



WHITE PRIVILEGE: let's talk

Participant Preparation

FOR SIXTH GATHERING

Readings

Before the next gathering, please read part four of the curriculum. As you read, you will notice there are reflection questions and discussion topics in the text. You are welcome to review these and journal responses to all of these, but please note that you are not required to do so. Our work in gathering six will focus on particular questions and topics. Please read on for more details.

On Becoming an Ally

- Chapter 1: Da Vita D. McCallister
- Chapter 2: John Paddock
- Chapter 3: Traci Blackmon
- Chapter 4: John Dorhauer
- Chapter 5: Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

Reflecting on Readings

After reading through the chapters above, give yourself some quiet time to reflect on these questions. You may choose to reflect in silent thought, process through dialogue with someone else, or use your journal as a way of recording your thoughts.

- What does “being an ally” mean to the different authors? What is required of allies?
- What is a microaggression? When have you seen or heard microaggressions used? What role do they have in this conversation about being “allies while white”?
- What tools do you have to resist the temptation to become defensive when your privilege is being called out?

Journaling Your Story

In between gatherings, you are asked to spend time reflecting and recording stories from your own autobiography, paying particular attention to the way race has impacted your life's story.

Write a story about a time when you were an ally or accomplice in racial justice work. What was happening? How did you come to be a part of it? Who was directing the action? What did you experience? What did you learn?

Write a second story about a time when you made a mistake trying to advocate for racial justice or be an ally. How did you know you had made a mistake? What did you learn? How does what you've learned from that event shape how you behave or live now?

Note: This writing builds upon the autobiography you completed in gathering five.



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Engage and Explore: Auditing Your Life

John Dorhauer speaks of a doing a white audit of a church. Using that same idea, do a white audit of your life. Look at the pictures and artwork on your walls. What percentage reflect white people or culture? Take a look at your books. Who wrote them? What percentage are written by white authors? Go a step further and figure out the percentages with regards the books on your shelf that you've actually read. Ask yourself if these figures reveal a hidden bias or commitment to whiteness as a preference. If it does, what new commitments or action comes next for you?

Next, think about your daily activities and the businesses you interact with. Make the list as comprehensive as you can, thinking big and small about all of the companies and organizations you use (cell phone providers, banks, restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacies, childcare providers, mechanics, etc.). What percentage are managed and owned by whites? Ask yourself if this figure reveals a hidden bias or commitment to whiteness as a preference. If it does, what new commitments or action comes next for you?