













Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	12-10-2025	Hearing black and brown voices in the Bible	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> What has lifted you this week? What has been a drag?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> Why has Jesus (and other people in the Bible) so often been depicted/ portrayed by Western artists/ filmmakers as <i>white</i> ? Why? How accurate is this? <input type="checkbox"/> What is <i>white-washing</i> ? What effect does it have? <input type="checkbox"/> Why are the historical roots of Christianity more brown and black, than white? How does this challenge, so called, <i>Christian nationalism</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Why is it important to acknowledge that the Bible writers were brown or black? What happens when we 'air-brush' out these details?		
 Read		 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Explore	<p>The Bible was written over 1500 years by 40+ people from three Continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe). They were black. They were brown. They were not white. Lets hear some of their voces:</p> <p><i>Moses' wife</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 2:1- : How does Moses' birth, adoption, upbringing, and dual-heritage relate to those today who are/ were 'looked after' (i.e. fostered/ adopted)? Think; biological birth parent(s); adoption; 'own people' identity, <input type="checkbox"/> Who did Moses marry? Where was she from? [<i>modern Jordan/ Saudi Arabia</i>]. That would have made her Asian and brown. <input type="checkbox"/> Where does Numbers 12:1 say Moses' wife was from? Where is that? [<i>modern Sudan/ Ethiopia</i>]. That would have made her African and black. <p><i>Solomon's wife</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Song of Songs 1:5-6a : Where was she from? Though no one quite knows where that was, what do we know about her? What does it mean to stand out as a woman of colour/ black woman? <p><i>Ebed-Melech</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah spoke 'truth to power' (chapters 38-39). v.6 : How was Jeremiah to be put to death? v.7-9 : Who came to Jeremiah's rescue? Why do this for a 'stranger'? Where was Ebed-Melech from? [<i>modern Sudan/ Ethiopia</i>]. That would have made him African and black. Today, why is someone's ethnicity often only mentioned if they've done something bad, but less often mentioned when they've done something good? What does this say about attitudes today? <p><i>Simon of Cyrene</i></p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 27:32: What was happening to Jesus? What was Simon forced to do? Where was Simon from? [<i>modern Libya</i>]. <input type="checkbox"/> Simon was <i>African, black, and Jewish</i>. What is intersectionality? [where <i>one</i> person experiences <i>multiple</i> forms of discrimination/ oppression] How can intersectionality help us understand those who's oppression is different to us? <p><i>The one in the chariot</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8:26-40: Who was this person? Where were they from? Why don't we know their name? Why is it important to respect people's preferred pronouns? <input type="checkbox"/> What is a eunuch? Why, in a racist society, have black men so often been labelled/ judged by their sexuality/ sexual behaviour? <input type="checkbox"/> What had sparked their interest in faith? How did they respond? Why is it important to challenge the notion that it was 'white missionaries' who first brought Christianity to Africa?
 Go further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How can reflecting on <i>today's culture</i> help give us fresh perspectives on Scripture? <input type="checkbox"/> e.g. How did Motown give fresh voice to gospel music or the hippie movement lead to today's chorus-based contemporary worship? But also to today's emphasis on fellowship/ community? <input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to 'roast someone'? [Roasting is verbal back-and-forth sparring; it's coming back from a put down/ insult with a fast, witty, and devastating reply. It (the Dozens) likely originated with the experience of slaves who could only respond to oppression with their intellect and subtle wit.] <input type="checkbox"/> Now read Matthew 15:1-12. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus's crew of doing/ not doing? Why didn't they also accuse Jesus of this? How did Jesus, in effect, <i>roast</i> the Pharisees? What were his come-backs? What did this do to the Pharisees? What might this have done for Jesus' crew?
 Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Which 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?
 Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> As part of Black History month, find out about Sam Sharpe, Jamaican Baptist Deacon and leader of the 1831 slave rebellion. See Baptist.org.uk/SamSharpeProject <input type="checkbox"/> Check out the HEBA Justice Hub's racial justice resources.
 Pray	Almighty God, Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Give me understanding of Your Way, Truth and Life. Help me to live what I read. Amen
 My questions:	

Access Small Group/ Reflection notes from: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Notes

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Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk