

STUDY GUIDE

Poll-arized 10.04.2020

[setting it up]

Tell about a time that you personally experienced racism (from you, to you, in front of you). How did you feel?

Why do we still see so much racism today? What's at the root of it?

[digging deeper]

Why do we as Christians see racism as a sin against God? What Scriptures come to mind that support this thought?

Open your Bible and read the following verses together. They are a sampling of passages that speak to God's heart for ethnic diversity and unity:

Psalm 86:9

Matthew 28:19-20

Acts 2:5-11

Colossians 3:11

Revelation 7:9-12

What can we learn from these verses?

What does God teach us about Himself through racial diversity?

How can our differences lead us to praise God?

"Racial unity is more important than racial diversity in the church." Would you say you agree or disagree with this phrase, and why or why not? Elaborate.

Why is racial unity important in the church, and how is it ultimately a spiritual issue not a political issue?

Write down 3-5 ways you think we can pursue and preserve racial unity in the church?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

[living it out]

Take a few minutes to quietly answers these on your own and then share them with your group.

Using the scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), what would you give yourself in:

- How diverse your friendships are?
- How racially biased you think you are?
- The level of unity you feel with believers who are ethnically different than you?
- Your willingness to be a stronger advocate for racial unity, especially in the church?

Which answer are you most grateful for and which one are you most convicted by?

What is an action step you feel the Holy Spirit is impressing on your heart on this topic?

As you close in prayer, pick a verse from above, or another related verse, to use as a template. Follow the pattern of (1) something to praise and thank God for, (2) something to confess to God, and (3) something to ask from God related to racial unity.

For a short but helpful read on Racial unity, buy and read *Advocates* by Dhati Lewis. Dhati is the Lead Pastor at Blueprint Church in Atlanta, and also Vice President of Send Network with the North American Mission Board. He also happens to have a bi-racial marriage and is a great voice on this topic. If you really mean business, buy an extra book or two for a couple friends who are a different ethnicity than you and read it and discuss together.