



Reflection Guide

On January 6, 2021, a group of insurrectionists forced their way into the U.S. Capitol. Many carried symbols of the U.S. and of Christianity. This violent attempt to overthrow our democracy brought into clear view the threat that white Christian nationalism is to our society, our government, and our way of life. But it wasn't new. White supremacy and white Christian nationalism are deeply intertwined in the history of our nation. In this third installment of a conversation between experts Fr. Bryan Massingale and Dr. Robert P. Jones, we explore more deeply the connection between Christianity and white supremacy in the United States.

We invite you to use the recording of this conversation and this guide for personal reflection or to spark your own conversations. We encourage you to consider hosting screenings or discussion groups to help educate your community about white Christian nationalism, an ongoing threat to a multi-racial, multi-cultural democracy where all have the opportunity to thrive.

Access the webinar recording here: <https://networklobby.org/actions-to-take-to-after-watching-white-supremacy-in-christianity/>

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- What are your big takeaways from the program?
- What energized you?
- Was there information or a perspective that was new to you? If yes, what was it?
- Were there moments where you felt tension or discomfort?
- Where do you see white Christian nationalism showing up in your faith community and local community? How does this impact your local community and neighbors?
- What gives you hope?

After your screening, please let us know how it went! It only takes a few minutes, and your feedback is invaluable to us! Reporting your event can help us track our impact and be able to offer events & resources like this to you in the future.

Please share your event and reflections here: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/YdhxX0iF5g>

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NETWORK's Racial Justice Shared Agreements

Shared agreements are a set of principles established by a group of people in a specific space to ensure their discussion can be productive and healthy. Often, comments can be misunderstood or miscommunicated during discussions around topics as sensitive as race and racial justice. To support conversations around racial justice at NETWORK, we established the following shared agreements that we review and agree to before starting the conversation. Use them, add your own, or create your own.

Speak up/make space.

This is a different iteration of what some people call “step up/step back” that is more mindful of physical ability (that not everyone can or will step). It exists to dismiss the idea that “moving back” is what people need to do. Speak up/make space means that those of us who are quiet might challenge themselves to share. Those of us who speak a lot and take up a lot of space can “lead” by watching our time and making space for other voices.

We are each experts on our own experiences.

We can only speak to our own lived experiences, and nobody can invalidate the things that we have seen, heard, smelt, or touched. Be sure that we are only speaking as ourselves and not speaking for someone else or their intentions. *Example: 'When this happened, I felt this way.'* It's also important to listen deeply and respect others' experiences. During vulnerable conversations in particular, it is important to give your full attention to the person who is sharing so that they feel heard and honored.

Respect confidentiality and continue the conversation.

Another way of saying this is “What’s said here stays here. What’s learned here leaves here.” While we want the conversation to transform us and, ultimately, our world, it is also important that we respect the sacredness of each other's stories. We should not share another person's story without their permission. As we continue the conversation, we must do so in a way that respects those who have shared their experiences with us.

Whether or not it has been named, the personal manifestations of power are present.

White supremacy and racism are embedded within every institution within the United States. Every person is living in that social context, which bestows an amount of privilege or disadvantage on each person in the room depending on their identities. It is important to recognize your identity and the identities of those you are interacting with and recognize the intersectionality of identities. Also remember that aspects of people's identities that may lead them to experience oppression may not be visible or immediately apparent. Be especially conscious of the ways you hold power and how that may impact the conversation.

Embrace and express discomfort.

We don't grow without experiencing, embracing, and expressing some degree of discomfort. Lean into the discomfort of talking about racial justice and interrogate your feelings internally and externally.

Practice self-care.

Examining white privilege and racism can be emotionally taxing. While we wish for everyone to lean into their discomfort in order to learn, we recognize that for some individuals this can bring up trauma, and no one can learn when they are traumatized. If necessary, take a break away from the activity to collect yourself.

Resolution will not happen today.

We are not going to solve racism in one conversation or in one day, and that's okay. We cannot let that stop us from using today to learn and grow. We must be patient with the process.

Make space for evaluating progress and tension.

It's important in the slow work of transformation that we acknowledge the ways we are growing and the tensions that we experience. Evaluation fosters a culture of honesty, accountability, and community. We want to create a space where it is safe to express and evaluate those tensions together.