

# Talking Points Guide

## Episode Twenty-Eight: A Black Man and White Woman Talk About Race

I was taught an inaccurate version of our shared history, one that was intentionally crafted by our white European American ancestors in an attempt to relieve the cognitive dissonance they felt for the horrors they committed against people of color. I, as a white woman, am working to own the part my white ancestors played in that mistreatment. I accept the playing field was never fair. I wrestle with the sad truth my white skin continues to provide me advantages within our society, even without my consent. And, I am growing my awareness about how I, a white person, need to help move us forward toward equality by speaking up against white supremacy and privilege.

Join me and let's being here:

Joy DeGruy, Ph.D., in her book, *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*, states:

*Americans are socialized to believe in the American dream. They are socialized to believe that America is the land of opportunity, a land in which anyone can, with hard work and ingenuity, accomplish anything, a land in which even a person from the poorest of backgrounds can one day grow up to be president. They are socialized to believe they live in a country in which the ideals of equality, liberty, and justice for all reign supreme. They are socialized to believe America is the best country in the world and that Americans are the best people. Most Americans believe themselves to be the most caring, most just, most industrious, and most generous people in the world.*

*And most Americans are socialized to believe that white is better. It's better than yellow; it's better than red; it's better than light brown, and it's much better than dark brown. The poorest, most ignorant, ill-tempered white person still believes him- or herself to be better than anyone not white.*

**Describe the socialization you received to believe white is better.**

In her book *Waking Up White*, author Debby Irving educates us to the fact that:

*Between 1934 and 1962 the federal government underwrote \$120 billion in new housing, less than 2 percent of which went to people of color. America's largest single investment in its people, through an intertwined structure of housing and banking systems, gave whites a lifestyle and financial boost that would accrue in the decades to come while driving blacks and other minority populations into a downward spiral. Discriminatory practices among colleges, universities, banks, and realtors created an impenetrable barrier to the GI Bill's promise, turning America's golden opportunity to right its racially imbalanced ship into an acceleration of its listing. From the perspective of Americans excluded from this massive leg-up policy, the GI Bill is one of the best examples of affirmative action for white people.*

**Conduct an internet search and learn about the injustices black and brown people still face (not a complete list) such as:**

- Mass incarceration.
- Limited or no access to fresh and affordable food.
- Generational poverty.
- Worse air quality than in white communities.
- Less access to health care than white people. Generational stress.
- Living in fear for their life.
- Racist mascots.
- The Confederate flag.
- Confederate statues.
- Columbus Day celebrations.
- Anti-immigration policies and practices.
- Victim-blaming.
- Police brutality.
- White supremacy.
- Manifest destiny.
- And the false equivalency of black and brown people labeled domestic terrorists for peacefully protesting in support of Black Lives Matter, while angry white people who stage an insurrection against the government of the United States are called rioters.

Those of us who say we love Jesus must unite to end white-race dominance, just as we must end male dominance over females. We have a duty to confront the Church, and all who proclaim to love Christ, with the question of why we have not worked, in diligent unity, over the past several hundred years to eliminate the detrimental notion any one group of humans is or should be supreme over any other.