

Oneness Embraced Facilitators Guide

A Video Series by Dr. Anthony Evans
Developed from his book by the same title



Video Topics

1. Embracing Racial Oneness
2. The Kingdom of God Defines Us
3. God is the Ultimate Independent
4. Debunking Racial Myths
5. Freedom and Justice for All
6. Key to Kingdom Oneness

For access to this series:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/196905>

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Crossroads Fellowship Small Group Department

Facilitator's Guide

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6
Introduction Prayer (10 mins)	Introduction Prayer Application and Sharing (10 mins)	Introduction Prayer Application (10 mins)	Introduction Prayer Application (10 mins)	Introduction Prayer Application (10 mins)	Introduction Prayer Application (10 mins)
Opener (5 mins)	Opener (5 mins)	Opener (5mins)	Opener (5mins)	Opener (5mins)	Opener (5mins)
View Video (15 mins)	View Video (15 mins)	Pre-video Table Discussion (10 mins)	Pre-video Table Discussion (10 mins)	Pre-video Table Discussion (15 mins)	Pre-video Table Discussion (10 mins)
Table Discussion (15-20 mins)	Table Discussion (15-20 mins)	View Video (15 mins)	View Video (15 mins)	View Video (15 mins)	View Video (15 mins)
Class Discussion (10 mins)	Class Discussion (10 mins)	Table Discussion (15-20 mins)	Table Discussion (15-20 mins)	Table Discussion (15-20 mins)	Table Discussion (15-20 mins)
Close/reflection /challenge, Prayer (5 mins)	Close/reflection, /challenge, prayer (5 mins)	Class Discussion (10 mins)	Class Discussion (10 mins)	Class Discussion (10 mins)	Class Discussion (10 mins)
		Close/reflection, challenge, next steps, prayer (5 mins)	Close/reflection, challenge, next steps, prayer (5 mins)	Close/reflection, challenge, next steps, prayer (5 mins)	Close/reflectio n, challenge, next steps, prayer (5 mins)

SESSION ONE: Introduction Embracing Racial Oneness

FOCUS: To recognize the importance of oneness to operate/ live from the perspective of God's kingdom, and the beauty of ethnicities created by God.

OPENER (TABLE ICEBREAKER, 5 MINS)

- Share a time when you were on a great team. (sports, work, marriage, etc.). What was wonderful about it?

CLASS VIEWS VIDEO (15 MINS)

TABLE DISCUSSION (POST VIDEO, 10 MINS)

- Define "oneness." How is this different from unity in the world? How is it different from sameness? What is preventing oneness; and how might we be personally preventing oneness?
- What is the impact of not having oneness?
- Read Ephesians 2:13-22
- How do we become one?
- Discuss the Application question.

APPLICATION: What one action will you take to help build oneness across racial lines?

SELF-REFLECTION

How might I be blocking or advancing the kingdom of God?

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SESSION TWO: The Kingdom of God Defines Us

FOCUS: a). To recognize that Christ and Biblical truth always override racial identify and culture and b). The importance of overcoming racial division/attitudes to truly see lives transformed.

OPENER (TABLE ICEBREAKER, 5 MINS)

- Share last week's application. OR
- What is your earliest memory of racial differences?

CLASS VIEWS VIDEO (15 MINS)

TABLE DISCUSSION (POST VIDEO, 10 MINS)

- What is God's view of race and ethnicity? (Read Galatians 2:7-14, Revelation 5:9-10)
- How have you embraced your own racial/ethnic identity?
- What can we learn from Jesus regarding how to approach racial differences? (Read John 4:3-10)
- Think of a recent interaction with a person of another race. How did you let race or culture, rather than God's word, dictate your actions?
 - o "Don't let race or culture dictate your actions or interfere with God's call on your life."
- Discuss the Application question.

APPLICATION: What one action will you take to embrace fellow believers not like yourself?

Think about someone from whom your race/culture would encourage you to stay away. Prayerfully consider approaching/ reaching out to them, i.e., have dinner, recreation, outing.

SELF-REFLECTION

What message am I sending to others by how I view racial differences as a leader, a parent, friend, etc.?

- *"We often miss the person's person and thus miss the opportunity to get access to a person's soul and sins...When you are willing to deal with a person's person, you get quicker access to [the person's] soul and their sins. A lot of people want to deal with folks' souls who don't want to drink from their cup. We want to get them to heaven but not have to cross them on earth, and therefore what you do is block the Gospel and block the kingdom of God by illegitimate racial division. Jesus didn't do that..." – Tony Evans*

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SESSION THREE: God is the Ultimate Independent *(Disclaimer: Not a political debate)*

FOCUS: To define myself as a Christian first and to recognize that I as a Christian must have God's/Christ's concerns utmost whenever I vote.

OPENER (TABLE ICEBREAKER, 5 MINS)

- Have each person share last week's application.
- Then answer the question, "When did you first vote? What was your experience?"

TABLE DISCUSSION (BEFORE VIDEO, 10 MINS)

- How do you typically prepare to vote? How do you typically decide on for whom to vote? *e.g., pray, talk with others, listen to the news, vote like my parents, vote a specific party, research, follow respected leader(s).*

CLASS VIEWS VIDEO (15 MINS)

TABLE DISCUSSION, CONT. (15 MINS)

- Was there anything in this video that challenged you or convicted you?
- Read 2 Chronicles 5:11-13 and Joshua 5:13 - 15
- How can Christians show that their party affiliation is second to their faith in God?
- When have you let the politics of men override the Kingdom of God in your political decisions?
- How can you have a discussion with another person who differs from you in political ideology and still honor God?

Discuss the Application question.

APPLICATION: What is one step can you take before the next election that will glorify Christ in the voting booth? _____

SELF-REFLECTION

Ask yourself one of the following questions:

- Ask yourself- Have I recently argued with another believer over politics that seemed to separate us? How might I reconcile that relationship? Be willing to listen.

NOTES

"...No party fully represents the kingdom of God..." Are you always functioning "kingdom?"- Tony Evans

SESSION FOUR: Debunking Racial Myths

FOCUS: To recognize that a). God created all men- regardless of race- equal and valuable in His sight, and thus we should see each other the same way and b). The importance of studying and meditating on the whole Word of God – the Bible- to ensure we live in truth and not myths/ lies.

OPENER (TABLE ICEBREAKER, 5 MINS)

- Share a myth that was later proven to be false. Why or how was it proven false?

TABLE DISCUSSION (BEFORE VIDEO, 10 MINS)

- Share a belief that has been passed on to you or you have heard with regards to another race?
- How has this affected how you interact with people of that race or ethnicity?

CLASS VIEWS VIDEO (15 MINS)

TABLE DISCUSSION, CONT. (15 MINS)

- Look at Page 6, Session 4 worksheets. Why would Blacks and other minorities contributions to U.S. history and more importantly in the Bible be removed or not mentioned, respectively?
- Discuss the Application question.

APPLICATION: As you read and study Scripture, ask God to open your eyes as it relates to the variety of ethnicities in the Bible. Also, read a book about Christian minority contribution to the advancement of the Gospel and/or to U.S. society.

NOTE TO TEAM: *Suggestion if time allows: Have a list of books and information to hand out that strongly and accurately show Black's and other minority's contribution to the Gospel and to society.*

SELF-REFLECTION

Ask yourself one or both of the following questions:

- Would I rather have my son/daughter marry a Christian of another race or a non-Christian of my same race? (Assume everything else is equal.) And why?
- Where do I need to repent to God of my wrong view of another race?

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SESSION FOUR (CONT.)

“HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW...?”

Identify the ethnicities of the individuals listed below—

CORE TEAM: Give team a list of ten people in the Bible with scripture references. Here are some suggestions.

Bible (Old and New Testaments)	
Nimrod (Gen. 10:9)	Zephaniah
Moses' wife	Jethro
Ruth	Niger
Rahab	Bathsheba

Examples of minority/ immigrant/refugee Contributors—

CORE TEAM: List [common and uncommon] to give class attendees an idea. Can they come up with others?

Inventor/ Contributor	What They Did
Dr. Charles Drew	African American who developed large scale blood and blood plasma programs during WWII; refrigerated trucks thus the development of the “Blood Mobile”
Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz	Costa Rican immigrant who became a NASA astronaut and is a veteran of seven space flights
Dr. Carlos Rosende	Cuban refugee who became an ophthalmologist specializing in diabetic retinopathy.
Dr. Katherine Johnson	African-American woman whose calculations were critical to the success of the first and subsequent US manned spaceflights
Native American Code Talkers	Native Americans who had a vital role in communication during WWII
Benjamin Bannecker	African American who developed plans for Washington DC layout of streets, buildings and monuments.

SESSION FIVE: Freedom and Justice for All

FOCUS: Discuss how freedom, justice and being under God's divine rule are precisely linked. How getting right with God is critical to order in society.

OPENER (TABLE ICEBREAKER, 5 MINS)

- Take a moment to ponder below the message on the Statue of Liberty pedestal. What does this mean for all people in America?

TABLE DISCUSSION (BEFORE VIDEO, 15 MINS)

- How do you define justice?
- Do you believe justice can be accomplished apart from acknowledging God? Read **Psalm 89:14, Ezekiel 16:49.**
- Given the following definition of justice, have you ever been treated unjustly, or seen someone treated unjustly? *Justice defined- "The equitable and impartial application of God's moral law."*

CLASS VIEWS VIDEO (15 MINS)

TABLE DISCUSSION, CONT. (20 MINS)

- How does injustice based on race reflect a travesty on the character of God?
- What does the term "white privilege" convey to you?
- How does "white privilege" perpetuate racial injustice or how can it be used to bring about justice in society?
- What is the Church's responsibility to help bring about "liberty and justice for all" in our society?
- Discuss the Application question.

APPLICATION: What is one thing you can do this week to better represent Jesus and what it means to be a Christian as it relates to overcoming the racial divide? _____

SELF-REFLECTION

Ask yourself one of the following questions:

- When did you make a decision based on race rather than on the Word of God?
- Where have you compromised (set up your own standard) or not been clear on good and evil, specifically as it relates to racism? What was the result?
- How are you holding back the onslaught of evil?

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- "Justice is tied to God. You cannot have one without the other. If God is your problem, only God is your solution. When you remove God from society, you invite chaos into your society."
- Justice defined- "the equitable and impartial application of God's moral law."

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SESSION FIVE (CONT.):

- We are to relate to each other based on Biblical standards, principles and commands. *"You can't bring anti-God sentiments into God's kingdom."*
- **2 Chronicles 15:3 -6**— Getting right with God is critical to order in society... The further our culture gets away from God, the more chaotic our society will be.
- Kingdom standard- A visible demonstration of God's comprehensive rule over every area of life.

New Colossus (Statue of Liberty poem)

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

SESSION SIX: The Key to Kingdom Oneness and Holding Back Evil Through the Church

FOCUS: Discuss the purpose of the Church and what this means for fighting the onslaught of evil, e.g., racial divide, and the salvation of a nation.

OPENER (TABLE ICEBREAKER, 5 MINS)

- Why did you choose to be a part of Crossroads Fellowship?

TABLE DISCUSSION (BEFORE VIDEO, 10 MINS)

- Read Matthew 16:13-20
- Who do you say Jesus is?
- What is the purpose of the Church?

CLASS VIEWS VIDEO (15 MINS)

TABLE DISCUSSION, CONT. (15 MINS)

- Jesus said, I will build my church..." Discuss again: What is the purpose of the Church?
- Like weak levees, where has the Church in the U.S. been remiss/rebellious in pushing back evil, specifically as it relates to racism?
- Like strong levees, where has the Church in the U.S. been faithful/righteous in pushing back evil, specifically as it relates to racism?
- The Church has been given the keys to access heaven's authority. What keys have you been using to address evil in society, in your sphere of influence? (Matthew 16:19)
- Discuss the Application question.

APPLICATION: What is one thing you can do this week to better represent Jesus and what it means to be a Christian as it relates to overcoming the racial divide? _____

SELF-REFLECTION

Ask yourself one of the following questions:

- As a Christian, how can I help to hold back the sin of racial division, injustice, racism?
- Do I know the purpose to which God has called me?
- How am I representing the "homeland (kingdom of God)?" Read I Peter 2:4-5, 9-11

Purpose of the Church:

- Levy to hold back evil.
- Promote the kingdom of God.
- Coming together of individual stones unified to make something bigger (levy).

SESSION SIX (CONT.):

- Made up of individuals who are linked whose job is to reflect and legislate the values of the kingdom of God.
- God's legislative agency from heaven to history.
- _____
- _____