



# SCENE UNSEEN

FACING RACE THROUGH FILM

Table Leaders open the discussion session with prayer or silence and invite group members to participate in the icebreaker exercise, before inviting group members to agree upon how to order the suggested questions.

## TABLE GROUP 1 - 45 MINUTES

### Questions for Discussion

**Opening prayer:** Gracious God, you call us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbors and in all people. Enable us, we pray, to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world, and ourselves. We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in your Presence within each of us. Amen.

**Icebreaker:** Share your name and a memory of a movie you've seen where you came out feeling changed (or moved or inspired) in some way.

- What did you hear this morning (or last night) about how film can be a catalyst to stimulate thoughts and ideas about race?
- Describe something that happened today that caused you to pause and think about race differently?
- What is at stake in conversations about race?
- How did you relate spiritually to the panel conversation?
- New Learning: Name one unexpected thing you heard or learned today. Talk about why it surprised or enlightened you.

## TABLE GROUP 2 - 60 MINUTES

Table Leaders open the discussion session with prayer or silence and invite group members to agree upon how to order the suggested questions.

### Questions for Discussion

**Opening Prayer:** May God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. Amen.

—from Prayers for Racial Reconciliation and Justice, Standing Committee on Liturgy & Music of the Episcopal Church

- We've heard about effective methods for doing the work of racial healing. What is your experience? What has worked for you?
- What are some opportunities and challenges for racial healing in your own context?
- When have you heard a powerful sermon about race? What made it so? How did it affect you?
- What have you heard today that you can use in your community, work, or ministry?
- What will you take away with you today that speaks to the work you do – and how to do it better?

## TABLE GROUP NORMS

- **Share** your thoughts, feelings, experiences, and questions as openly as is comfortable for you and seems appropriate.
- **Speak briefly and to the point**, so that others may have an opportunity to offer their contributions.
- **Feel free to remain silent.** Do not press others to speak if they are not willing or ready to do so. Silence gives those who need time to form their thoughts the opportunity to do so.
- **Listen to others to understand** their points of view and know them better, as well as to clarify your own positions. Avoid trying to convince others that you are right.
- **Use "I statements."** Sometimes it is helpful to remember that "I statements" are the best way to speak for oneself. This is a time for reflection on the meanings and implications of what we are encountering; it is not a debate.
- **Put your ideas on the table.** Ideas are the heart of meaningful dialogue and discussion. An effective way to share your ideas is by signaling your intention. For example: "Here is an idea..." or "One thought I have is..." or "Here is a possible approach..." or "Another thing to consider might be..."
- **Pay attention when sharing.** Meaningful discussion takes place when each group member is conscious of what s/he is saying, how it is said, and how others respond to it.
- **Maintain confidences.** Keep to yourself who said what and any personal details contributed by others. But feel free to share the topics that were discussed and their impact on you and your ministry or social justice work.

### Some assumptions guiding today's discussion questions:

1. Everyone in the discussion group has attended *Scene & Unseen: Facing Race through Film*.
2. There are diverse opinions and experiences in the group.
3. Spiritual formation is most effective when it engages participants':
  - a. questions that come from their own life experience
  - b. desire to be formed continually in their faith
  - c. feelings, thoughts, emotions, experience
  - d. all of the above brought into conversation with Scripture and the Christian tradition.
4. Christian formation is enhanced when groups are rooted in and guided by prayer.

