

## 5 Ways to Teach Your Children About Racial Reconciliation

### 1. Teach 'Christian first'

Don't elevate race above relationship with Christ. For many parents, this is the hardest thing to model when guiding our children to pick friends and mates. Avoid making generalizations based on race or culture. Correct your children, in love, when they do so.

### 2. Teach inclusion

Teach inclusion and grace not color blindness. Every colored person has value. God didn't make any one race better than another. It's okay to refer to a person as white or black, but not okay to treat them differently because of how they look on the outside.

### 3. Talk about race

Talk about what race means to God. God's kingdom is multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multicultural. Ask your children why they think God made his kingdom this way. Stress that it wasn't an accident.

### 4. Be intentional

Be intentional about interacting with others that don't look like you. Attend events

with Christians of another race. Even share holidays together, just like a family would. Make time each month to attend festivals, parades, and events that celebrate other cultures.

### 5. Teach a balance

Teach your children to have a balanced racial identity. Race is important but secondary to Christian identity. Everyone is a distinct piece of one big puzzle called the family of God. We must work together to make real the picture of reconciliation to the World. We become more, not less, when we come together.



#### About Linda Leigh Hargrove:

Ms. Hargrove has co-lead 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).