

## Session 1 — Introduction and Chptr 1

Goal of the study:

1. To understand racism from the POV of those who experience it—in this case Ibram Kendi—and to discover from his insight how to become intentionally anti-racist in our own perspective.
2. To be able to identify how racist ideology is embedded in our cultural history and the fabric of our society.
3. To inform our understanding in order to participate, as we have opportunity and influence, to dismantle the policies that perpetuate racism in our society, indeed our world.
4. Primarily, to take this information and filter it through the lens of Christ's kingdom to recognize how the way of Jesus disempowers racism so that our witness and practice contributes to racial equity.
5. Caveat—we will work with anyone to further the goal of racial equity, but this posture doesn't necessarily mean that we will agree with everything that a particular person or movement endorses. We will always work within the framework of our confession of Christ as Lord of all creation. To this end, we will not participate in attitudes or practices that undermine the purpose of Christ for harmony in life for all.
6. We pledge to come prepared to the conversation recognizing that we are all at different places in our understanding and experience. We will always approach one another in a spirit of charity and respect even when we do not agree in our conversation around this topic.

### Introduction

As we reflect on the introduction, what captured your attention? What was new for you?

What concept do you think the author was wrestling with during this time in his life? In what ways were you able to identify with this struggle in your life?

How does the author's understanding of "racist" change the conversation of racism? How did the author's definition challenge your self-understanding?

Where do you think the author's argument about racist ideation intersect with Christian values and teaching? (even though he doesn't make this connection)

### Chapter 1 — Definitions

What do you find helpful or challenging in the author's definition of a racist?

How does the author's history and experience with church teaching differ from your own? What does this suggest as we reflect on the goal of the gospel?

How does the author's definition of racism differ from your own perception/definition of it? What is the author's critical difference and how does that shape the conversation?

How does the author deconstruct discrimination, and what difference does this make? Would you consider discrimination a positive, negative, or neutral value? Why?

What does racial inequity suggest in terms of the perpetuity of racist ideation? How does the author's definition of racist ideas inform this topic?

What might be an underlying emotion motivating racist ideation? What value is brought to bear on that emotion?

From the standpoint of our Christian faith, how would you respond to the author's assessment of Audre Lorde's statement from 1980 quoted at the close of the chapter?

How will your engagement with these ideas inform your thought and actions going forward? What does this understanding require of you?

NEXT WEEK: Please be prepared to discuss chapters 2 and 3 of the book.