

Introduction:

1. Can you think of a time when you stereotyped another person or saw someone being stereotyped? What happened?
2. When have you gotten to know someone in a different ethnic group from you and thought that they were different from the stereotype you had for their group? What was the difference?

Understanding:

3. Read John 4:1-26. How does Jesus handle the difference between people groups here? How is that different from how the culture at that time handled it? From Jesus' point of view what is more important here than any ethnic differences? How does this example affect how you react?
4. An ABC News article stated "we accept the idea of race because it's a convenient way of putting people into broad categories, frequently to suppress them." Read Acts 17:26. In the light of this verse do you think the news article's claim is true?
5. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7 regarding the hunt for a new king. In what way do we fall into the same appearance trap? What is the remedy?
6. Dr. Douglas C. Wallace, professor of molecular genetics at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, stated, "The criteria that people use for race are based entirely on external features that we are programmed to recognize." How does this connect to what we know about people being made in God's image in Genesis 1:26?
7. Read Ephesians 2:14-16. Which two groups have been made into one? How does the cross break down racial walls and remove hostility?
8. Read Acts 10:27-28 and Acts 10:34-36. What insight did Peter have into the differences between groups? And what is the huge importance of "Lord of all"?
9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. What does this imply about our own efforts to being about reconciliation? What does the real work of reconciliation?
10. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. How should you react to the concept of racial privilege --- whether you are in the majority group or not?

Application:

11. Read Revelation 5:6-10. Here is a picture of eternity. Look at verses 9-10 in particular, which talk about different ethnic groups in eternity. What do these groups have in common? What can you do to bring a taste of this eternal harmony into the present?
12. Matt Chandler said this: "If we have any shot at legitimate racial reconciliation, it cannot be driven by white guilt. It cannot be driven by the need to feel like we need to rescue or pay back. It must be built upon, pushed forward, by the gospel of Jesus Christ". Perhaps you have been propelled by guilt or anger. How does today's teaching radically change that for you?
13. You may be thinking, "I don't even know where to start to have meaningful interactions with those who are different!" Would you start praying that God will open up doors of opportunity to share life with people?