



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WEEK 5

#### Racism

#### ICEBREAKER:

Excluding your phone, what is the most useful thing you own?

#### BIG IDEA:

Today's big idea: Discipleship means getting comfortable getting uncomfortable!

#### DAILY BIBLE READING (Optional):

If you'd like our daily bible reading, sign up through our connect card at [findcommunity.com/nextsteps](http://findcommunity.com/nextsteps).

> Acts 17:26; Jonah 1; Jonah 2; Jonah 3; Jonah 4

> Was there a particular passage that stood out to you?

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 17:26; Jonah 1-4

#### DISCUSSION:

1. Share a memorable moment from Pastor Brett's message. Why does this particular moment stand out to you? Was it something that felt dissonant or did it resonate with you?
2. Have someone in the group read Jonah 1:1-3. What do you think was going through Jonah's mind as he was fleeing? How would you have responded to this moment?
3. Did you grow up in a family or community that treated all people the same or was there some level of racism, overt or subtle? These could have been jokes, comments, phrases, what a particular group of people was called, etc.
4. In your experience, why is racism so difficult to overcome? What actions or attitudes have you personally implemented to reduce it in your own life?
5. In Jonah 4 there is an exchange between Jonah and God. What does this exchange reveal about Jonah's belief about God? Do you think Jonah really wanted to die?

#### LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What could your church do (or what could you do in your church) to make other ethnic, economic, cultural, and political groups feel more included?
2. What was Jonah's biggest issue (prejudice, pride, disobedience, jealousy to name a few)? Which characteristic are you most vulnerable to? What can you do to learn and grow from it?
3. Share the "Ninevites" that God may be calling you to. Who is your ONE that you could extend an invite to, that you could escort them to church to make sure they feel included when they come?

#### Take Time:

Boxing ourselves in because someone looks, thinks, or seems different sometimes feels like the smart or safe option to do. However, discipleship, the call to follow Jesus means getting comfortable getting uncomfortable. It's time to bust the box wide open. How can you extended God's love and mercy toward others? Particularly, those who are different or would be challenging to you? Maybe there is an opportunity for your group to do something for others? Now is the time to get creative!



Daily Devotion



Prayer



Freedom from Strongholds



Serve the Community



Sacrificial Generosity



Share Your Story



Celebration