SACRED GROUND: A film-based dialogue series on race and faith

SYLLABUS

Session 1: Stepping onto Sacred Ground

**To watch beforehand or (preferably) in the session**

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

**To read beforehand**

* Summary sheet: [Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/becoming_beloved_community_summary.pdf)
* Sacred Ground preparatory documents: "Invitation and Introduction," "Organizing a Dialogue Circle" and “Participant Preparation Guide” (all found on the Sacred Ground "[Getting Started](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/getting-started)" webpage)
* Column: “[Black History Is Everyone’s History](https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/leonard-pitts-jr/article225293430.html)” by Leonard Pitts, Jr.
* Excerpt from essay: “[Not Somewhere Else, But Here](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/sacred_ground_parker_not_somewhere_else_but_here_-_session_1.pdf)” by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker
* Excerpt from book: [*Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World*](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/sacred_ground_kim_and_hill_healing_our_broken_humanity_-_session_1.pdf) 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*](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/sacred_ground_wallis_americas_original_sin_-_session_1.pdf) 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](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/key_distinctions.pdf)” 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

**To watch beforehand or in the session**

* Short video: [*The Myth of Race Debunked in 3 Minutes*](http://www.vox.com/2015/1/13/7536655/race-myth-debunked)(3 min.)
* Short video: [*Decoded: Are Cracker, White Trash, & Redneck Racist?*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIIt-gTHWOY)(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](https://whiteawake.org/2018/10/27/roots-deeper-than-whiteness/)” by David Dean
* Article: “[A Geography Lesson for the Tea Party](https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/novdec-2011/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](http://healingfromwhiteness.blogspot.com/2016/11/on-five-stages-white-people-waking-up.html?view=snapshot)” and “[On White Tears](http://healingfromwhiteness.blogspot.com/2016/11/on-white-tears.html?view=flipcard)” 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 1: “After the Mayflower” (77 min.)
* Short video: [*The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery*](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/video/episcopal-church-exposes-doctrine-discovery)(14 min.)

**To read beforehand**

* Audio story and article: “[The Map of Native American Tribes You’ve Never Seen Before](https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/06/24/323665644/the-map-of-native-american-tribes-youve-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](http://martinbrokenleg.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/05_3_Brokenleg.pdf)” 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 1:“The Black Atlantic: 1500-1800”(56 min.)
* [*Truth and Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Ghana*](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/reconciliation-pilgrimage)*,* threeshort videos featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and Bishop Andrew Waldo (23 min.)

**To read beforehand**

* Article: “[New England’s Hidden History](http://archive.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/09/26/new_englands_hidden_history/?page=1)” by Francie Latour in *The Boston Globe*
* Essay: “[The White Man’s Guilt](https://books.google.com/books?id=N94DAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA47&lpg=PA47&dq=ebony+magazine,+1965+james+baldwin+white+man%27s+guilt&source=bl&ots=dCwu3qHPmq&sig=8W9wmnLfgvfP73M_rhiVGLW5e5E&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiEkIypiMHeAhUTHXwKHUhAC8oQ6AEwBHoECAIQAQ#v=one)” 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

**To watch beforehand or in the session**

* PBS series: *Latino Americans*, Episode 1: “[Foreigners in Their Own Land](https://www.pbs.org/show/latino-americans/)” (53 min.)
* YouTube video: [*Guns, Germs, and Steel: How Europeans Came to Dominate the World, in 7 Minutes*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYSz010CVss)

**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](http://creativetimereports.org/2016/06/08/roberto-lovato-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](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/11/29/the-real-reason-americans-stopped-spitting-on-asian-americans-and-started-praising-them/?utm_term=.822a4100ae18)” 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](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/10/20/asian-americans-speak-out-against-a-decades-old-model-minority-myth/?utm_term=.27a7aafc930f)” 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*](https://www.pbs.org/video/slavery-another-name-slavery-video/) (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](https://episcopalchurch.org/files/zmagazineinterview.pdf)” 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**

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

**To read beforehand**

* Article: “[What So Many People Don’t Get About the U.S. Working Class](https://hbr.org/2016/11/what-so-many-people-dont-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**

* Documentary: *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](https://comingtothetable.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Ghosts-of-the-Masters.pdf)” 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)
* 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**

* Documentary: *Dawnland* (abridged, 54 min.)
* Documentary: *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