

YOU ASKED FOR IT

What Does the Bible say about Race and What's the Solution?

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SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Open your group/family in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions and Next Steps above, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the three essential questions at the end.

1. Do you find it difficult and/or scary to enter into the conversation about diversity and racial issues? If so why or why not?
2. What kind of conversations do you think that Christians need to have that will lead to racial reconciliation and encouragement?
3. Why do you think the desire for greater diversity within the church can seem daunting? How might Pastor David's sermon encourage your faith for the future?
4. How does being "in Christ" change the discussion of race (Galatians 3:27-28)? How are our identities now new?
5. Could the pursuit of diversity be as simple as branching out in your friendships? How could you begin to include others who are not like you in your life?
6. There is beauty in diversity, but there are also real obstacles that some experience in this pursuit. What obstacles come to mind? Is Temple pursuing diversity? If so, how? If not, do you think it is because of some of the difficulties mentioned? How might they be overcome?

THREE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

If you have more time, the following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What do you think?** How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking? What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. **What will you do?** How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?
3. **How can you help others in your group?** How can you encourage, affirm, pray for, and keep accountable the commitments they put into practice?

KIDS' DISCUSSION:

Show your child a red apple and a green apple or a picture of both. Show your child that the two apples do not look the same on the outside. Ask your child what the red apple and the green apple look like on the inside when they are cut in half.

If you cut the green apple in half, you see seeds and the pulp (also called the flesh). If you cut the red apple in half, what do you see? You see the seeds and the flesh. Both the green apple and the red apple look the same on the inside, even though they look different on the outside. The same is true for pears, grapes, and other produce. They may not be the same shape or color, but they are still grapes.

People don't all look the same on the outside either. We have different skin colors, hair colors, and eye colors. We are different ages, shapes, and sizes. No matter what we look like, we are all loved by God. We all need Jesus too. Every person needs the love and forgiveness God offers us through Jesus.

Read Genesis 1:27 tells us that every person has been created "in the image of God." Jesus died on the cross for every single person. He loves every single person. God wants us to love each other and serve each other no matter what they look like on the outside.