

# RACIAL HEALING

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THE EAGLES' JOURNEY

*Study Guide*

*Reconciliation Eagles*



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# *Study Guide*

## *Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey*

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## **Introduction**

### **Welcome to the Study Guide accompanying the DVD Racial Healing: the Eagle's Journey**

If you have already watched the DVD, you realize that it contains many concise bits of video action and interviews from speakers to present the need and possibility of "racial healing." In order to keep it short enough to hold the viewer's interest, obviously we had to make each clip brief, but they were drawn from much longer video clips.

We decided make the longer video segments available on the website ([reconciliationeagles.com](http://reconciliationeagles.com)) for those who wanted to look further into this compelling subject. The website also has essays and links to other sites that provide rich information and inspiration about the history of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the ensuing racism in America.

The Study Guide is self-explanatory. It was designed to be a six-part study, but can be adapted to a longer study by dividing part 3 into 2 or 3 separate studies. Please include the scriptures in your study; that is where God speaks!

The "Alone with God" section was meant to be done in private, but the questions in those pages could provide rich material for further discussion. But it is important to have that alone time as well.

That is where God can "break your heart" over the issues and render you useful for His Kingdom in this important work!



**We welcome feedback and suggestions as we  
further develop the website and this study guide!**



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# Study Guide

## Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey

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## Week One

(chapters 1, 2, 3 in the DVD)

### "We have a Problem!"

The first lesson in this study guide shows how the present racial strife in American society is a result of our 400 years of involvement in the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. The first step in bringing healing to the present generation of African-Americans (and whites) is to face the truth about the racism in our culture today, but perhaps more importantly, to take an honest look at our history.

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1. Some say that **whites are clueless** about the history of slavery, the Jim Crow laws, segregation, racism and prejudice in our society.
    - *Why do you think that might be true?*
    - *How can you get better "clued in"?*
  2. The dvd showed that America has a **mixed history**, that there is a "deep fissure in our foundation," and that only half our people were free (in Virginia) after the American revolution.
    - *How can we come to grips with these facts?*
    - *What is your reaction to this view of our history?*
    - *Why is history important?*

Putting it into the  
light of Scripture...

History  
Is. 51: 1  
Deut. 5: 15

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

*Racism*  
Ps. 42: 9

Rom. 12: 3, 16

*Denial*  
Prov. 24: 11  
Lev. 19: 17  
James 1: 19  
3: 13-18  
4: 1-5

*Veil*  
Is. 25: 7

*Cain and Abel*  
Gen. 4:1-9

*Truth*  
John 8:31-32

3. Ponder this list of some **types of racism** in America and share your thoughts:

- Overt racism
- Prejudice in law enforcement
- A “glass lid” in job opportunities, etc.
- Unconscious bias
- Profiling and treatment as “second-class citizens”
- Being told, “Just get over it!”
- Attitude of white superiority, white privilege
- Prevailing historical belief that African/Americans are less than human

4. The second section of this DVD session describes **denial**.

- *What is denial? Is it a choice? — or something below our consciousness that blocks us from seeing the truth?*

Jobst Bittner, a German pastor, is leading the world in facing denial. He teaches that bringing painful subjects out in the open brings healing and reconciliation (in their case, facing the Holocaust). This breaks a **veil of silence** that he believes is covering our nation—as it has Germany.

5. Dr. Jack Gaines has discovered that the conflict in most cases is trying to **prove superiority** in order to disprove inferiority. He cites the story of Cain and Abel. This passage holds central truths that will be looked at several times in the next few weeks in the dvd.

### KEY QUESTIONS!



*What do you think the scriptural solution to that age-old source of conflict, trying to prove superiority, is?  
Can you think of an application?*

6. Samantha tells us we need to **peel the bandage** back so the wound can heal. Raleigh Washington says there is a “**deep scar** that has never been appropriately healed.” Joseph Zintseme asserts that we have to deal with the **devastation** that slavery has caused the individual, the family, and the society.

- *What are your thoughts about those statements?*

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## Dig Deeper!

**First of all, dig into the Scriptures provided in each lesson. God may also show you some other ones that are jewels! We hope you will share those with us as we develop these lessons further.**

Then, why not spend some time next week looking into these issues in a more comprehensive way on the companion website? It is full of illustrations, stories, and teaching about the African slave trade and our racialized culture today. Listed below are the segments of the website that this week's study covers. If you are accessing the internet on a hand held device, just go to the menu below the banner, or on a larger computer screen, also down the left side. You can click on the banner to return to the home page from any page.

If you have comments or suggestions for links or further explanation, be sure to leave those on the appropriate page to help us further develop these topics.

### For this week:

Website menu item	Key items	Where is it?
Mixed History	(Choose any resource under this topic)	Legacy of the Slave Trade>Mixed History
Racism	(Choose any resource under this topic)	Legacy of the Slave Trade>Racism
Denial	Read essay on "Denial" and watch 4 clips.	Reconciliation>Barriers>Denial

### For next week:

Website menu item	Key items	Where is it?
The Role of the Church	(Choose any resource under this topic)	The Role of the Church

**Digging site:  
reconciliationeagles.com**

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## Alone with God—

Why not spend some time with God this week letting Him search your heart and speak to you about these issues? Here are some questions you might ask:

- Am I truly clueless about the racial prejudice in America today? In history?
- What do You want me to know? To do?
- What can I do to bring healing and justice?
- Does looking at the racial issues make me feel uncomfortable? Why, Lord?
- Do I have unconscious bias? Outright prejudice? White superiority? How can I get rid of it?
- What action could I take to break the denial in my life?
- Please show me conflicts I have had where there was a desire to prove my superiority.  
What can I do to bring healing? What were the real issues in Your eyes?

## Notes:

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# *Study Guide*

## *Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey*

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## **Week Two**

(chapters 4, 5, 6 in the DVD)

### **"We have the Answer!"**

The history of the church regarding slavery and racism has had two faces. The institutional church has much guilt throughout the history of the slave trade: churches, even denominations, participated in the slave trade. One denomination even owned plantations in Cuba in order to finance their missions activities in Africa!\* The institutional church put forth the lie that Africans were sub-human in order to justify owning them as slaves and participating in the slave trade. Captive Africans were actually baptized before being put on ships to cross the Atlantic, in order to make them more valuable on the slave markets in the New World.

On the other hand, the church, as the Body of Christ, has the answers through Him and His written Word! In fact, the church in this sense has been given the Ministry of Reconciliation. Furthermore, God has raised up mighty men and women throughout the centuries to stand against slavery and to work tirelessly for its downfall. Through the principles in scripture regarding our relationships in the body of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will one day enter into the "oneness" that Jesus mandated in John 17: 20-22.

Putting it into the  
light of Scripture...

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\* *Traces of the Trade: a story from the deep North*, Ebb Pool Productions, 2008 (DVD).

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

### Humanity

Gen. 1: 26-27

Ps. 8: 3-6

Eph. 1: 1-14, 16

Rom. 8: 29

### Body of Christ

I Cor. 12: 13-26

Gal 3: 28

Eph. 2: 11-22

Eph 3: 1-13

Eph. 4: 1-6

Rom. 5: 6-7

I Pet. 3: 8

James 2: 1-9

### Jesus' Prayer

John 17: 20-22

### Power of Unity

Ps. 133

1. Take a hard look at the institutional **church's guilt** in the slave trade, spreading the lie that Africans are sub-human, and in allowing or promoting racism in our culture, even today.
  - *Are you surprised to learn that churches actually owned slaves and plantations?*
  - *How do you think this could have happened?*
2. The worst aspect of slavery, with all of its inhumane cruelty, was the lie that Africans were **sub-human**.
  - *Look at the Scriptures and contrast what they say to that lie.*
3. "The church needs to **purge** itself." We will look at how to do that in Lesson Three.
4. John Dawson (head "Convener" of YWAM) said that the government can't fix our racialized culture. The **responsibility** to bring healing of the hearts and the culture rests on the church. It is the church that God will hold accountable for letting it go unhealed and for letting the system of injustices remain.
  - *Discuss these concepts from the DVD. How can the true church (the Body of Christ) bring spiritual and social leadership to our country?*
5. We need to back up and look at ourselves as the **"Body of Christ."**
  - *What is the body of Christ? How should we be functioning?*
  - *How does racism, not to mention slavery, fit the Scriptural descriptions of the church (the Body of Christ)?*

According to Raleigh Washington (CEO of Promise Keepers), the true church needs to walk in the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer in John 17: 20-22.

  - *What kind of **oneness** is described here?*
  - *What is promised as a result of having that one-ness?*
6. Raleigh gives an example of applying the **principle of unity** to a racially-charged conflict in Sanford, Florida.
  - *Discuss how you think the principle of unity protected Sanford.*
  - *Why is "relationship" so important?*

7. We have received reconciliation with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

- *What does it mean to be an **ambassador of reconciliation**?*
- *Does it extend beyond presenting the gospel to a lost world?*

## KEY QUESTIONS!



Jack Gaines says “The issues of life are a **man to God proposition.**” He ties this to the story of Cain and Able.

*Re-read that story and discuss how God makes it clear to Cain that his conflict isn't with Able—it is with God!*

*In II Sam 16: 5-13, how does David show his understanding of the “Man to God principle?”*

*Think of a conflict and see whether you can track it back to God's sovereignty in dealing with man.*

8. Ultimately, ancient conflicts, such as the legacies of the African slave trade, have to be solved **supernaturally!** As pastor Agu Irukwu says, “Where humanity reaches up to the divine for help, the natural stretches out to the supernatural, the creation cries out to the Creator for help, those wounds can't be erased without that kind of help!” [His statements were made in the context of the hold of a “mock up” slave ship which you may have seen in the movie *Amazing Grace*. The mayor of London is behind him on his left. See *The Zong*, under “Stories” on the website for the full story.]

- *When we begin to see the enormity of the legacy of the African slave trade, how does his statement bring hope? Look to the Word for your answers.*

**Do we believe that Jesus' prayer in John 17: 20-22 will be answered? How can it not be if He is God?**

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

### *Man to God*

Gen 4: 1-9

Ps. 75: 6-7

Prov. 16: 7, 9

James 1: 2-5

II Sam. 16: 5-13

### *God's power for us*

Ps. 18: 6-19, 27, 43, 46-48

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## Dig Deeper!

**First of all, dig into the Scriptures provided in each lesson. God may also show you some other ones that are jewels! We hope you will share those with us as we develop these lessons further.**

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### **For next week:**

<b>Website menu item</b>	<b>Key items</b>	<b>Where is it?</b>
Reconciliation	Watch "True Reconciliation" by Eddie Smith	Reconciliation>About Reconciliation
Reconciliation	Read "Identificational Repentance"	Reconciliation>How Do We Reconcile?>"Identificational Repentance"
Reconciliation	Read "Bitterness"	Reconciliation>Barriers to Reconciliation>"Bitterness"
Reconciliation	Watch "Barriers to Reconciliation:	Reconciliation>Barriers to Reconciliation
Root Issues	Watch the clips under: "Conflict Between Men"	Root Issues>Conflict Between Men

**Digging site:  
reconciliationeagles.com**







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# Study Guide

## Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey

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## Week Three

(chapters 7-11 in the DVD)

### Getting a Fresh Start

Some say, "Repentance is the re-set button." That rings true in our spirits, as we see repentance and forgiveness extended during reconciliation ceremonies and between individuals. Because of God's grace, which has to be present to empower a person to repent and to forgive, we do have the opportunity for a "re-set"—a new beginning. Isn't that what God gives initially with our salvation?

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1. "We need to **clean up our messes!**" Instead of blaming God or others for our situation, we need to let God search our hearts to show us our part in a bad scenario. We are then acting responsibly to own our sin—and God honors that.

- *Is there a bit of the "blame game" going on in the garden in Gen. 3: 9-11?*

Putting it into the  
light of Scripture...

*Taking responsibility*  
Prov. 19: 3

Gen. 3: 9-13

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

*Identificational Repentance*  
Ezra 9: 6, 10, 15  
Neh. 1: 6-7  
Daniel 9: 3-5  
Ps. 106: 6-7

Ezek. 22: 30

*Repenting/humbling*  
II Chron. 7: 14  
II Chron. 33: 23  
Is. 66: 2b  
James 4: 6, 10

Prov. 18: 19

*Confession*  
I John 1: 9-10

*Cities and nations*  
Matt. 11: 20-22  
Jonah 3: 4-10

## KEY QUESTIONS!



What if, as in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the mess was made by our ancestors or others from our “people group”? Do we have any responsibility for their sins? The DVD talks about **“Identificational Repentance,”** in which one repents in behalf of a group of which he is a part.

*Read one of the selections in the Scripture column in the sidebar. How do you regard “Identificational Repentance” after seeing the example portrayed there?*

*What does it mean to “stand in the gap”?*

3. The DVD states that reconciliation comes from humbling ourselves through asking for forgiveness, with some qualifiers for complete repentance:
  - From the heart
  - With sincerity
  - In detail
  - *Discuss the power of humility in the light of the scriptures.*
  - *Why should we be sure our hearts are tenderized and that we fully understand what we are repenting for?*
  - *According to the passages in the sidebar, why is it so important to humble ourselves and repent in order to have peace in the Body of Christ?*
4. **Repentance** and **confession** go hand in hand. “Confession” means “to agree [with God].”
  - *What does God promise if we confess our sins in I Jn. 1: 9-10?*
  - *What if we deny that we have sin?*
5. Read the two passages in the sidebar.
  - *Can entire cities repent? Nations?*
  - *What does **God promise** when we repent (turn)?*

6. After repentance and confession, the ground is prepared for **reconciliation**.

- *How important to the Lord is it that we stay in a “reconciled paradigm”?*

7. Often overlooked, perhaps on purpose because we don’t know what to do with it, is the topic of “**restitution**.” It is Biblical to make restitution and the law spells out very carefully what is a just restitution in certain transgressions. Look at one example from scripture in the sidebar.

- *Brainstorm about possible restitution for the losses Africans suffered through slavery and the years of racism after slavery ended.*

8. Before we go further, we need to talk about the power of God that enables us to see our own sin, to confess it, to repent, provide restitution, and to forgive—in other words, to reconcile. That power is called “**Grace**.” One commentary says, “This marks the difference between believers and non-believers.”

- *Look at some of the scriptures in the sidebar to more fully understand grace. What stands out for you?*
- *Can you think any situation that grace can’t cover? (see the two verses with asterisks).*
- *How big is “enough” or “sufficient”?*

9. The other side to reconciliation is “**forgiveness**.”

- *How important is it to God that we forgive? (key verses are marked with asterisks.)*

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

### Reconciliation

II Chron. 7: 14  
Prov. 1: 23-33  
Acts 3: 17-20  
Matt. 5: 21-26  
Mark 11: 25-26

### Restitution

Numbers 5: 7

### Grace

Gal. 2: 21  
I Cor. 15: 10  
James 4: 5-6  
I Pet. 4: 10  
II Pet. 3: 17-18  
Titus 2: 11-13\*  
II Cor. 12: 9\*

### Forgiveness

Luke 23: 33-34\*  
John 20: 21-23  
Matt. 18: 21-35  
II Cor. 2: 10  
Matt. 6: 12, 14  
Luke 17: 3\*

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## Dig Deeper!

**First of all, dig into the Scriptures provided in each lesson. God may also show you some other ones that are jewels! We hope you will share those with us as we develop these lessons further.**

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Walking in Reconciliation	Read: "How to Get Americans to Talk About Race," <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> article	Reconciliation>Walking in Reconciliation> Building Bridges
Walking in Reconciliation	Read: "Culture of Honor" article	Reconciliation>Walking in Reconciliation> Lifestyle of Reconciliation
Walking in Reconciliation	Watch: any or all clips under "Walking in Reconciliation"	Reconciliation> Walking in Reconciliation
Stories	Watch: any or all of 5 Stories	Reconciliation>Stories

**Digging site:  
reconciliationeagles.com**



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## Alone with God—

Why not spend some time with God this week letting Him search your heart and speak to you about these issues? Here are some questions you might ask:

- Lord, do I have a tendency to defensively blame others when I am accused?
- At some deep level, do I blame you for circumstances in my life?
- Show me what responsibility I and my family have in the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade.  
Did we benefit economically? By "privilege"?
- Did my "people group" (for example, Europeans) take part in the Slave Trade?
- Please remove in me any resistance to repenting where repentance is needed.
- Do I find it hard to "humble myself"? Lord, please help me with pride.
- Please show me about "restitution" in regards to the African slave trade and the following years of segregation and oppression.
- Is there any one I need to be reconciled to. How do I do that?
- Please show me any barriers to forgiveness that I have deep in my heart.

### Notes:

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# Study Guide

## *Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey*



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## Week Four

(chapters 12-13 in the DVD)

### Walking in Reconciliation

"After the forgiveness, after the tears, after the hugs, then what?" Jack Gaines' words ring in our ears in the afterglow of reconciliation events. But reconciliation is a lot more than a "re-set," as important as that is. We need to build relationship that hasn't been there before, finding common ground in the Lord Jesus Christ and then learning to walk in the unity that God has already given us. We will find that, as segregated churches and communities, we have been missing valuable parts of the body—a void in our lives we didn't know was there. It's as if a multi-colored tapestry was woven without red and yellow. How dull would that be? Or as if black and brown were left out. How would the design have any strength?

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Putting it into the  
light of Scripture...

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

### *Broken-hearted*

Ps. 34: 18

Ps. 147: 3

Is. 61: 1-3\*

Job 5: 18

Is. 53: 5

Jer. 30: 17

Prov. 18: 14

Heb. 10: 22

### *Fellowship*

I John 1: 6-7

### *Body Life*

Prov. 2: 2\*

Prov. 20: 5

Philip. 1: 27; 2: 1-7

II Cor. 6: 11-13

Rom. 12: 3, 5-7, 9-10, 14-18

Gal. 3: 28; 5: 22-26

Eph. 4: 1-7, 31-32; 5: 8-10

Col. 1: 27; 3: 17

### *Living stones*

I Peter 2: 4-5

1. Before looking into the practical steps of “walking in reconciliation,” there is a foundational issue we need to pick up. We heard the quote last week: “The one who hurt you can’t heal you.” Reconciliation, especially forgiveness, goes a long way to free the heart from its load of bitterness and offense. However, the **deep heart wounds** from generational slavery and from present day racism have to be healed as well—for Whites as well as Blacks! [see the website: Legacy of the slave trade>inner issues>trauma and healing].

- *Talk about some of the ways wounded people try to find healing for their wounds.*
- *Read the passages in the sidebar on broken-hearted. What does God do for the broken-hearted?*

2. Healing the heart provides the **heart change** that is necessary for racial healing to take place. (The Greek meaning of “reconciliation” is built upon the word *allasso*, meaning, “to change.”) True reconciliation springs from a heart that is growing closer and closer to God; therefore that person has sweeter and sweeter fellowship with others [see our website “True Reconciliation” by Eddie Smith, featured on the home page.]

- *According to I John 1: 6-7, what does it take to provide the right environment for fellowship with one another to flourish?*

3. The beginnings of relationship with those of another race also takes **intentionality**. As Raleigh Washington put it in the DVD, it will not happen accidentally—it has to be tended with oil, wood and coal for it to continue to burn.

- *What is that fuel that keeps the new relationships growing?*
- *Brainstorm some factors that mature and protect a new relationship in the Body of Christ?*
- *Look to the scriptures under “body life” for your answers.*

Have you noticed how much of the NT letters are devoted to **relationship?**

4. Read I Peter 2: 4-5.

- *Will there be **conflict**? What does it take for a stone mason to fit stones or bricks together into a sturdy and attractive structure?*

5. One of the barriers often raised to reconciliation of any kind is—"We just can't **trust** them!"
  - *Why is this not a valid reason for standing apart? [see Eddie Smith's clip "Trust vs. Love" on our website: Reconciliation> Barriers to reconciliation> "Distorted View of Trust" ]*
  - *Discuss what a difference having the truth he presents about trust would make in relationships.*
  
6. Jack Gaines described the **steps that can happen** after we are "restored in friendship and love." He says we can build trusting relationships, then partnerships, then socio-economic development, then communities where we are our "brother's keeper."
  - *Talk about the activities he described in the DVD ("Adopt a Village," water wells in Benin) and the Slave Trail Walk in Richmond.*
  - *Envision and talk about other joint projects that can or have sprung from reconciliation.*
  - *What can happen when you seek to know **what** is right (and just)—not **who** is right (as Tee Turner states on the DVD)?*
  
7. John Dawson encourages us to seek an answer to the question: "How should we live right now? How can we have a pro-active spirit, going beyond justice?"
  - *As our eyes are opened and our hearts are changed, how can we build a "lifestyle of reconciliation?"*
  - *Talk about some possible action points to bring justice into our racialized society.*

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

Trust  
 Job 13: 15  
 Prov 3: 5  
 Jer. 9: 4; 17: 7

Love  
 I Jn. 3: 11; 16-18

### KEY QUESTIONS!

As John Dawson shares, one outgrowth of a "lifestyle of reconciliation" will be the emerging of a "culture of honor."

*Discuss the scriptures in the sidebar on honor (eg "glory, respect, dignity, reverence, implied value"). How important is it to show honor?*

*How does an understanding on the nature of man help us want to "honor all."*



Honor  
 Rom: 12: 10\*  
 Prov. 15: 33  
 I Cor. 12: 24b-26  
 I Pet. 2: 17\*

Nature of man  
 Gen 1: 27-28  
 Ps. 8: 4-6



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# Dig Deeper!

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**For next week:**

Website menu item	Key items	Where is it?
Root Issues	Israel>3 clips	Root Issues>Israel>3 clips

**Digging site:  
reconciliationeagles.com**

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# Alone with God—

Why not spend some time with God this week letting Him search your heart and speak to you about these issues? Here are some questions you might ask:

- Lord, please show me the importance of having multi-race relationships in my life.
- Lord, please bring the relationships you want me to have.
- Please show me what I have been missing in the Body of Christ by not having members of other races in my life.
- Please show me the wounded places in my life that I have been pushing down, trying to heal with activity, material possessions, relationships, or even good works.
- Reveal Yourself to me as the "Lover of my soul." Please heal those wounded places as only You can do.
- Lord, what is blocking fellowship in my life? Am I walking in the Light the way I should be? Please show me what is blocking the Light.
- Please show me where I am on being intentional about racial reconciliation. Please remove any barriers I might have.
- Please show me where I need to improve in "Body life." Turn my heart to love others more.
- Please help me in conflicts I might have. Show me steps to take to solve them.
- Forgive me for turning to other sources of security where I have placed my trust.
- Please show me what works you have established for me, that I would walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). Give me the desire and empower me to do them.
- Please move me into a "Lifestyle of reconciliation." Show me what changes I need to make.
- Help me to grow into a habit of giving honor. Show me ways to honor, give me the right attitude, and help me to really "see" people I haven't "seen" before.

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# Study Guide

## Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey

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## Week Five

(chapter 14 in the DVD)

### The Israel Connection

Raleigh Washington tells us on the DVD and website clips that Jesus mentions only one division between races—Jew and Gentile. He calls it the “mother of all division.”

Through the cross, Jesus abolished the wall of hostility between the two groups by the blood of Jesus. Now, “He Himself is our peace, Who has made us both one” (Eph. 2: 14) and has reconciled Jew and Gentile to God through the cross. Raleigh asserts that that division is God’s priority; when we line up with His priorities, everything else falls in place!

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1. Read Eph. 2: 11-22.
  - Identify the **Jew and Gentile** in this passage.
  - What was the dividing wall of hostility?
  - What was the source of that?
  - Has God changed His mind? How does all this fit into His eternal plan?
  - What status do the believing Gentiles now have in the eyes of God? (vs. 18-22)
2. Another clip by Raleigh on the website (“The Root of our Faith” under “Root Issues”>Israel) tells us we were cut off from our root by **anti-semitism**. How can this be?

Putting it into the  
light of Scripture...

Jew and Gentile  
Eph. 2: 11-22

separation  
Lev. 20: 23-24, 26

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

*prophecy*  
Rom. 9: 25-26

*Gentiles*  
Rom 9: 30-33

Rom. 11: 5  
Rom. 11: 11-16  
Rom. 11: 17-21

*Israel will be saved*  
Rom. 11: 23-32

*The root*  
Rom. 11: 18

*Real unity*  
John 17: 20-26

The situation in Paul's time was anti-Gentile, but it was reversed in the church to anti-semitism. (See the website for "Richard Booker">root issues>Israel).

3. Let's look at how the **prejudice got reversed**, from Gentile to Jew.
  - *What did Hosea prophecy about a group we now know to be the Gentiles?*
  - *What caused this reversal? (see Romans 9: 33)*
  - *What is the stumbling stone for the Jews?*
4. Paul then asks, "Has God rejected His people?" and answers his own question, "By no means!"
  - *How is he justified in saying "By no means!"? (see Rom. 11: 5)*
  - *What is his explanation? (see Rom. 11: 11-16)*
  - *Why is **anti-semitism so unwarranted**? (see Rom. 11: 17-21)*
5. As Raleigh said, "A tree cut off from its **root** will die."
  - *How can we honor and bless our root?*
6. God has a plan for Jew and Gentile. It is clear from John 17: 20-22 that He wants us to **be one**—but only through Christ Jesus.
  - *What is the promise of verse 21?*
  - *What is the promise of verse 23?*
  - *How is this mandate fulfilled through His glory and His Name (vs. 22 and 26)?*
  - *How can we work toward fulfilling this passage?*

**What kind of harvest will there be when Jew and Gentile—including all the other races that have been divided—come into the kind of unity that the Father and Son have enjoyed forever?!**

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7. Raleigh states that the **return of Jesus** is tied to the Jews receiving Him as Lord.
- *Read Matt. 23: 37-39. Jesus is addressing the Jews in this passage, without giving them much hope in the first two verses. But—in verse 39, He prophesies that they will say, “Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.”*
  - *Can they say that without knowing Who He is?*
  - *Are the Jews, then, acknowledging Him as Lord?*
8. Raleigh believes, as many do, that the Jews will one day be **persecuted** around the world.
- *Will you be willing to stand with and aid the Jews at that time?*

### KEY QUESTIONS!

Read Genesis 12: 2-3.

*What is promised to those who **bless** Israel? What is promised to those who dishonor (curse, demean) them?*



### Putting it into the light of Scripture...

*Hope for the Jews  
Matt. 23: 37-39*

*Bless the Jews  
Gen. 12: 2-3*

In Lesson 5, we have connected healing the racial barrier of Jew and Gentile to healing all the divisions of mankind. It seems like a stretch in thinking, but God is leading many churches to repent of anti-semitism and to show support and friendship to the Jews. Perhaps that is the hidden, pro-active step that is needed to heal the generational legacy of the slave trade.

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# Dig Deeper!

**First of all, dig into the Scriptures provided in each lesson. God may also show you some other ones that are jewels! We hope you will share those with us as we develop these lessons further.**

Then, why not spend some time this week looking into these issues in a more comprehensive way on the companion website? It is full of illustrations, stories, and teaching about the African slave trade and our racialized culture today. Listed below are the segments of the website that next week's study covers. If you are accessing the internet on a hand held device, just go to the menu below the banner, or on a larger computer screen, also down the left side. You can click on the banner to return to the home page from any page.

If you have comments or suggestions for links or further explanation, be sure to leave those on the appropriate page to help us further develop these topics.

**For next week:**

Website menu item	Key items	Where is it?
A New View	Read: "When God Shows Up"	Kingdom Perspective>A New View
A New Purpose	Watch: all clips	Kingdom Perspective>A New Purpose

**Digging site:  
reconciliationeagles.com**







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# Study Guide

## Racial Healing: the Eagles' Journey

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## Week Six

(chapters 15, 16, 17 in the DVD)

### Flying Higher

What do we mean by “Flying Higher”? Using the analogy of an eagle, we get the picture of a huge bird circling and climbing with ever broadening vision. With the equipping that eagles were given by the Creator, they can fly at a higher altitude than any other bird, yet see farther than any, seeing the ground clearly enough to spot the movement of a small prey below. In a similar way, the more time we spend with God, the better able we are to see life from His Kingdom, eternal perspective. Yet, He knows every hair that falls from the head of every man and woman. As we walk with Him, we are more convinced of His sovereignty over the affairs of man, including His perfect timing. We become able to say with Job, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 55: 9).

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1. John Dawson and Carlton Smith both use the term “**redemptive purpose**.” We’ve also used the term “redemptive acts” in this study. The dictionary only says, “Serving to redeem.”

- *Can you tie “redeem” to “redemptive”? (use the scriptures on the right to help you.)*
- *How was Boaz redeeming the situation for Ruth, literally and spiritually?*
- *What did Jesus buy us back from? For what purpose?*

Putting it into the  
light of Scripture...

*redeem*  
Ruth 4: 7-12

Titus 2: 14

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

Israelites  
Ex. 6: 6-9

He restores  
Ex. 15: 22-26  
Joel 2: 25  
1 Pet. 5: 10

Wounds  
Deut. 32: 39

God's character  
Is. 46: 9-10  
Mk 10: 18  
Is 55: 9  
Ex. 33: 11  
Gen. 18: 17  
Rom. 1: 19-20

God shapes us  
Jer. 18: 1-6

Our identity  
Ps. 139: 13-16  
Eph. 1: 3-14  
Heb. 2: 6-7

Purpose and gifts  
Prov. 16:3, 16:9  
Rom. 12: 6-8  
Rom 5: 3-5

2. John Dawson says, "Anything that is created has a higher purpose. They may be wounded or molested, but when they are brought into **alignment with God's purpose**, they have a powerful and loving application."

- *Why could the Israelites not hear God's promise of redemption in Ex. 6: 6-9?*

But our God is a **restoring** God!

- *What is the first miracle He did for the Israelites after they crossed the Red Sea?*
- *Could He have been healing the bitterness in their own hearts as well? What was He restoring the water to? Isn't that what He had created it to be? Isn't that what He also created our hearts to be? (Perhaps that was the first equipping He wanted to give them to cope with the wilderness!)*
- *What do you learn from the other scriptures on "restoring"?*

3. Looking at the scriptures in the sidebar, let's establish some other aspects of **God's character** as foundational to this discussion:

- *Where did the woundedness in the quote from John Dawson come from? Is God in control? Is He good? Are His ways higher than ours? Does He reveal His ways to man?*

4. John Dawson says that things find a higher purpose and get redeemed when they get brought into **alignment with God's purpose**.

- *How does that alignment happen?*

5. There has been a lot of talk in recent years about "self-actualization." What is the true basis of "self esteem"? Jerry Gaines says we find the truth about who we are as we move closer to our Creator. We looked at these scriptures in a previous study, but let's remind ourselves **who we are...**

- *How does a person find his "life purpose" (sometimes called "life message")?*
- *What about his spiritual gifts?*
- *What about his character?*

## KEY QUESTIONS!



Having laid all that foundation, we now come to the question, **“Why God?”** Carlton Smith addresses this in a powerful way: “In the midst of all I endure, there is a depth I’m building, a strength....” He then quotes A.W. Tozier: “Whom God will use greatly, He will wound deeply!”

*Discuss this through the story of the apostle Paul. What fruits did his trials produce? Apply Tozier’s statement to **Paul’s life** after salvation.*

7. Let’s go back to **the Israelites**.

- *What kind of strength was God building in the Israelites during their 400 years of slavery?*
- *What was He doing in them during the 40 years in the wilderness?*

8. Now consider Joseph.

- *What was God’s **preparation for Joseph to rule in Egypt**?*

9. Let’s sum this discussion up with Carlton’s statements, “God wants to use the strength he built in African Americans for His purpose.” He ties that to the **leadership calling upon America**: “This doesn’t end with bad news. This ends with a real challenge to rise, to be, and to do!”

We don’t know the details about how this calling will play out, but we do know our **God and His ways**. He is good and perfect in all His ways!

- *Can we now thank Him for the preparation—whatever it has taken, whatever it will take?*

**We also know that one day we will be before His throne with those who were redeemed by His blood from every tribe and language and people and nation, a kingdom and priests to our God—and we shall reign on the earth [together] (Rev. 5: 9-10).**

## Putting it into the light of Scripture...

*Paul*

II Cor. 1: 3-10

II Cor. 4: 7-10, 16-18

II Cor. 6: 4-10

*Israelites*

Ex. 1: 19

Deut. 4: 35

*Joseph*

Gen. 37: 23-28

Gen. 39: 19, 20

Gen. 40: 23

Gen. 41: 1

*Give thanks*

I Thess. 5: 18

Rev. 11: 17

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## Alone with God—

Why not spend some time with God this week letting Him search your heart and speak to you about these issues? Here are some questions you might ask:

- Lord, help me to have the kind of trust in You that enables me to say with Job, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”
- Lord, please show me Your redeeming power for my life. Please show me situations that I have been under with guilt or shame that You would love to bring “redemptive purpose” to.
- Lord, You made the bitter waters sweet at Meribah. Please show me any situation in my life that needs your touch to redeem and restore to Your original design. Please give me the faith to believe in Your miraculous power to transform.
- Please show me any area where I have had a distorted view of Your character. Do I believe that you are good and perfect in all Your ways?
- Is there something about Your ways that You would like to reveal to me that I haven’t seen before?
- Are there times when I find myself fighting against Your hands shaping and molding me?
- Please help me to yield to Your loving hand.
- Please help me to find my “life purpose.” Please reveal more about my spiritual gifts.
- Please help me to see honestly what character You are trying to shape in me.
- Is there a situation where I am saying, “Why, God?” Please help me find Your peace and Your answers in that situation.
- Have I been angry and bitter toward You over that situation? I confess the sin of that and ask You to help me see the benefit of the situation. Help me to be grateful for Your work in me through that.
- Please reveal to me the strengths you have been building in me (and in my children) through the hardships I (we) have encountered.
- Please change my perspective toward the hard situations that I have been enduring for so long. Please give me hope, perseverance, and faith (vision) for what You can do in it.

### Notes:

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