

BEYOND SUNDAY: May 9, 2021



Series Page: wearepcc.com/btb

Message: An Invitation to Empathize

How can the Church live into her full redemptive potential, prioritizing and modeling the unified Kingdom community? Jesus gave his life to create this community! PCC, let's *be the bridge* to our pluralistic society, going to the people with other-worldly, Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered unity. Will PCC be **bridge builders** or **barrier builders**? Will PCC be **color blind** or **color brave**?

#1

Based on the core premise in the BTB book being that we can only become bridge builders of racial healing if we have a spirit of humility, understand the history and acknowledge the harm done to others, in the last week, how have you become more aware of the history and harm done to others? How does it make you feel (e.g. outraged, sad, ashamed, apathetic, appreciative)?

#2

Read out loud [Psalm 51:1-15](#). What is David acknowledging and lamenting and why is this so important in his relationship with God and others? If you are wrestling with the concept of lament (sadness), watch or read this [short blog](#) to view lament in a new way.

#3

Why is acknowledging and lamenting our own sin so difficult? Brainstorm reasons why. And why is it even harder to acknowledge and lament the past racial sins of others that have harmed so many? And why is acknowledging and lamenting the past racial sins of others crucial for racial reconciliation? *Be the Bridge* book:

- page 39 "To lament..."
- page 41 "What is the..."
- page 46 "Acknowledgment should..."

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#4

What are your thoughts and feelings about the following statement by Susie Gamez, our Sunday guest speaker?

So if we're serious about being the bridge, what we can't afford to do is close our ears to the voices of other people. If we're serious about pursuing God's heart for racial reconciliation, what we can't afford to do is value our own comfort at the cost of someone else's pain. If we want to be the bridge, what we can't afford to do is pretend that the sin of racism does not exist within us or within our city, country or church. What we need is to be purposefully broken (lamenting) in order to heal. Anyone who has been through some good therapy can tell you this. Ignoring (not acknowledging) the pain from our past doesn't help us get to the healing we need. What we would benefit greatly from is growing in our empathy.

#5

Based on what you know today about racial history, what events or circumstances are you empathizing with and needing to acknowledge and lament?

#6

As a group or individually, experience the power of lament by working through the Liturgy of Lament. *Be the Bridge* book, page 52 (end of chapter 3) or the prayer below.

A Prayer of Acknowledgment & Lament

Be the Bridge book, page 51 (end of Chapter 3)

Lord, as we become aware of the intensity of the racial divide, our hearts are broken. Help us not to rush from this place of hurting to triumphalism or repair but rather lament as you call us to do. May our lament be a form of worship, a joining of our hearts with yours, as we grieve the lack of your kingdom justice here on earth. Strengthen us for this path, as without you, the overwhelming depth of the problems that must be addressed and acknowledged would be devastating. We know that you mourn with us and comfort us as we mourn with one another. In Christ's holy name, amen.

Actions

- Get a FREE *Be the Bridge* book! [Pick up at church or [request to be sent to your home](#)]
- Get in a [Be the Bridge Group](#) [Last chance / read chap. 3 prior]
- Read Chapter 4 prior to Week 3 [[Be the Bridge - Schedule](#)]