the standard, so make sure to keep your testimony under 2mins)

Week 1 Questions

- 1) (If everyone had the book before class) - Were you surprised by the results of your personal experience survey? In what way?
- 2) Do you believe that the Church and Christians in the US is racially segregated? (Why or Why Not?)
- 3) Is this good, bad, or doesn't matter? Why or Why Not?
- 4) Do you believe that the Bible says anything about a multi-ethnic Church? Why or Why Not? (Rev. 7:9, Gal. 3:28, Great Commission, John 17:20-23, Acts 11:19-26, Gal 2:11-13)
- 5) Do you believe that there is systemic/institutional racism in the US?
- 6) Does the racial and relational segregation of Christians in America perpetuate systemic inequality in the US?

Week 2 - Why Now?

Go over the Group Rules Again

Weekly Relational Question

Tell us about a time when you were really scared?

Week 2 Questions

- 1) If we didn't discuss the previous week, ask about the experiences survey.
- 2) Was there anything in the reading from this past week that anyone would like to discuss?
- 3) Have you ever experienced or witnessed racism or prejudice in your life? Tell us about it? How did you feel?
- 4) Do you believe that inter actions with other people have an impact on how we think or feel?
- 5) Can the church do anything about this? Why or Why Not? What?
- 6) Would a racially united church have any more influence to change the race issue in America?
- 7) How can we learn to communicate better cross-culturally?

Week 3 - Obstacles To Date

Weekly Relational Question

Tell us about one of your proudest moments?

Week 3 Questions

- 1) Was there anything in the reading from this past week that anyone would like to discuss?
- 2) Do you believe that the great commission was a calling for the church to intentionally reach/make disciples of people who are different from yourselves with the gospel?
- 3) Does the Bible mandate a multi-ethnic Christian life?
- 4) Did the history or racial division in the Church surprise you?
- 5) Why is it difficult for the church to be multi-ethnic or why is it hard for us to live a multi-ethnic Christian Life?
- 6) How could we overcome these difficulties?

Week 4 - Systemic Issues

Weekly Relational Questions

Finish this sentence: I was so shocked with I found out _____, that I almost passed out!

Show the Inequality Video

Week 4 questions

- 1) Was there anything in the reading from this past week that anyone would like to discuss?

- 2) Do you agree or disagree with the inequality race video? Why or Why Not?
- 3) The education gap and economic disparity are two examples of how Blacks, Whites, Latinos, etc differ in the US. How much of this is caused by individual effort vs. systemic issue?
- 4) What do you think about Affirmative Action? (Government mandated special opportunities for minorities to make up for past segregation/prejudice)
- 5) Do you think that if Whites, Blacks, and other races/ethnic groups worship together and did life together there would be less of an education/economic gap? Why or Why Not?

Week 5 - What God is Doing

Weekly Relational Question

I never thought that I would do this, but I _____ once or twice.

Week 5 Questions

- 1) Was there anything in the reading that you would like to discuss?
- 2) Why do you believe there is more interest in multiethnic churches today?
- 3) Is your church diverse (according to the definition on page 121)?
- 4) Why is it so hard for people to talk about race? Even in the church?
- 5) Is it true that if we just stop talking about race then we wouldn't have so many issues?

Week 6 - How Should I Respond?

Weekly Relational Question

What is the hardest thing that you ever had to overcome in life?

(Understanding White Privilege - If you choose, you can discuss white privilege during this time by asking the participants to fill out the White Privilege assessment and then discuss. If you choose to do this please be prepared ahead of time to have some conflict, as this subject matter is very important and also receives the most push back)

Week 6 Questions

- 1) Was there anything in the reading that you would like to discuss?
- 2) Is it surprising that Blacks and Whites in church differ more politically that Blacks and Whites outside of church? Why do you think this is?
- 3) Why do you think White evangelicals are more willing to support non-Christians in government (Romney/Trump) than Christians (Obama/Clinton)
- 4) Could these difference be caused by lack of relationship/diversity in the church vs. outside of the church?
- 5) What are challenges to building cross cultural relationships?
- 6) Read Matt. 18:15 - Would misunderstandings in the church be less likely if we used the Mattf 18:15 principal?
- 7) Why is it not used more?

Week 7 - How should the church respond?

Weekly Relational Question

What is a goal that you are striving for right now?

Week 7 Questions

- 1) Was there anything in the reading that you would like to discuss?
- 2) Was it interesting to learn that God used a multi-ethnic church in Antioch as the launching ground for the first missions movement? (as oppose to the homogeneous Jerusalem church). Why do you think this was the case?
- 3) How is it that developing cross cultural relationships in the church can bring reconciliation/equality outside of the church?
- 4) What can the church do as a unit to bring equality?
- 5) What are potential road blocks to this?

Week 8

Relational Question

When I was a kid, my favorite thing in the whole wide world to do was_____.

(Be sure to save time at the end to show the "Color Brave" Video during this class)

Week 8 questions

- 1) Was there anything in the reading that you would like to discuss?
- 2) Ask everyone to fill out page 205 if they have not already. (take 5 mins)
- 3) Does your personal relationship assessment look any different? How? Why?
- 4) What are your plans to grow in your personal relationships?
- 5) What are some S.M.A.R.T things that the church can do to foster more Multi-ethnic relationships?