

# SACRED GROUND

## A FILM-BASED DIALOGUE SERIES ON RACE AND FAITH

### SYLLABUS

#### Session 1: Stepping onto Sacred Ground

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##### To watch

- Documentary: *American Creed* (86 min.)

##### To read

- Summary sheet: [Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice](#)
- Sacred Ground preparatory documents: "Invitation and Introduction," "Organizing a Dialogue Circle" and "Participant Preparation Guide" (all found on the Sacred Ground "[Getting Started](#)" webpage)
- 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)

##### Handout(s) to print ahead of time for use during session

- "[Key Distinctions for Understanding Race and Racism](#)" by Katrina Browne and James Perry
- There are further suggestions in the Session One section of the Study Guide as to whether to make some of the readings above available as handouts.

#### Session 2: The Roots of Whiteness, and Deeper Roots

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##### To watch

- 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

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

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#### To watch

- PBS series: *We Shall Remain*, Episode 1: "After the Mayflower" (77 min.)
- Short video: [The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery](#) (14 min.)

#### To read/research

- Audio story and article: "[The Map of Native American Tribes You've Never Seen Before](#)" by Hansi Lo Wang from NPR.
- Please research which Native tribes lived at the time of European conquest in the regions you are connected to, via [Aaron Carapella's Native America Map](#) featured in the NPR story. Please note that the file is large and so may take up to a minute to load. You can also use this additional map website [The Native Land Map](#) and enter your Zip Code.
- 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

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#### To watch

- PBS series: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Episode 1: "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.)

#### To read

- Article: "[New England's Hidden History](#)" by Francie Latour in *The Boston Globe*

- Essay: "[The White Man's Guilt](#)" by James Baldwin in *Ebony* magazine
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – first part of Chapter 1 (up to paragraph that starts "In the face of these alternatives..." on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter 11

## Session 5: Whose Land? More Layers: Exploring Latino History

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### To watch

- PBS series: *Latino Americans*, Episode 1: "Foreigners in Their Own Land" (53 min.)
- YouTube video: [What Afro-Latinos Want You To Know](#) (4 min)
- YouTube video: [Guns, Germs, and Steel: How Europeans Came to Dominate the World, in 7 Minutes](#)

### To read

- Article: "[A history of anti-Hispanic bigotry in the United States](#)" by Marie Arana in the *Washington Post*
- Article: "[Who is Hispanic?](#)" by Mark Hugo Lopez, Jens Manuel Krogstad and Jeffrey S. Passel for the Pew Research Center
- Essay: "[Recovering the concept of sin for the labyrinth walk of antiracism](#)" by the Rev. Stephen H. Phelps
- 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

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### To watch

- PBS series: *Asian Americans*, Episode One: "Breaking Ground" (54 mins)

### To read

- 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
- Excerpt from book: *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill
- 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

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### To watch

- 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/research

- Article: [“An interview with Noel Ignatiev”](#) about his book, *How the Irish Became White* – first 4 pages of article
- Article: [“Sundown Towns”](#) by James Loewen in *Poverty & Race*, 14:#6
- Please visit James Loewen’s [Sundown Towns website](#) to look up whether where you live now and where you grew up were historically sundown towns. Please also 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

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### To watch

- National Geographic series: *America Inside Out with Katie Couric*, Episode 4: “White Anxiety” (48 min.)

### To read

- 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

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### To watch

- Documentary: *Healing Justice* (66 min.)
- Video: [Native Voices: Speaking to the Church and the World](#) (36 min) from the Office of Indigenous Ministries, The Episcopal Church

### To read

- Article: "[Indigenous leaders lament intergenerational trauma inflicted by boarding schools, some with Episcopal ties](#)" by David Paulsen for the Episcopal News Service
- Statement: "[Presiding Bishop, House of Deputies President issue statement on Indigenous boarding schools](#)" by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings
- 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
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 4
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 26-27 and revisit p. 175

## Session 10: Grief, Reckoning and Repentance

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### To watch or listen to

- Podcast: "[Notice the Rage; Notice the Silence](#)" (2021), Resmaa Menakem, on On Being With Krista Tippett (50 minutes; may also read transcript)
- Documentary: *Dawnland* (abridged, 54 min.)
- Documentary: *Repairing the Breach: The Episcopal Church and Slavery Atonement* (31 min.)

### To read

- Blog post: "[On the Five Stages & White People Waking Up to Racism](#)" by Tad Hargrave (from Session 2)
- Article: "[The Place of Grief in the Spiritual Life](#)" by Tricia de Beer
- 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)

## Session 11: Walk On: The Journey After Sacred Ground

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### To watch

- Webinar recording: "After Sacred Ground" March 2021

## To read and work on

- Article: [Black History Is Everyone's History](#) by Leonard Pitts (from Session 1)
- Booklet: [Becoming Beloved Community Where You Are](#)
- Web page: [2021 Inventory of Racial Justice and Truth-telling Ministries](#)
- Handout: "[Walk On: The Journey After Sacred Ground](#)" (complete Part 1 prior to session)
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 5 and Epilogue