



Black Lives Matter

Originally Discussed: May 2021

Description: Sometimes when we talk about things, words get in the way. What is the mission of Black Lives Matter? How does it serve or divide the Black community? How does it serve or divide our country?

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

(1) Getting acquainted and comfortable

5 - 10 min.

Welcome

- Thank you for coming...
- We are a part of The Great Reset, which was born out of a shift we're seeing in our country. We have been in a place where we don't tend to speak 'beyond our bubbles' and across perspectives. The Great Reset has been opening up a grey space for such conversations since 2018. You are now part of keeping the conversation going and we thank you.

The Pillars of The Great Reset

- To share our own thoughts and perspectives with humility
- To learn from others and listen with respect

Ground Rules

- Every comment is valid and deserving of respect
- We show respect by speaking one at a time, putting our phones on silent and staying engaged, even when we are not speaking
- In the interest of time, I may cut in to ask you to 'top-line' something if we need to move on. This means simply offer up a synopsis of your thoughts and speak in bullets, not paragraphs

Confidentiality

I would like a verbal from everyone that you are here of your own volition and out of respect for one another I would ask you to keep what others say in this room unless they give you permission otherwise. (go around and get verbal agreement). Further, you agree to adhere to the principles outlined already: to deliver your perspectives bound to the principles of respect, to **listen with humility and offer grace to others who are sharing this space.**



Personal Introductions

Please share your name, where you live, and something about you we couldn't google, or your favorite food, a show you binge watch, etc.).

*****Remember to ask to record and PRESS RECORD*****

(2) Black Lives Matter: Code words and language

25- 30 min.

Read Seth Godins's brief essay on code words:

"Code words ... That's all language is. 'Banana' is not a fruit. It's a word that we use in English to identify a fruit. And code words work beautifully as long as the person you're seeking to communicate with understands the word the way you think they do. Often, when people end up disagreeing, it's because they didn't understand the code words that were being used."

- What does the phrase "Black Lives Matter" mean to you?
- Do you feel the phrase "Black Lives Matter" is used more positively or negatively, and why?
- What do you think or how do you feel when you hear the phrase "All Lives Matter" as a verbal response to "Black Lives Matter?"
- Some people perceive "All Lives Matter" when used as a verbal response to "Black Lives Matter" to have racist undertones. Do you agree with this or not, and why?
- Some people perceive "Blue Lives Matter" as a response to "Black Lives Matter." Do you agree with this or not, and why?

(3) Black Lives Matter: the movement

20 - 25 min.

- How much do you feel you know about the Black Lives Matter movement?
- How would you describe the Black Lives Matter movement?
- What do you think are the goals of the Black Lives Matter movement?
- Are the Black Lives Matter movement's goals beneficial or harmful to US society, and why?

(4) Finding common ground

10 - 15 min.

- How do we find common ground so that words or phrases such as Black Lives Matter are not perceived as so divisive or threatening?



(5) Closing comments

5 - 10 min.

- Any additional comments about Black Lives Matter?