



Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	17.10.21	Racial Justice	
 Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ How do you picture heaven? 		
 Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Where have you been aware of racial injustice in the past month, locally, nationally, globally? □ How do you respond to the statistics that show racial injustice in our society: Black people are x10 more likely to be stopped and searched by police; White British people are twice as likely to own their own property than Black Caribbean people (x3 than Black African) etc... 		
 Read	Psalm 133	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ As a church we are called to be salt and light - the flavour and illumination for our world, a foretaste of heaven. What does this mean in the context of race relations? □ Heaven is where God is: who's invited? □ Why do you think an us / them approach can creep into Church life? How do we already seek to break that down? What more can we do? □ In Psalm 133, David celebrates the unity he saw when peoples from far and wide gathered together to worship Yahweh for the big festivals in Jerusalem. Have you ever attended an event like this? How did it make you feel towards your brothers and sisters? How did you feel being part of the crowd? □ What does it mean to 'live or dwell in unity'? How can we go beyond just meeting together - sitting near each other in a service, chatting over coffee - to grow quality relationships? □ How does/should seeing each other as not simply 'members of a church' but brothers and sisters in a family, children of God, affect our relationships with one another here and in the wider church family? □ Persecution - how has this damaged race relations, particularly within God's family? Call out specific examples. □ Intolerance - how can this be a more subtle, insidious form of racism? □ Indifference - how can this attitude be dangerous? □ Tolerance - when is tolerance just not enough? □ Diversity - how can we go beyond diversity to remove barriers and enable each other to thrive? 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive - what do/can we do that ensures diversity isn't accidental or tokenistic? <input type="checkbox"/> Affirming: when all people made in the image of God are able to be the person God has made them to be - [when] have you experienced this? How did it make you feel?
 Go further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read John 17:20-24. What is Jesus praying for? Who is praying for? <input type="checkbox"/> How does his relationship with God the Father and Holy Spirit model for us what unity looks like?
 Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What is God putting on <i>your</i> heart?
 Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this week, make some space to reflect and think about where you are on the spectrum: Persecution Intolerance Indifference Tolerance Diversity Inclusive Affirming
 Pray	<p>Creator God, thank you for making us _____. Forgive us when we have _____. Lead us in reconciliation to live in unity and love. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Use us. Amen.</p> <p>Spend some time praying over instances of racial injustice you are aware of - either globally or closer to home.</p>
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk