Conversation Starters

- Have you had a chance to catch up on the news lately?
- What are some of the hot topics?

Discuss

"Woke" has typically meant "with it" or having an awareness of what is going on, but more recently it has been tied to matters of social justice. The American culture has been in a state of deep division that has led to much discord. The Bible, however, teaches us about the community that we are supposed to be, regardless of any differences we may have, including racial differences. Of first priority to our understanding is that we were made and that God was the one who made us.

So God created mankind… ([Genesis 1:27a NIV](#))

- What questions do you have about the Christian faith?
- Have you tried to get them answered?
- How does God as Creator shift your worldview?

The Bible also teaches that we were not just made, but made in the image of God. This goes beyond our physical appearance, intellect, or personality. It means that we all have a soul and the ability to relate to God and each other. Beyond that, and more importantly, it means that every person, every life has meaning and incalculable value. And God stands in authority over how we are viewed.

…in his own image, in the image of God he created them… ([Genesis 1:27b NIV](#))

- How does being made in the image of God affect your perceived self-worth?
- How does (or should) it affect how you view others?
- What are some ways that you can express value to others?

Finally, the Bible says God created us male and female. God created us with diversity, not just in gender, but also with unique traits and personality. Races were born out of two humans, Adam and Eve, and further diversified after the Tower of Babel. The Bible never refers to race in terms of physical appearance, but in terms of different nations, languages, and culture. When it speaks to race, it only speaks of one race – the human race.

…male and female he created them. ([Genesis 1:27 NIV](#))

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth… ([Acts 17:26a NIV](#))

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ([Acts 10:34-35 NIV](#))

- Do you find it hard to look past physical differences?
- How familiar are you with other nations or cultures?
- What are some ways to celebrate diversity?

Next Steps

Christ is the skin we should see in every person. God made each of us in his image and with a uniqueness found nowhere else. So, that is how we should view each other. That is what Christians have to offer the world that can be found nowhere else. We can be the community that God himself is and wants us to be. A community known as *shalom*.

…for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:27-28 NIV)

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" (Revelations 7:9-10 NLT)

1. Decide where you stand with the God of the Bible. A great place to start is Foundations 101.
2. Change your lens for a day. Try going through an entire day thinking of each person you meet as made in the image of God, and look for something unique beyond appearance. This should actually be a permanent perspective change.

Further Reflection

Read the Genesis 1 and 11:1-9 NLT.

Pray

God, thank you for creating us and the uniqueness you have given to each one of us. Thank you for loving us and our differences. Forgive us for when we have let differences tear us apart. Help us to see each other the way you do, with infinite value and worth. Help us to celebrate the diversity that you created.