

F R G J

Faith | Race | Gender | Justice

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you believe it is crucial for a faith community to actively participate in ongoing discussions and practices of justice, mercy, and grace?
2. How do those conversations change when they are related to specific issues such as poverty, misogyny, xenophobia, and LGBTQ inclusion within the church?
3. What are the specific worries and apprehensions you have about maintaining a consistent emphasis on these important issues in your family, work, church life?
4. Why is it important to prioritize hope and resist cynicism and feelings of inevitability when discussing and taking action on matters of justice, mercy, and inclusion?
5. When discussing justice, mercy, affirmation, inclusion, and hope, how do you see Jesus' presence and influence in specific areas? How do these discussions align with the teachings and example set by Jesus?

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Michelle Mijung Kim Quotes:

“The most sustaining why that I talk about in the book is the one in which we can see ourselves in it. So, I don’t want to see white people wanting to dismantle racism or white supremacy just because they have people of color friends in their lives. I want white people to understand that white supremacy isn’t just killing people of color. It’s also robbing them of their humanity. I want men to not want to dismantle misogyny or sexism or the patriarchy just because they have women in their lives that they care about. I also want men to want to do this because they understand that the same forces that are killing and hurting women in their lives are the same forces that are robbing men of their ability to be vulnerable, their ability to stay at home with their children, their ability to talk about mental health openly. So, these issues aren’t just about helping marginalized people. All of these issues are connected in such a way that, if we don’t dismantle all of them, they’re eventually going to come for us, too.”

So, I think the why question is such a fundamental way for us to begin this work in a more authentic way that puts us on the map, that sometimes we like to think of as totally unrelated to our lives. So, I want more people to feel invested in this because it’s about all of us. It’s about reclaiming our humanity as much as it is about supporting those who are marginalized, and therefore, that this work must be considered important and urgent for all of us.”

On holding onto hope and not giving in to cynicism:

“I think holding onto hope is such a powerful and courageous thing for us to do, and to remember that change is indeed possible, and it’s not only possible but that it’s happening every single day all around us. And I think of Mariame Kaba, black abolitionist, somebody who I really admire and look up to and learn from. Her quote is, hope is a discipline. And that’s the thought that I want to leave folks with because I think we need a lot of hope these days, and to remember that a better world, a more just, inclusive, safe, equitable world is possible and that it is being built right now by so many people with the same vision. So, don’t lose hope. Don’t give in to cynicism. Claim the corner of your life and the world that you’re in charge of. And make that your frontline where you do the work to create change that you want to see.”

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