



FINDING PEACE IN CHAOTIC TIMES

SEPTEMBER 26 | A DIVIDED WORLD

START TALKING | Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How do you define the word racism? How has this changed over time?
- When did you first come to the realization that we live in a society marked by racial hostility?

START THINKING | Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Ephesians 2:14-22 - Verse 19 says that prior to Christ's work, the relationship between Jew and Gentile was that of "foreigners and strangers." To what degree do those words describe your relationship with others who are racially or ethnically different than you.
- Paul notes that one of the results of the Cross is the creation of a new family. How does this understanding of the Cross shape the way you live in the world?
- Read Revelation 7:9-10
- This scripture passage is a sneak preview of a future time when people from all nations and ethnicities are gathered. What are some of the obstacles that keep church communities from gathering in this way?
- Revelation 7 reveals that in the age to come, we will retain our ethnic and national identities. How does that make you feel? Why?

START SHARING | Choose a question to create openness.

- There are two racial layers we must attend to (individual and institutional) in order to make progress addressing this issue. Which of these two areas do you have more difficulty addressing? Why?
- What are some assumptions we make about racial reconciliation and how that is achieved?
- "Reconciliation in the community will always cost us something, and in Christ, the barriers that separate us can come down in his name." What is God inviting us to sacrifice for the sake of reconciliation are you hoping will result?

START PRAYING | Be bold and pray with power.

- Jesus, help me to look inside myself, at the emotions and the wounds that I so often ignore and simply wish would go away. May the Holy Spirit help me engage the emotions and wounds, may I engage with others, so the wounds I ignore become the pain I inflict on others. In your resurrected name we pray together, Amen.

START DOING | Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Read one of Jemar Tisby's books *The Color of Compromise* or *How to Fight Racism*
- Listen to the *Be the Bridge* podcast by Latasha Morrison