

## Pursuing Racial Justice (1 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

### SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/granthamchurch) videos at [granthamchurch.org/liturgy](https://granthamchurch.org/liturgy).

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, January 10th 2021



**Sermon Title:** Racial Justice & the Gospel of the Jewish Jesus

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 15:26; Luke 4:14-21; 10:25-37; John 4:1-26; Galatians 3:28

**Sermon Focus:** Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was a Jew. He was *not* white. Jesus was from a minority ethnic group who had a long history of slavery, exile, and oppression. And that oppression continued with the Roman Empire in the first century. Therefore, it's important to hear how the "good news" of Jesus is not just about the forgiveness of sins, it's also about justice and setting the captives free. Listen as Pastor David shares how pursuing racial justice is rooted in the gospel that Christ proclaimed.

*Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:*

1. This past week (Jan 6, 2021) we witnessed an insurrection and attempted takeover of the U.S. capitol building by right-wing extremists. Please begin in one minute of silent reflection and start your meeting off in prayer.
2. Share with the group your thoughts and feelings about recent events. How have you been processing what occurred? What is confusing to you? What has become clear to you? What do you sense the Spirit is saying to you/us?
3. Pastor David connected the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol to America's original sin—the country's long history with racism and white supremacy. He said that the Civil War (violence) merely suppressed racism and created deep resentment for the South and its sympathizers, for generations to come. What does it look like (and not look like) for the church to lead in bringing about real heart-change and stopping the belief in eye-for-eye, tit-for-tat, retributive justice?
4. Think about the picture of the man carrying the Confederate battle flag through the capitol—a symbol of the rebellion of the slave-owning South. Unfortunately, this man represents a significant portion of the U.S. population. How do you think Jesus would want us to feel about him/them and how we should respond?
5. Read Luke 4:14-21 together. Pastor David said the "good news" of Jesus is not just about the forgiveness of sins and inward spiritual change, it's also about justice and setting the captives free. This is a much more expanded view of the gospel than many evangelicals believe and preach, as they often emphasize that the gospel isn't about "social justice" issues. But the gospel is about both! How do we maintain the balance of inward renewal and working for societal change?
6. It's important to root racial justice concerns in Christ and the gospel. In his sermon, Pastor David talked about the Jewishness of Jesus (how Jesus was part of an oppressed minority), and highlighted the Parable of the Good Samaritan, as well as Jesus' intentional interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well. How do you think these truths can help us in pursuing racial justice?
7. Read Galatians 3:28. We forget how radical this statement was to Paul's world, and to our own today. What are ways we can live out this truth at home, at work, in the church, and in the world? How does it speak to your soul?