

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

---

### SYLLABUS

#### Session 1: Introduction and Getting To Know You

---

##### To read before session

- “[Key Distinctions for Understanding Race and Racism](#)” by Katrina Browne and James Perry

#### Session 2: Stepping onto Sacred Ground

---

##### To watch beforehand

Documentary: *American Creed* (86 min.) <https://www.americancreed.org/watch/>

##### To read beforehand

- Summary sheet: [Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice](#)
- 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)

#### Session 3: The Roots of Whiteness, and Deeper Roots

---

##### To watch beforehand

- 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 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](#)” 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...”)
- 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 4: Whose Land? Exploring Indigenous History

---

### To watch beforehand

- PBS series: *We Shall Remain*, Episode 1: “After the Mayflower” (77 min.)  
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-three/>
- Short video: *The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery* (14 min.)

### To read beforehand

- Audio story and article: “[The Map of Native American Tribes You’ve 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](#)” 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 5: Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery: Exploring Black History

---

### To watch beforehand

- PBS series: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Episode 1: “The Black Atlantic: 1500-1800” (56 min.) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-four/>
- *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 beforehand

- 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 6: Whose Land? More Layers: Exploring Latino History

---

### **To watch beforehand**

- PBS series: *Latino Americans*, Episode 1: “[Foreigners in Their Own Land](#)” (53 min.)
- YouTube video: [Guns, Germs, and Steel: How Europeans Came to Dominate the World, in 7 Minutes](#)

### **To read beforehand**

- Op-ed: “[Moving Beyond the 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 7: Americans, Not Foreigners: Exploring Asian/Pacific American History**

---

### **To watch beforehand**

- PBS series: *Ancestors in the Americas*, Episode 2: “Chinese in the Frontier West” (61 min.)  
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-six/>

### **To read beforehand**

- 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
- 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 8: Selective Access to the Melting Pot and the American Dream: 1830s-1960s**

---

### **To watch beforehand**

- 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.)  
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-seven/>

### **To read beforehand**

- Article: “[An interview with Noel Ignatiev](#)” 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 9: Divisions in Present-Day White America

---

### To watch beforehand

- National Geographic series: *America Inside Out with Katie Couric*, Episode 4: “White Anxiety” (48 min.) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-eight/>
- Documentary: *Healing Justice* (66 min.) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-nine/>

### To read beforehand

- Article: “[What So Many People Don’t Get About the U.S. Working Class](#)” by Joan Williams
- 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 3
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 26-27 and revisit p. 175 and first 3 pages of Chapter 35

## Session 10: Becoming Beloved Community

---

### To watch beforehand

- Documentary: *Dawnland* (abridged, 54 min.)
- Documentary: *Repairing the Breach: The Episcopal Church and Slavery Atonement* (31 min.) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/session-ten/> (For Both Documentaries)

### To read beforehand

- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – Chapter 4-5