

Weekly Questions for
A Listening Space Class

Week 1

1. What was the ethnic makeup of the community you were raised in?
2. What challenges do you face when you talk about race?
3. When was a time in your life that you were very aware of race? Either your own or that of the people around you.
4. What does it mean when Bishop Curry says we need to deal with the specific before you can move to the universal?
5. How has your understanding of racism changed over the course of your life?

Week 2

1. Why is it important to look to the past, as we look forward to the work that needs to be done in the present and future? What moment in history could teach us something for our present moment?
2. What does it mean to be marginalized? Where are the margins of God's kingdom?
3. Is racism individual? Systemic? Both? If it is systemic, what can individuals do?
4. Given the history of the Lutheran Church in WWII Germany, do Lutherans have anything unique to bring to the table?
5. Do you have a personal experience with how, as Bishop Curry talked about, cultures, groups, or entities take on a spirit/life of their own?

Week 3

1. Who was your favorite teacher?
2. What are one or two principles given to us by Jesus on which we could build society? Where are we doing that?
3. What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
4. What does/would racial reconciliation look like, specifically?

5. Are we a part of a bigger movement? If so, what is our place in it?
6. How does hearing “white privilege” defined as “the absence of impediments related to race” change or impact your understanding of the term?

Week 4

1. When in history has the church spoken well?
2. What is the difference between a moral voice and a political voice?
3. Where can we look for the courage to “rise up and follow”?
4. How does our church, the ELCA and Bethlehem, contribute to the problems of racial injustice? How do we contribute to solutions?
5. What advice do you have for your pastors and their voice as we navigate these divisive political times?
6. What is one thing you can commit to doing to continue your education on this topic? And what is one tangible action you can commit to do to conform racism in the world?