



MOSAIC
mennonite
conference



©ABC



©FOX



©ABC

The Faith Formation Team of Mosaic Mennonite Conference has created three study guides to accompany TV episodes that discuss police accountability and racial terms. Each tv episode discussion includes scripture references that will guide the conversation. As a team we find these episodes create a backdrop from which to have a faith discussion on these relevant topics. To access the episodes, you will need a subscription to Hulu. If you do not have a subscription, contact the Faith Formation Team.

ENGAGING OUR FAITH THROUGH MEDIA

SERIES

PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION

Please take the time to create a **courageous space** for questions and open discussion. Invite the students to text in their questions as they watch the episode/ read the comic or have them write their questions anonymously on paper and turn into a basket. Questions from your students should take precedence over the questions we provide.



©ABC

BLACK-ISH

Season 2: Episode 1- "THE Word"

Black-ish is about a family man, Andre 'Dre' Johnson (played by Anthony Anderson) and his wife Rainbow Johnson (played by Tracey Ellis Ross) who struggle to gain a sense of cultural identity while raising their kids in a predominantly white, upper-middle-class neighborhood.

In S2:E1, "THE Word", Jack, the youngest child of Dre and Bow, faces possible suspension from school for using unacceptable language while performing in a talent show and his parents must work together to get him reinstated. During the episode, Dre thinks through his use of the n-word with his black friends. Who can say it? Who can't? What is the history of the word? Each character has their own opinion. What's clear by the end of the episode is that language and history matters.

? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. What does Paul say about words that tear down and spread lies? How does this connect with racial slurs or words that are inappropriate for us to use?
2. What is your previous knowledge of the "n-word"? In what context have you heard it used?
3. Does your school have a "zero tolerance" policy for hate speech? How has that policy been helpful to keep students safe? How has that policy been difficult for the school to enforce?
4. As we see in the episode, different voices in the black community have various thoughts on the use of the "n-word". Which argument from the characters makes the most sense? Why?
5. Zoe says her white friends say the n-word all the time and don't mean anything hateful by it. Do you agree or disagree with Zoe's feelings about the word? Why?
6. Have you and your friends ever used the n-word when not around black and brown friends? How does that make you feel? How do you think that makes your black friends feel?
7. How do you respond to Dre's comments that "white people either want to say the word or nobody gets to say the word"? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
8. Is there a similar word within your ethnicity or culture that you feel others can't or shouldn't use? How do you feel when you hear it said about you or others?

💡 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[TA-NEHISI COATES ON WORDS THAT DON'T BELONG TO EVERYONE | WE WERE EIGHT YEARS IN POWER BOOK TOUR](#)

Ta-Nehisi Coates helps college students understand the usage of the "n-word" among the black community

[UNDERSTANDING SYSTEMIC RACISM](#) - "Systemic racism affects every area of life in the US. From incarceration rates to predatory loans, and trying to solve these problems requires changes in major parts of our system. Here's a closer look at what systemic racism is, and how we can solve it. Produced by act.tv."



©FOX

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE

Season 4: Episode 16- "Moo Moo"

Brooklyn Nine-Nine follows the exploits Det. Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg), a talented but immature NYPD detective in Brooklyn's fictional 99th Precinct, who often comes into conflict with his commanding officer, the serious and stern Captain Raymond Holt (Andre Braugher). Episodes center around the life of Peralta and his diverse, lovable colleagues as they serve and protect NYC.

In S4:E16, "Moo Moo", Sergeant Jeffords (Terry Crews) is in his neighborhood one night finding his daughter's toy that got lost. He gets stopped by an officer who nearly arrests him for being on the street. Jeffords wants to file a report on the officer, but Captain Holt is unsure. Jake and Amy have to talk with Terry's kids about racism while babysitting them. The rest of the episode centers around racial profiling and police accountability.

? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 2:1-11. What does the bible say about judging others? How does God view us and judge us?
2. What conversations has your family had around race and racism? Around police and law enforcement?
3. What do you think it was like for Sergeant Terry to be told he doesn't seem to belong in his own neighborhood?
4. In the episode, Jake is breaking into his friend's house for a prank and the officer lets him go. Are there some things that you feel like you can get away with that your black friends cannot? Do you think that's right or wrong?
5. Fighting against systems of injustice takes planning and strategy. What are your thoughts on Captain Holt's strategy? What do you think it's like working in a system that takes so long to make change?
6. What was your reaction at the end of the episode when Sargeant Terry was passed up for a promotion?
7. The Black Lives Matter movement is often met with people saying "All Lives Matter" or "Blue Lives Matter." What are the pros and cons of the Blue Lives Matter stance? What are your thoughts around the multiple stories of police brutality and police accountability?
8. How can your church be a peace witness to the black community and to law enforcement?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE US? A short explanation of police accountability from the Brookings Institution and how we can work for justice



FRESH OFF THE BOAT

Season 1 - Episode 1 "Pilot"

Based on chef Eddie Huang's best-selling memoir of the same name, "Fresh Off the Boat" takes a humorous look at the lives of immigrants in America. In the 1990s, Eddie, a hip-hop-loving 11-year-old, relocates with his parents and two brothers to suburban Orlando from the Chinatown section of Washington, D.C. As Eddie's dad, Louis, pursues the American dream by opening a Western-themed restaurant, Eddie and the rest of the family try to acclimate to their new, strange surroundings.

In S1:E1, Eddie, the oldest son of Louis and Jessica, fights back after being called a "chink," by a classmate. The series as a whole deals with many issues that Asians have had to face, and continue to face today. While the perceived benefits of assimilating into White culture are displayed extensively throughout the show (social acceptance, business success, and less judgement received from white neighbors) the Huangs have to constantly battle within themselves to determine their identity in a rapidly globalizing world today.

? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Revelation 7:9-10. God's kingdom includes people of all cultures and languages. How can we celebrate that diversity here and now?
2. What is the show's attitude towards white people? Why is this interesting/different for American popular culture?
3. How do you react to some of the characters comments like "I was expecting your name to be more exotic" "Your english is very good" "What's your name again? Something Chinese?" or talking really slow so that Eddie's family will understand. Have you ever heard people say things like this? Have you ever made comments like this to people of other cultures?
4. Moving from Chinatown in DC to Orlando is a big shift for the Huang family. They are all confused by the new white culture. Given this confusion, do you think it's possible for different races to truly understand each other? Why or why not? What are the risks of trying to understand each other?
5. In your own words, define the term "dominant culture" and give an example of an aspect of dominant culture in current American society. How does this feature of dominant culture function within our society?
6. Eddie gets teased about his Chinese food for lunch, so he tells his mom to get him "white people lunch." Do you know friends that had to change parts of their culture or identity to fit in? What do you think it's like for Jessica to have her son reject her food as a school lunch?
7. The person who says the most racially offensive thing to Eddie on the show is Walter, the seeming only other racial minority at the school. Why do you think this is? Shouldn't Walter and Eddie want to stick together as two outsiders instead of fighting against each other?
8. Intercultural relationships take time and trust. What intercultural relationships are you building? What are ways you can learn about other cultures that are represented in our conference?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ASIAN AMERICANS AND RACIAL JUSTICE: RACIAL EXCLUSION AND THE (IM)POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING OUR IDENTITY, CONSCIOUSNESS, AND AGENCY Exploring Asian identity here in the US.