

GOOD* WHITE RACIST

Confronting Your Role
in Racial Injustice

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Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. As you think about the “Good American” narrative and racial identity, do you experience an awareness of discord or discomfort, or a greater awareness of racial inequity? How has reading *Good* White Racist* changed your perception, if at all?
2. Are you aware of your own ethnic roots? Where does your own whiteness come from? How long has your family been white? How did they become white? What social constructs allowed or prevented them from becoming white?
3. Have you ever participated in or been the victim of racial gaslighting? Were you aware of it when it happened, or is it something you realized in hindsight? What are your feelings around movements like Take a Knee or Black Lives Matter? Has your opinion changed since reading this book?
4. If you are white, have you ever participated—knowingly or unknowingly—in the silencing of people of color? If so, what was your motivation? What were you attempting to protect by asking people of color to be nicer, stay silent, or protest in a more acceptable manner?
5. Were you surprised to discover that whiteness is taught in schools to both white children and children of color? What is your earliest memory of race—your own, and that of others? When did you first notice it?
6. When confronted with a racialized situation, what is your initial emotional response? Do you feel angry? Defensive? Curious? Surprised? Something else? What do you need to understand better in order to be an anti-racist and a good ally?
7. What justifications have you used to protect your white identity? How do you feel about those justifications now?
8. What emotions does an interaction with the police or the criminal justice system bring up for you? If you are white, how do you think your emotional response differs from a person of color?
9. Have you ever experienced fear when in the presence of a person of color for no real reason? Where does that fear come from? How long did it take you to notice it? How have you responded in the past to that emotion, and how would you like to respond in the future?
10. What aspects of culture do you consume that originate from people of color? For example, do you love sports figures or other entertainers of color? How do you feel about them when they express opinions about the racial reality in America? Does this change your positive perception of them? Why?
11. Have you ever been part of a “diversity” training at work, school, or church? If so, were you aware of how the people of color in the room were feeling? Did you feel defensive or curious during the training? Do you think the training was effective?
12. How diverse is your church? Does your church participate in diversity or anti-racism efforts? If someone were to ask you the difference, would you be able to explain it?
13. Knowing that true anti-racism begins with work on the self, and is most likely a lifelong process, are you committed to the task? What are you willing to do, and how are you willing to show up differently in the world as a result of being an anti-racist?