

# SACRED GROUND

A FILM-BASED DIALOGUE SERIES ON RACE AND FAITH

SYLLABUS



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#### SESSION 1: STEPPING ONTO SACRED GROUND

##### To read beforehand

- Summary sheet: *Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice*
- "Getting Started" sections of *Sacred Ground* webpages: "Invitation & Introduction" and "Organizing a Dialogue Circle," if not read already
- Column: "Black History Is Everyone's History" by Leonard Pitts, Jr.
- Excerpt from essay: "Not Somewhere Else, But Here" by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker
- Excerpt from book: *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill
- Selection from book: *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis (bottom of p. 103 to p. 109 from hardback edition)

#### SESSION 2: THE ROOTS OF WHITENESS, AND DEEPER ROOTS

##### To watch beforehand or in the session

- Short video: *The Myth of Race Debunked in 3 Minutes* (3 min.)
- Short video: *Decoded: Are Cracker, White Trash, & Redneck Racist?* (5 min.)

##### To read beforehand

Note: There is more reading for this session because there is no full film to watch (just the two short videos above). These opening sessions are a time to lay some important foundations.

- Article: "Roots Deeper Than Whiteness" by David Dean
- Article: "A Geography Lesson for the Tea Party" by Colin Woodard in *Washington Monthly* magazine. The core of this article provides a digest of his book: *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*. (You can just read from the paragraph that starts, "We're accustomed to thinking of American regionalism..." and stop at paragraph that starts, "Which brings us to the Tea Party movement....")
- Selections from book: *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (15 assorted pages from paperback edition)

- Blog posts: “On the Five Stages & White People Waking Up to Racism” and “On White Tears” by Tad Hargrave
- Core book: *Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving – Introduction and Chapters 2-3

### SESSION 3: WHOSE LAND? EXPLORING INDIGENOUS HISTORY

#### To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *We Shall Remain*, Episode I: “After the Mayflower” (77 min.)
- *The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery* (14 min.)

#### To read beforehand

- Audio story and article: “The Map of Native American Tribes You’ve Never Seen Before” by Hansi Lo Wang from NPR. Please look at Aaron Carapella’s map – the link is at the very bottom of the article – to see which Native tribes lived at the time of European conquest in the region where you live now.
- Article: “Unshackled by Visions and Values” by Martin Brokenleg
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman – Forward and Preface
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 1, 4-6, and 30

### SESSION 4: TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY: EXPLORING BLACK HISTORY

#### To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Episode I: “The Black Atlantic: 1500-1800” (56 min.)
- *Truth and Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Ghana*, three short videos featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and Bishop Andrew Waldo (23 min. total, or as many as you have time for)

#### To read beforehand

- Article: “New England’s Hidden History” by Francie Latour in *The Boston Globe*
- Essay: “White Man’s Guilt” by James Baldwin in *Ebony* magazine
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – first part of Chapter I (up to paragraph that starts “In the face of these alternatives...,” on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter II

## SESSION 5: WHOSE LAND? MORE LAYERS: EXPLORING LATINO HISTORY

### To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *Latino Americans*, Episode 1: “Foreigners in Their Own Land” (53 min.)
- YouTube video: *Guns, Germs, and Steel: How Europeans Came to Dominate the World, in 7 Minutes*

### To read beforehand

- Selection from book: *Ripe Fields: The Promise and Challenge of Latino Ministry* by Juan Oliver (pp. 5-18 from paperback edition)
- Op-ed: “Moving Beyond the Black-White Binary” by Roberto Lovato
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – second part of Chapter 1 (from paragraph that starts “In the face of these alternatives...,” on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition, to the end of the chapter)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter 13

## SESSION 6: AMERICANS, NOT FOREIGNERS: EXPLORING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY

### To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *Ancestors in the Americas*, Episode 2: “Chinese in the Frontier West” (61 min.)

### To read beforehand

- Article: “The real reasons the U.S. became less racist toward Asian Americans” by Jeff Guo, in conversation with Ellen Wu about her book, *The Color of Success*
- Article: “Asian Americans speak out against a decades-old ‘model minority’ myth” by Yanan Wang
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – first part of Chapter 2 (up to paragraph that starts “The crucial question, then, is this...,” on p. 36 of 1996 paperback edition)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 14 and 16

## SESSION 7: SELECTIVE ACCESS TO THE MELTING POT AND THE AMERICAN DREAM: 1830S-1960S

### To watch beforehand or in the session

- Documentary: *Slavery by Another Name* (in the interest of time you can just watch the first 32.5 minutes, or first 36.5 minutes for people who are prepared to view a graphic section on lynching)
- PBS series: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, Episode 3: “The House We Live In” (56 min.)

### To read beforehand

- Article: “An interview with Noel Ignatiev” about his book, *How the Irish Became White* – first 4 pages of article
- Please review or research your family’s 19th- and 20th-century history in connection to the relevant racial history covered in this session’s films and readings
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – second part of Chapter 2 (from paragraph that starts “The crucial question, then, is this...,” on p. 36 of 1996 paperback edition, to the end of the chapter)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 7, 17-18, and 23

## SESSION 8: DIVISIONS IN PRESENT-DAY WHITE AMERICA

### To watch beforehand or in the session

- *America Inside Out with Katie Couric*, Episode: “White Anxiety” (48 min.)

### To read beforehand

- Article: “What So Many People Don’t Get About the U.S. Working Class” by Joan Williams
- Selections from book: *Beyond the Messy Truth* by Van Jones (13 assorted pages from the hardback edition)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 3
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – first 3 pages of Chapter 35

## SESSION 9: LEGACIES: RACISM’S LONG LIFE

### To watch beforehand or in the session

- *Healing Justice* (66 min.)

### To read beforehand

- Selection from book: *Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome* by Joy DeGruy (pp. 8-10 of paperback edition)
- Article: “Ghosts of the Masters: Descendants of Slaveholders Reckon with History” by the Rev. David Pettee and Susan Hutchison
- Selections from book: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander (pp. 1-4, 16-19, and bottom of p. 202 to p. 208 of hardback edition) (permission cost in negotiation)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 4
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 26-27 and revisit p. 175

## SESSION 10: BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY

### To watch beforehand or in the session

- *Dawnland* (abridged, 54 min.)
- *Repairing the Breach: The Episcopal Church and Slavery Atonement* (31 min.)

### To read beforehand

- Selections from book: *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis (Chapter 4 and p. 215 to the top of p. 217 of hardback edition)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 5