

WELCOME to the small group experience of Kindred. Kindred is an ongoing partnership of sister congregations, dedicated to building relationships amongst Christians of diverse ethnic backgrounds. The goal: to tangibly embody the multi-ethnic family of God in the city of Seattle. The vision: to be an ongoing, messy but beautiful, journey to bring Christ's healing to our city's divided and broken places.

By choosing to take part in a Kindred small group you will engage in meaningful discussions with people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and from different home congregations. By acting in this season as one big church, we open a channel of multi-ethnic conversation that has some structure and guidance, but it is up to each group and every component member to shape and define their experience.

This adventure is guaranteed to be messy at times, challenging at times and uncomfortable at times – for everyone, not just you. Each of us are departing from the safe shore of our familiar congregations and setting sail on a voyage in uncharted waters. The shoals, reefs, rocks and tricky currents of inter-cultural navigation are tricky. Fortunately, we have a hope that has promised not to disappoint.

Our belief is that each of us on this journey already possess the one essential component necessary for success – a relationship with Jesus Christ. Along with that comes an identity and a common bond that enables us to hold one another's stories complete with their pains, joys, successes and failures – because we ourselves are held firmly in the One who has declared each of us beloved and whose image we may behold in the faces and stories of those who, like we, love Jesus.

So welcome and may you experience a memorable and transformational journey.

The Kindred Study Guide Team

ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

In this guide you will find the following resources:

- Six Weekly Studies each designed to be used along with your small group. You may refer to the questions in advance of meeting with your group, but it is not essential that you do so. Each week the guide focuses on the same scripture passage(s) upon which the sermon we will all hear via livestream is based.
- A template which may be printed and used for a guided reflection on each week's sermon. The first two sections are intended for you to take notes while listening to or watching the sermon. The remaining sections are intended for you to complete after some reflection. This is an optional exercise, but one we feel will be helpful in preparing you to contribute in your group discussion.
- A second printable template similar to the one for sermons but geared to use in conjunction with your study of the companion book for this series *Beyond Colorblind*, by Sarah Shin.

What else you will need (or probably need):

- We ask that everyone participating in the Kindred small groups purchase or borrow a copy of Sarah Shin's *Beyond Colorblind*. This book may be purchased from Amazon or a variety of online booksellers.
- A Bible (or a Bible app)
- A computer, tablet or smartphone with which to participate in your group discussion via Zoom along with the Zoom app for your device or a telephone by which to connect by audio (only) to your Zoom group

WEEK ONE APRIL 19, 2020

EMBRACING ETHNIC IDENTITY

Sermon Text: John 1:43-51 & Psalm 139:13-14

Preacher: Pastor Aaron Williams

Book Reference: Beyond Colorblind Chapters 1-2

Introduction by Pastor Aaron Williams: Why is it so important to embrace our ethnic identity? Can we embrace our ethnic identity too much that it becomes a form of idolatry? Why should we see color? Isn't it the fact that we have seen color throughout the history of humanity that has created racial tension and divisions in the world today? Isn't race a social construct that we have created for our own societal gain? What is the difference between race and ethnicity and how are they related? These are the questions that bombarded my mind as I thought about our text today and the implications that it demands of us in the 21st century. In our text today we encounter two Jewish men who are pursued by Jesus to become followers. Philip has a Greek name but he's Jewish. Nathanael is a descendant of Jacob, but he's a man of integrity. Let's take a closer look at their encounter with Jesus.

Prayer: Father, thank you for your Word. May your Holy Spirit be present with us to guide us into your truth. Help us to hear one another well and draw us close to one another and to you. Amen.

Read: John 1:43-51 & Psalm 139:13-14

Discussion:

1. What does the story in John 1 tell us about Philip and Nathanael?
2. How does Philip respond to Jesus? When and how did Jesus seek you out and how did you respond?
3. What does Nathanael's response to Philip reveal about him? How does that contrast with Jesus' description of Nathanael?
4. What does this story reveal about cultural biases? What warning or encouragement do you derive from this story?
5. What additional insights did you gain from from the sermon and chapters 1 and 2 of Beyond Colorblind?
6. How has this week's study and discussion impacted you? What changes are you being prompted to make?

Application: Who are you pursuing in order to tell them about Jesus?

Pray: Lord, thank you for pursuing each of us. Thank you that you know us fully and love us anyway. Thank you for the part of one another's stories that we've had the privilege to learn in our time together. May you continue to mold and shape us in your image as we become aware and responsive to the ways you are at work in us. Amen.

WEEK TWO APRIL 26, 2020

REDEEMING ETHNIC NARRATIVES

Sermon Text: *Philippians 3:2-11*

Preaching Pastor: *Solomon Liu*

Book Reference: *Beyond Colorblind Chapters 3-5*

Introduction by Pastor Solomon Liu: The Apostle Paul, in his own words was born into a deeply religious family; he was "of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews", and he was a career (religious) man. He could have let his ethnicity and cultural background define his identity. In fact, these things had described his entire past before he met Christ. But upon encountering Christ, now his heart cry was knowing Christ. He let his identity be defined by Christ and as a result, he was used by God to touch many lives for His glory. Our background and ethnicity are gifts from God, however, instead of letting God use them as a tool to bless others, they can become a source of pride and a hindrance to the ministry of the Gospel. We must let Christ define our identity, not our culture. We must be Christians first, then our ethnicity. What happens when we get that mixed up?

Prayer: *Father, we praise you for your continued work shaping and molding us. May our discussion tonight bring you glory and move us closer to one another through your Word and our stories. Amen.*

Review: Were you able to act upon God's urging to tell someone about Jesus this week?

Read: *Philippians 3:2-11*

Discussion:

1. What or who is Paul warning the Philippians about in this passage? How is this warning relevant to us today?
2. How did God use Paul's ethnicity and background for His glory? How can God use your ethnicity and background for His glory?
3. The Apostle Paul's one passion was knowing Christ. How does having an intimate relationship with Christ impact one's life and ministry?
4. How can one experience and grow deeper in that intimacy with Christ?
5. For those who have heard the sermon and/or read chapters 3-5 of *Beyond Colorblind*, what additional insights did you gain about using your personal ethnic narrative for God's glory?
6. How has this week's study and discussion impacted you? What changes are you being prompted to make?

Application: How can God use your ethnicity and background for His glory?

Pray: *Father help us to embrace our identity in you and guide us into the ways you can use our cultural identities to further your kingdom. In Jesus name. Amen.*

WEEK THREE MAY 3, 2020

TRUST BUILDING WITH ETHNIC STRANGERS

Sermon Text: Acts 10:25-36

Preacher: Pastor James Broughton

Book Reference: *Beyond Colorblind* Chapter 6

Introduction by Pastor James Broughton: Trusting Jesus builds capacity to trust others. For God to use us effectively in His purposes, He must break us of our prejudices and remove the enmity of diversity! In Acts 10, we meet Cornelius and Peter—ethnic strangers who have two different ethnic and religious viewpoints—each stands over against the other. Their meeting is challenging and overcoming the social hierarchies that has shaped their existence. The principal struggle in Acts 10 is the breaking down of Peter's racial intolerance for the ethnic stranger. We need skills and the right temperament to live in a multiethnic community.

Prayer: *Father, through your Holy Word hearing one another well, help us to form the character and develop the skills we need to live in harmony, justice and truth as your family. Amen.*

Review: What did you learn about using your ethnicity and background for God's glory?

Read: Acts 10:25-36

Discussion:

1. What were some of the cultural barriers identified in the scripture passage? How was each of these barriers overcome?
2. What informed Peter's renewed understanding of the dignity of all cultures as seen by God?
3. How do you lay down the foundations of trust for long-term relationships for those who are impacted by a racially and ethnically broken world?
4. How have you experienced the impact of historical and contemporary discriminatory systems and practices in your community, theology and congregations?
5. How do you start reconciliation with someone who may or may not like you because of your ethnic background?
6. What additional insights did you gain from the sermon and chapter 6 of *Beyond Colorblind*?
7. How has this week's study and discussion impacted you? What changes are you being prompted to make?

Application: Put yourself in situations where you will meet people of other cultures.

Pray: *Father forgive us for our active or passive participation in systemic discrimination. Bind up the wounds that we've caused and those that others have caused through systemic injustice. Heal your people and build us together to reflect your glory in the darkness. Amen.*

WEEK FOUR MAY 10, 2020

LISTENING CROSS-CULTURALLY

Sermon Text: Matthew 1:1-17 and Ruth 1:15-18

Preacher: Pastor Chip Johnson

Book Reference: Beyond Colorblind Chapter 7

Introduction by Pastor Chip Johnson: How do we overcome the noise of ethnic and cultural differences which distort the gospel of Christ for all nations? We overcome the noise when we view multiethnicity as an intentional part of God's story. The genealogy of Jesus (see Ruth 4: 18-22 & Matthew 1:1-17) invites us not to deny our cultural and ethnic differences, but to bear witness to God's grace through His faithfulness to reconcile all nations to Himself as the multiethnic family of God (see Matthew 12:48-50; Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8-9; Psalm 22:27-28; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 7:9). When we learn to listen cross-culturally we learn to value and embrace one another despite the history of "racial scars and division" (Shin, p. 137). It is in our ability to listen faithfully through the pain that we are able to hear God breaking through our barriers as His grace silences the noise that keeps us not only from seeing Him but from hearing each other..

Prayer: Father, through your Holy Word help us to listen to one another. By your grace silence the noise that keeps us from seeing you and hearing one another. Amen.

Review: Where were you able to meet people of other cultures this week?

Read: Matthew 1:1-17 and Ruth 1:15-18

Discussion:

1. Why might Ruth's response to Naomi's advice have been surprising?
2. What did Ruth give up by staying with Naomi and what did she gain by her choice?
3. Where have you been faced with a choice that involved denying or hiding your culture in order to pursue a relationship with someone from a different culture?
4. How do we create a space where we can listen to one another cross-culturally in ways that do not dismiss the sadness and the pain caused by injustice, while still creating opportunity to experience God's grace?
5. What additional insights did you gain from the sermon and chapter 7 of Beyond Colorblind?
6. How has this week's study and discussion impacted you? What changes are you being prompted to make?

Application: Reflect upon a listening barrier you identified in the course of your group's discussion and take some practical steps toward adjusting to listen better going forward.

Pray: Father, thank you for being our helper and our guide as we learn to listen to one another well. Thank you for your work in us that never wavers. In Jesus' name. Amen.



WEEK FIVE MAY 17, 2020

RESOLVING CULTURAL CONFLICTS

Sermon Text: Acts 6:1-7

Preacher: Pastor George Hinman

Book Reference: *Beyond Colorblind* Chapter 8

Introduction by Pastor George Hinman: Those who will be witnesses among the cultures of the world (Acts 1:8) must learn to negotiate cultural differences and conflicts as they go. This week we look to the book of Acts for encouragement as we engage the cultural divisions that exist outside our churches together and pursue reconciliation and unity as the multi-ethnic family of God. We see the historic friction between Greeks and Hebrews show up in the early church and threaten to create a division in the church mirroring the one in the culture. But the church engages this conflict with love and care for the Greeks rather than retreating to the safety found in the cultural norm. This unexpected unity attracts the attention of some Jewish priests and leaders who recognize the presence of God and his faithfulness to the covenant promises and join the growing numbers of the faithful in Jerusalem.

Prayer: *Father grant us ears to hear one another and you as together we seek healing for our brokenness through the light of your Word and the power to reconcile by your Spirit. Amen.*

Review: Where were you able to work on the art of listening well this week?

Read: Acts 6:1-7

Discussion:

1. What was the source of the conflict in the Acts passage? What was at stake for the apostles, the church and the city? How did the church handle the conflict?
2. What specific areas of tension and division in the culture do you see testing your church to deal with well?
3. How do the African American, Chinese American, and European American experiences divide us culturally? How do you experience those divides personally?
4. How might we leverage the common bond and model of service Jesus has given us to address these cultural divides?
5. What additional insights did you gain from the sermon and chapter 8 of *Beyond Colorblind*?
6. How has this week's study and discussion impacted you? What changes are you being prompted to make?

Application: Commit to prayerful discernment of an area of conflict that God is calling upon you to take either a new or increased role as an agent of reconciliation.

Pray: *Lord thank you for the peace that only you provide. Help us to be agents of reconciliation among your people and in your world. Amen.*

WEEK SIX MAY 24, 2020

ACTING FOR JUSTICE

Sermon Text: Luke 4:16-30

Preacher: Pastor Alex Cui

Book Reference: *Beyond Colorblind* Chapters 9-10

Introduction by Pastor Alex Cui: How do I practice justice as a Christian in my life? How do we as the body of Christ together live justly toward one another? As we daily encounter injustice in all areas of our lives, what do we do? Scripture clearly shows us that God has a high expectation that His people will practice justice personally and uphold justice collectively. This week as we look at justice, we are guided by Luke's account of Jesus' first sermon in the town in which He grew up, Nazareth. Those who heard Jesus on that day quickly went from awestruck amazement at the gracious words of Joseph's son to a murderous mob prepared to throw Jesus off a cliff. Along the way we hope to come closer to comprehending God's view of justice. This justice transcends and challenges cultural and ethnic norms and invites Christians to closely imitate Christ as agents of justice.

Prayer: *Father grant us ears to hear one another and you as together we seek healing for our brokenness through the light of your Word and the power to reconcile by your Spirit. Amen.*

Review: Which area of cultural conflict has emerged as one you are being called to act as an agent of reconciliation?

Read: Luke 4:16-30

Discussion:

1. What provoked the dramatic change in those who heard Jesus in the Luke passage?
2. Exactly what did Jesus claim was being fulfilled? What was behind the crowd's initial response to Jesus' claim?
3. What was Jesus' intention in using the Sidonian widow and the Syrian general as an illustration? Why did this so infuriate the people of Nazareth?
4. Where have you personally been unjustly dealt with because of your ethnicity or culture? Where do you now recognize that you have acted unjustly toward others in this way?
5. What additional insights did you gain from the sermon and chapters 9-10 of *Beyond Colorblind*?
6. How has this week's study and discussion impacted you? What changes are you being prompted to make?

Application: Try to identify places or situations in which you regularly experience, observe or participate in injustice. Commit to praying for guidance for how to be a change agent.

Pray: *Lord Jesus, we rely upon your justice and grace. Help us to live lives that clearly reflect and practice your justice and grace. Amen.*

REFLECTIVE READING GUIDE

Book Title: _____

Date: _____

Author: _____

Chapter: _____

Step One – Intake: As you read the assigned chapter(s) write down key words, and try to identify the core ideas the author presents. Use your own words rather than simply copying the book to capture the main thoughts and core idea as you read. Avoid evaluation at this point. Once you finish the reading, write the core in your own words as if you were telling someone else. Think of it as completing the sentence – “What I am really trying to say is this _____”

Step Two – Personal Connection: How did the passage you read connect with your personal experience and memories. Write in the first person. This is just for yourself, not for others. Think of it like writing a first-person parable.



Step Three – New Ideas and Questions: Using your notes and the memory of what you read, write some questions about what you read and what you processed. What troubled you? Challenged you? Gave you new language or hope?

Step Four – Plan of Action: Since you have now done some deep reflection on what you read and what you learned, what are you going to do about it? Identify concrete ways your life will change because of what you've discerned.

Step Five – Speak and Listen:

Speak: Find someone with whom you can briefly share what you've learned and the change it is prompting in you. This might be a friend or it could be with members of your group. Your sharing may include anything from the first four steps, but will be more useful to both you and your listener(s) if you include the personal changes your reflection has prompted.

Listen: Ask the person or people with whom you shared to reflect back what you said. Was it clearly understood to them?

SERMON REFLECTION TEMPLATE

Sermon Title: _____

Date: _____

Preaching Pastor: _____

Scripture Reference: _____

Step One – Intake: As you listen to the sermon write down key words, and try to identify the core idea. Use your own words to capture the main thoughts and core idea as you hear them. Avoid evaluation at this point. After the sermon ends, write the core idea in your own words as if you were telling someone else. Think of it as completing the sentence – “What I am really trying to say is this ____”

Step Two – Personal Connection: How did the sermon connect with your personal experience and memories. Write in the first person. This is just for yourself, not for others. Think of it like writing a first-person parable.



Step Three – New Ideas and Questions: Using your notes and the memory of what you heard, write some questions about what you heard and processed. What troubled you? Challenged you? Short and to the point.

Step Four – Plan of Action: Since you have now done some deep reflection on what you heard and what you learned, what are you going to do about it? Identify concrete ways your life will change because of what you've discerned.

Step Five – Speak and Listen:

Speak: Find someone with whom you can briefly share what you've learned and the change it is prompting in you. This might be a friend or it could be with members of your group. Your sharing may include anything from the first four steps, but will be more useful to both you and your listener(s) if you include the personal changes your reflection has prompted..

Listen: Ask the person or people with whom you shared to reflect back what you said. Was it clearly understood to them?

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THANK YOU

We hope that this journey was one packed full of reflection, growth, good conversations, and connection!

Thank you for engaging in the Kindred experience, we firmly believe this ongoing partnership of sister congregations, dedicated to building relationships amongst Christians of diverse ethnic backgrounds tangibly embodied the multi-ethnic family of God in the city of Seattle through this small group experience.

We want to hear about your experience, will you share it with us? The best way to find us is by visiting thekindredcommunity.org or finding us on facebook or instagram.

We hope that the meaningful discussions with people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and from different home congregations gave new perspective and instilled new passion in each of you!

Stay connected with us as we continue on this journey together as one!

Damascus International Fellowship + Evangelical Chinese Church + University Presbyterian Church

大馬士革國際教會 + 西雅圖證道堂 + 華大長老會