

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Generational DNA Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To better live out the beatitudes given the racial tensions of our current times.

Sermon Refresher: As we reflected on the beatitudes, what would it look like to live that out in our day and age? What would it look like for white Christians to engage in the current race issues of our time in a way that has been shaped by the beatitudes? Jesus' teaching is meant to show us a better way to be living. To be meek and be a peacemaker means that we need to understand the historical DNA of how we got here and to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

Icebreaker: Is your stance on race issues different than your parents' or grandparents'?

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 5:3-10. Which trait that Jesus calls blessed do you feel is lacking most in our culture? Why? Which do you find most challenging to you personally?

Matthew 5:3-10

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

THE **crossing** **small groups**

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2. Each beatitude has a promise. Which of the promises do you find the most motivating?
3. What would it look like to approach the current fights and tensions about race with a heart that believes the beatitudes?

Digging Deeper: Read Philippians 2:1-4. What challenges does Paul give for Christians to strive for unity? What are the reasons why we should, according to Paul?

Philippians 2:1-4

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

4. What historical realities either from Dave's sermon or from your own exposure have been helpful for you to understand why people of color might feel differently about events or see them differently than whites? What should we rightfully mourn about what has happened?
5. Read Revelation 7:9. How does finding our identity more and more in the coming kingdom keep us from being sucked into the culture of racism around us?

Revelation 7:9

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

THE **crossing** **small groups**

6. What is a step you could take to better understand, to better accept or acknowledge, to better mourn, or to better strive for peace in regards to what we've talked about today?

Sharing and Prayer: Either in lieu or in addition to having people share their own prayer requests, consider spending some time as a group praying in light of these issues:

- Confess the sins of racism of our country's past and our own
- Pray for our church to better live out the beatitudes on these issues
- Pray for justice to be done in our community and schools
- Pray for justice to be done in our nation