



2022  
LENT SERIES

AUTHENTIC  
DIVERSITY &  
JUSTICE  
WORKING  
GROUP

## STRUGGLING WITH WHITE PRIVILEGE AND FOLLOWING JESUS

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*1The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

*4One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:1,4*

After reflecting on white privilege for the last couple weeks, I realized God has been showing me my privilege for much longer than I knew, even if I haven't always realized it right away. I have been given resources by friends and mentors which have taught me the ways I have benefitted and continue to benefit in our social order simply because of my skin color. I have been shown my internalized prejudice when I spent more time talking with white people than Black people at the majority Black congregation that welcomed me one summer I spent in Southern California. I have felt called to connect more with my black neighbors, and I have noticed how I shy away from heeding that call, even if it is just talking to the residents in my building more often.

These revelations have at times left me feeling guilty and defensive. My actions and the reality of our world don't line up with the story I told about myself. I'm still working to bridge that gap, but it has helped to accept God's grace and forgiveness. Repentance has helped me take my focus away from my negative feelings and move it toward facing the problem. In the past I have felt like I need to find the "best" action I can take to work against white privilege, but after the discussions of the last few weeks I have realized that just leads to doing nothing. I have privilege I can use for good, and through continued reading, listening, and discernment I can find plenty of things to do.

My discernment has helped me realize I need to make more time and mental space for this work in my life. I want to be able to accept more volunteer opportunities and have the time and energy to engage with the People of Color I interact with regularly, especially those in my apartment building. For me this means I need to be more disciplined about not taking on more than I can chew at work and prioritizing the things that help me feel less hurried and overwhelmed outside of work like commuting by bike and maintaining a good routine.

Let us pray: Caring God, give us the strength and energy to face our shortcomings and do your work to reduce injustice in our world. In Jesus' name, Amen.