



# My Community vs. Me: Navigating Identity and Responsibility in a Divided World

## Discussion Guide

May 2024

Description: This discussion will explore the complexities surrounding how we attribute blame to individuals based on their affiliations with governments, religions, or other groups.

Is my membership, association, or participation in a group synonymous to me being like the leader of that group?

*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

Let's start by sharing your name, where you are, and share an assumption people may have about you because of a group you belong to?

**\*\*\*Remind everyone we're recording but we won't use any clips without their approval\*\*\***



## **(2) Exploring Identity and Blame**

**20-30 min.**

- How should individuals be held accountable for their government's or leaders' actions?
- Can we separate a person's identity from the actions of their larger group, such as nationality or religion?
- In what ways do cultural and societal factors contribute to generalizing blame to entire groups of people?
- Are there instances where blame on an individual level is justified for the actions of their larger community?

## **(3) Addressing Perspectives**

**20-30 min.**

- How can we encourage nuanced discussions about identity and responsibility without perpetuating stereotypes?
- Is there a danger in attributing blame based on identity rather than individual actions?
- To what extent should individuals be responsible for the actions of their government or religious leaders?

## **(4) Fundamental Attribution**

**20-30 min.**

- Fundamental Attribution is a cognitive bias that refers to the tendency of individuals to attribute the behavior of others to internal characteristics or traits, while underestimating the influence of external factors. In other words, people often attribute the actions of others to their personality or disposition, overlooking situational factors that may have contributed to the behavior.
- For example, if someone is late for a meeting, observers might attribute it to the person's laziness or lack of punctuality (internal factors) rather than considering external factors like traffic or an unexpected delay.
- Have you ever noticed this in yourself? How do you think this bias might affect how we assign blame/responsibility?

## **(5) Closing Comments**

**10-15 min.**

- Reflect on how our perspectives have evolved during this discussion.
- Consider how fostering understanding and empathy can lead to more constructive conversations on this topic. Any additional comments about this topic?