Dinner Conversation Guide
1. Bias (the doll experiment)

In 1947, Kenneth and Mamie Clark published a study in which children were shown two dolls, one black and one white, and asked several questions about them. The results were that both white and even African-American children preferred the white doll. This test was repeated in 2006 and found the same results.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkpUyB2xgTM
With explanation (CNN coverage): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYcz1ppTjiM

Questions

- Why do you think so many kids said the white doll was the good doll?
- Were you surprised by the children’s answers?
- Think about your own toys and dolls. Do most of your toys look like you or someone else?
2. Segregation in Education: Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges was the first African-American to attend her elementary school when she was six years old. Angry white protestors did not want her to attend the school.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecBORXfap9A

Questions

- How would you have felt in Ruby’s shoes?
- Why do you think the protestors were so angry?
- What would you do to help Ruby if you were there?
Missouri has seen a lot of Black Lives Matter protests. These protests are usually watched by a lot of police officers, sometimes in riot gear. During the COVID-19 health crisis, we’ve seen protesters demanding businesses to reopen. Many of these protesters carry big guns to government buildings.

3. Protesting: Are We all Treated the Same?

Questions

- What similarities and differences do you notice?
- Why do you think these protestors were treated differently?
- How have you seen these different groups portrayed on the news? (I suggest googling a couple of news stories)
- Why do you think these protestors were treated differently by the police?
- What are they protesting for/against in the picture?
Protestors, organizers, and activists used a variety of methods to create social change. Sometimes we look at the strategy or actions of another and feel the need to judge them. We think “it would be better if they acted different” or “if I was them I’d do X.”

This meme or image has been circulated around social media.

Questions

- Why might protestors use different strategies?
- How do you think it feels when a community’s concerns go unheard?
- How can we practice listening before jumping to judgement or thinking about what we would do?
5. Race, Poverty and Health

This video from For the Sake of All explains the relationship between our social location and our health.

Video

Gateway Gauntlet: https://vimeo.com/136107575

Questions

What factors lowered our hero’s health?
How did our hero overcome some of his challenges?
How can we help people who start the gauntlet with lower health and ability levels?
6. Learning Differently

This video from For the Sake of All explains the relationship between our social location and our health.

Video

Gateway Gauntlet: https://vimeo.com/136107575

Questions

- What did you learn in this video? What did it make you think of?
- Do you ever have a hard time learning? How does it feel?
- How can we help students that learn differently than us?
Sometimes when we talk about poverty, we focus on the cities. It is important to remember that poverty and hunger also happen in rural communities.

**Question**

- Were you surprised to know Rosie was hungry?
- When you think of poverty, what do you see in your head?
- How can we help people like Rosie?

**Video**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNLSJgeRq7g&t=74s
8. The Privilege Experiment

Students learn about privilege in this class activity.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KlmvmuxzYE

Questions

• Why was it easier for some kids to get their paper in the trash can?
• What are some examples of privilege (things that make our life a little easier)?
• What real life barriers keep people from moving up?
9. Kids Talk About their Race

Some of us think and talk about our race a lot, while others don’t think about it at all. In this video, kids talk about their race and what it means to them.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6xSyRJqIe8

Questions

Has anyone ever asked you about your race? If they did, how would you answer?
Were you surprised by anything you heard in the video?
What is your race/ethnicity? Is it important to you/your family?
10. Race and Police

Unfortunately white people and black people have different experiences with police. Some of us think of police as community members who are there to protect us. Others experience police as a scary force in their community. Many black parents teach their kids how to talk to police so that they can avoid trouble. Most white families don’t have to worry about that because of where we live. It took a long time for our policing system to become so unequal. It is now time to start to address this inequality and create new and better ways of keep our communities safe.

Video


Questions

Has your family had a conversation like this? Why or why not?
How does watching this video make you feel?
What kind of talk about police would we like to hear instead? How do we want this talk to change?
Family Learning Time

Let’s Talk about Race by Julius Lester
Chocolate Me by Taye Diggs and Shane Evans
The Name Jar by Yang Sook Choi

Watch PBS special- Race: The power of Illusions An Interview with Beverly Daniel Tatum, author of Why do All the Black Kids Sit together in the Cafeteria. Transcript available on pbs.org.

Watch YouTube video – Black Parents Explain How to Deal with Police By Cut: https://youtu.be/coryt8IZ-DF
1 Peter 2:17 The Message (MSG)
13-17 Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.

1 Peter 2:17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
17 Honor everyone. Love the family of believers,[a] Fear God. Honor the emperor.

James 2:1-4 The Message (MSG)
My dear friends, don’t let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, “Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!” and either ignore the street person or say, “Better sit here in the back row,” haven’t you segregated God’s children and proved that you are judges who can’t be trusted?

James 2:1 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
My brothers and sisters,[a] do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?[b]

Matthew 7:12 The Message (MSG)
12 “Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

Matthew 7:12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
12 “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.
Colossians 3:5-11 The Message (MSG)

5-8 And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That’s a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It’s because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn’t long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it’s all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk. 9-11 Don’t lie to one another. You’re done with that old life. It’s like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you’ve stripped off and put in the fire. Now you’re dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

Colossians 3:5-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.[a] 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. [b] 8 But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive[c] language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal[d] there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Ephesians 2:11-18 The Message (MSG)

11-13 But don’t take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you outsiders to God’s ways had no idea of any of this, didn’t know the first thing about the way God works, hadn’t the faintest idea of Christ. You knew nothing of that rich history of God’s covenants and promises in Israel, hadn’t a clue about what God was doing in the world at large. Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything. 4-15 The Messiah has made things up between us so that we’re now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped.
Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody. Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

Ephesians 2:11-18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

11 So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,[a] called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—12 remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. 15 He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16 and might reconcile both groups to God in one body[b] through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. 17 So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18 for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Galatians 3:26-29 The Message (MSG)

25-27 But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise. 28-29 In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ’s family, then you are Abraham’s famous “descendant,” heirs according to the covenant promises.

Galatians 3:26-29 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring,[a] heirs according to the promise.
Romans 12:5-6 The Message (MSG)

4-6 In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ’s body, let’s just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren’t.

Romans 12:5 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.