

## Racism and the Bible

### Lead Sheet for Scriptures

Rev. Dr. Amantha Barbee

#### Deuteronomy 24

Umbrella Question: If these principles had been applied in our Christian lives in this country, how would our lived realities be different?

#### Focused Questions

24:1-4 Who has the power? Where is the woman's voice? Why is she loathsome when each divorce was no fault of her own?

24:7 What if this read, "If someone is caught kidnapping an African, enslaving or selling the African, then that kidnapper shall die?"

24:8 What is the responsibility of those in power for healthcare to all people? How did this or did this not play out during Covid-19?

24:10-12 Why wait outside? What is the relationship here?

24:14-15 How does this affect our conversations around minimum wage today?

24:17-18 How does this affect our conversations around border patrol today?

24:19-22 Discussion: plenty vs want

#### Leviticus 19:1-18

Umbrella Question: If racism is foundational in the abuse of power, to what do we attribute the need to repeat, "I am the Lord your God?"

#### Focused Questions

19:1-2 What does it mean to be holy in different social contexts?

19:4 What are things that you may define as an idol but another in a different social context may not?

19:6-8 Who historically ate old, discarded food? Why? Is the punishment appropriate if there is no choice? Is there a double standard here?

19:9-10 How has mechanical harvesting made an impact on the food God designed for those who were poor?

19:14-15 What systemic stumbling blocks have been placed in the way of people of color? Who defines what justice is?

Mark 7:24-30

Umbrella Question: What privilege did Jesus have?

7:24 Why was Jesus trying to be invisible?

7:25 What is an unclean spirit?

7:26 What is the significance of naming her Syrophenician?

7:27 Jesus called this woman a dog? What was he thinking? What was his purpose? Why did he feel this was appropriate?

7:28 This woman showed great agency, unlike many women of her time. Why?

Acts 2

Umbrella Question: Where is our Holy Spirit today?

2:1-4 Do you find it interesting that the Spirit did not require anyone to change? What did change?

2:5-6 What is required of us to hear, truly hear?

2:9-11 How do we learn about our neighbors, identify them in their God-given glory, and learn to listen with this depth of hearing?