

## 5 Excellent Ways for Believers to Move Beyond A Racially-Charged Past

### 1. Talk about life stories.

For some Christians, talking with someone of another race about hurt-filled racial memories might be the toughest thing to do. But honestly, this is a great place to start. Talk about the proverbial elephant in the room. Talk with loving words. Listen with your whole heart. Listen. Learn. Love.

### 2. Talk about scriptures.

Seek to look at scriptures from a 'reconciliation and justice' lens. For instance, take a fresh look at passages like story of the woman at the well and the Good Samaritan. These are more than nice Bible stories; they are examples of grace-laden responses to active and passive.

### 3. Talk about current events.

Many of the racially-charged events we see in today's news spring from our racially-charged past. Our tendency is to talk about these events with 'our own kind.' Seek a breakthrough by intentionally starting a loving conversation with someone of another race.

### 4. Talk about movies.

The 1960s and 70s offer many movies about black empowerment and racial harmony. But in recent years, moviemakers have given us a wealth of international, secular, and faith-based options. A quick Internet search will yield a wide selection.

### 5. Talk about books.

The availability of fiction and nonfiction books on racial reconciliation increased dramatically in the years following the Rodney King verdict. Reading and discussing a book together can be the least threatening. Take a trip to the library today.



#### 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).