

## 5 Ways to Make Your Racial Reconciliation Discussion Group A Success

### 1. Stick to the rules.

As a group, set some ground rules. For instance: Speak the truth in love. Don't go home angry. Everybody shares something at every meeting.

### 2. Pick a job.

Each member should have a "job" each meeting. Jobs can range from bringing a covered dish to saying the opening prayer to moderating the discussion. Change up jobs from time to time.

### 3. So happy together.

Volunteer at the food pantry together. Go to movies together. Express yourselves over social justice issues in letters to the editor.

### 4. Make it a habit.

Meet regularly for at least 9 months out of the year. Meet in members homes or churches once a month. During the summers stay in touch with calls and emails.

### 5. Plan for talking.

Write out your yearly discussion schedule. Use books (fiction and nonfiction), newspapers and magazines, personal stories. Keep everyone informed (and excited) with a regular email or call.



#### About Linda Leigh Hargrove:

Ms. Hargrove has co-led racial reconciliation discussion groups and conducted panels on racism in the church since the early 1990s.

Her published writings include two novels: *The Making of Isaac Hunt* (June 2007) and *Loving Cee Cee Johnson* (September 2008). She blends suspense, humor, and faith into compelling stories about race and class in America.

She currently resides in the Charlotte, North Carolina area with her husband and three sons where she works as an engineering instructor. Visit her online at [LLHargrove.com](http://LLHargrove.com) or [17Seeds.org](http://17Seeds.org).