

Title slideOpening Prayer

Our God, you bring us together at a time when our society is struggling with many issues that divide us and worry us. Help us today to be open to learning and to having our minds opened to things that need to be said; things that need to be understood; and things that deserve responses that are prayer-filled and even vulnerable. Amen

Be thoughtful and listen statement.

Discussions about racism are likely to push people's buttons. Our automatic response is to protest "I am not racist" or "this is not about me" or "that all happened a long time ago." As we have today's discussion, I ask that each of us listen with the expectation that we will learn and understand each other better – rather than half-listen as we formulate our responses and rebuttals. The goal of the session is to create a safe space for dialogue.

History of the term "White"

The term "white race" or "white people" entered the major European languages in the later 17th century. It originated with the racialization of slavery at the time, both from the Atlantic slave trade from Africa and the enslavement of indigenous peoples in the Spanish Empire lands. It has repeatedly been ascribed to strains of blood, ancestry, and physical traits, and was eventually made into a subject of scientific research, which culminated in scientific racism, which was later widely repudiated by the scientific community.

The term "white people" or a "white race" described mainly European populations, defined by their light skin, among other physical characteristics, and contrasting with "black people", Amerindians, and other "colored" people or "persons of color".

How Would You Feel?

I'm going to give you several situations to imagine. Think about how they would make you feel or what they would mean to you. After we have time to consider all of them, I'll ask you to share if you want.

1. Imagine you were raised in a community where the vast majority of police, politicians, and government workers were *not* of your race.
2. Imagine you were told that you were ugly or inferior because of your race.
3. Imagine that the majority of your school teachers were of a different race from yours.
4. Imagine you were told to dress or act differently because your preferred choices reflected on your race.
5. Imagine that all members of your race were automatically denied the right of citizenship and the right to vote in the United States.

Sharing?

### Racism Vs Personal Prejudice

Ask the group:

1. What do you think the difference is?
2. What is the impact of racism vs the impact of personal prejudice?

<https://www.thoughtco.com/racism-vs-prejudice-3026086>

Jul 16, 2020 · **Prejudice** refers to a preconceived idea (“pre-judging”) about a particular group, while **racism** involves an unequal distribution of power on the basis of **race**.

### Whiteness is “normal”

What is the impact of this on you? What might be the impact on a person of color?

### Black-White Equality Index

Developed and tracked annually by the National Urban League. It measures Education, Jobs, Housing, Health, and Justice

In the comparison chart, I have itemized Health and Economic ratings from 4 periods.

Health rating is based on such factors as life expectancy, physical condition, substance abuse, mental health, and access to care

Economic rating is based on such factors as income, housing, and wealth

This measure tracks how Blacks are doing in comparison to Whites. As you can see, the numbers seem to be trending somewhat upward, but very slowly. And the gaps between Blacks and Whites are still huge.

### My Conclusions

Read each slide

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Ask for people’s thoughts and response (remind of the listen-to-learn-and-understand Vs listen-to-respond. Watch the time)