

*The HEART of  
RACIAL JUSTICE*

**BIBLE**  **STUDY**

*BRENDA SALTER McNEIL  
and RICK RICHARDSON*



IVP SIGNATURE BIBLE STUDIES

IVP SIGNATURE BIBLE STUDIES

5 STUDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS



InterVarsity Press  
ivpress.com

Taken from *The Heart of Racial Justice Bible Study* by Brenda Salter  
McNeil and Rick Richardson with Steve Tamayo. Copyright © 2022 by  
InterVarsity Press, LLC. Published by InterVarsity Press,  
Downers Grove, IL. [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com).

## SESSION ONE

# LORDSHIP

*ACTS 1:1-9*

JESUS CHRIST ASKS US TO SURRENDER absolutely everything, but in so doing he does not wipe out our ethnic identity. He forces us to affirm that our identity with him is the most salient. This is echoed by the apostle Paul in Galatians 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Unfortunately, some people have wrongly interpreted this text to mean that culture and gender are irrelevant to our ultimate identity and relationships in the kingdom of God. We believe that in the kingdom there is no longer Jew or Greek, male or female, or any other dividing distinctions—but not because those aspects of our personhood are erased. Instead they are deepened and transcended. We become more than male and female, more than our ethnicity, culture, or nationality—never less. The future vision of the kingdom is the *fulfillment* of our race, culture, and gender, not their *erasure*.

### SESSION GOAL

Commit to the lordship of Jesus Christ by pursuing a lifestyle of personal, ethnic, and racial reconciliation.

### READ

Introduction and chapters one through three of *The Heart of Racial Justice*



<sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

1. What do the disciples ask Jesus?
2. Why might the disciples have asked Jesus about the kingdom?

**“God’s kingdom was the dominant theme in Jesus’ teaching. . . . Graeme Goldsworthy, in his book *Gospel and Kingdom*, helpfully presents the kingdom as the binding theme of the whole Bible . . . [defining] the kingdom as ‘God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule.’”\***

3. How do the disciples betray their ethnocentric focus?

4. How does Jesus respond to the disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What might the disciples have felt about the people who lived in each of the places Jesus mentions?

**Jerusalem was the center of the world for Jesus' Jewish disciples, given the location of the temple and the history of Israel. At the same time, the religious and political leadership in Jerusalem had executed Jesus. Jesus' followers grew up in Galilee, a region in Judea outside of Jerusalem.**

6. How do you think the disciples might have felt about this commission?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why might Jesus have mentioned "power" in this passage?



 **PRAY** 

Thank the Lord for giving you a racial, cultural, and ethnic heritage. Tell him you're ready to submit every facet of your heritage to his will. Ask him to show you how he wants you to change.

---

\*Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 21.



**BUY THE BOOK!**

[ivpress.com/heart-of-racial-justice-bible-study](http://ivpress.com/heart-of-racial-justice-bible-study)