



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read John 17:20-21

Where are we headed in redeeming racism? Not toward a tolerant diversity or some uneasy alliance. Not toward any relationship that leaves us alienated...The only place we can go to redeem racism is into Jesus. That is how an uncommon unity can become the race bought by blood. Our sin, fear, and anger are not of God. They have no staying power in a heart touched by Christ. We can all be one in Christ because it is Jesus who answers our pain. It is Jesus who can heal and transform us. So how do we get there? By beginning at the beginning with transparency, authenticity and empathy. We can be restored and redeemed when we listen to one another's pain and love into that pain like God does. As Jesus followers, we are all called to make a difference in the world. So listen, look for God, seek understanding and love each other unconditionally from the heart of Jesus.

Pray

Father we must make a change in this world. Help us listen for the pain of the broken, the hurting, the misunderstood, and help us love each other the way you love.

Unconditionally, and exceptionally well. Help us be the catalyst for change in the face of racism in our world. Help us be bold and brave to stand up for love above all else.

Getting Started

- Have you ever been singled out or discriminated against by someone? How did it make you feel?
- Discuss the "Can You Feel My Pain" testimonies. What touched you the most from these stories of racism?

Digging Deeper

1. What do you think needs to be done concerning racism in our nation?
2. How can Jesus change our conversation about racism?
3. Read John 17:20-21. Read the verse in light of racism, and discuss how these words of Jesus can change us.
4. How can we create an uncommon unity as a race bought by blood?
5. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Racism will only be answered by transformation. Why or why not?
6. Why must Transparency, Authenticity, and Empathy be part of the conversation about racism?
7. How does James 1:19 apply to dealing with racism?

Living Jesus

People need to feel Jesus accepting love from us infinitely more than they need hear our ignorance. In listening to the pain of racism we can and should react in the love of God. The unconditional love shown to all people through the sacrifice of Jesus. Living Jesus in view of racism is listening to the pain, laying down your own understanding, and choosing to love people deeply.

Your Story

How are you being courageous and fearless? Will you rise above politics, history and past cultural religion to see people as one race—the people of the blood of Christ? One life at a time, listen for the pain in the people's lives around you. Then share unconditional love, just like the love Jesus showed you on the cross.