



Kristen
Deede Johnson

John
Inazu

1) THEOLOGY & PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Whether your discipleship leads you to express yourself in public, or to abstain, what goes on in the public sphere affects us and our neighbors. In this session, we'll consider how we engage (or don't) the public for the sake of the gospel.

READ Acts 17:16-21 and DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Paul engaged in debate as a form of discourse (v. 18). What kinds of public expression (e.g. artworks, protests, social media posts, etc.) have had the biggest impact on your impression of public discourse? Help us understand by describing an experience.
- What do you think about Paul's motivation to engage in the marketplace (v. 16)? What would you say motivates you to engage or abstain?
- The novelty of the gospel lead to an important hearing (v. 20). Do you see any opportunities for new conversations in your department, discipline, or community?

LISTEN (30 mins) – Play podcast episode 1

REFLECT – Take a moment to reflect and capture something that challenged, troubled, or encouraged you.

DISCUSS (10 mins)

- John talked about the requirement for academics to get out of the library stacks and translate their work for the public. What are the challenges and promises about that for what you study?
- Kristen talked about the Fruits of the Spirit, or personal virtues that are a part of our witness in public. When you engage with others, or the public, what are your personal strengths and growth areas?
- Abstaining from public discourse communicates publicly, too! How would you want to encourage your community in terms of its participation or abstention?

PRAY (10 mins)

- Try to spend the majority of this time in prayer for one another, for opportunities to witness, and for discernment when opportunities to influence the public square arise.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- John Inazu and Tim Keller, *Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference*, 2020.



**Vincent
Lloyd**

**Ned
O'Gorman**

2) THEOLOGY & POLITICS

What sustains and motivates our life together? How does our faith shape our view of our rights and how we live together? In this session we'll discuss different ideas of politics, concepts from our faith, and how our vocations can fuel imaginations for new possibilities.

READ Psalm 24 and DISCUSS (10 mins)

- We worship a God who creates and sustains the entire world. Where do you see God's glory and provision in creation or in your own life?
- How does the fact that God creates and sustains us affect your daily decisions?
- Do you sense opportunities or invitations to let God's glory, provision, and kingship into new areas of your life?

LISTEN (30 mins) – Play podcast episode 2

REFLECT – Take a moment to reflect and capture something that challenged, troubled, or encouraged you.

DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Ned and Vincent both shared questions and moments that shaped how they came to their work and research. Can you identify moments in your life that shape your research questions? How do you see God at work there? Or perhaps questions you are curious about in your life or faith?
- What challenges do you face with getting along with people in your community, neighborhood, church, or department? How does your faith, or recognizing our interdependence motivate or challenge you to do so? (For example, in this episode we talked about justice, human flourishing, and the reality that all of life is claimed by Christ)
- How does your work in the classroom or research help you spark imagination for new possibilities in the world?

PRAY (10 mins)

- Pray for opportunities to live and work creatively with others in your life, community, or department.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Ned O'Gorman, *Politics for Everybody: Reading Hannah Arendt in Uncertain Times*, 2020
- Vincent Lloyd, *Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the Abolition of Prisons*, with Joshua Dubler, 2019



**Soong-Chan
Rah**



**Korie Little
Edwards**

3) THEOLOGY, RACE & THE CHURCH

The body of Christ is made up of every tribe, tongue, and nation, and diverse gifts and experiences, yet racism continues to plague the church and we tend to view ourselves as individuals. In this session we explore what it means that the body of Christ is a "we" and how that affects our lives and our own research.

READ 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 and DISCUSS (10 mins)

- What are some tangible ways in which you see that you rely on people with different gifts, backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge in your church, family, or community?
- What are the gifts of others in your group? Spend some time encouraging others in their gifts. Are there some gifts or experiences that you feel are less honored in your group or groups you are a part of?

LISTEN (30 mins) – Play podcast episode 3

REFLECT – Take a moment to reflect and capture something that challenged, troubled, or encouraged you.

DISCUSS (10 mins)

- What have you learned from listening to stories of people with experiences different from yours whether age/race/gender/ability? What other opportunities do you sense to listen and learn from others?
- What gifts does your knowledge and expertise offer to the body of Christ? What about others in your group? Discuss how you see knowledge and experience in research in your chapter being used, or having the potential to be used impact the church or the world for the sake of human flourishing.

PRAY (10 mins)

- Pray for opportunities to learn from and honor those with different experiences, gifts and knowledge in your church and community.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Soong-Chan Rah, *The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity*, 2009
- Korie Little Edwards, *Against All Odds: The Struggle for Racial Integration in Religious Organizations*, with Brad Christerson and Michael Emerson, 2005.
- Korie Little Edwards' podcast: The Elusive Dream

4) THEOLOGY, RACE & EDUCATION



**Elizabeth
Conde-Frazier**



**La Mont
Terry**

&

Education is a huge shaping and forming experience in all of our lives. By definition, it requires teaching and the transmission of knowledge. But how is it done? In this session you'll hear from two practitioners talk about how theology informs education, and how education responds to race, culture, and community

READ Matthew 12:9-14 and DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Jesus intentionally taught using the cultural symbols of his day (sabbath, synagogue). What cultural symbols and narratives inform how you engage with teaching and education?
- What do you think motivated Jesus to teach in a different way than the teachers and thought leaders of his day (v. 11-14)? What would you say motivates you to teach in a different way or not?
- Jesus in his teaching led to healing and conflict. Do you see places in your department, discipline, or community where teaching in the spirit of Jesus may lead to both healing and conflict? Where may that be?

LISTEN (30 mins) – Play podcast episode 4

REFLECT – Take a moment to reflect and capture something that challenged, troubled, or encouraged you.

DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Elizabeth started the conversation by mentioning that education *is to bring forth who people really are, to bring forth their giftedness and to create spaces for them to become*. What are the challenges and promises about that for your field?
- Both Elizabeth and La Mont talk about how various forms of pedagogy can shape us for better or worse. Where have you noticed different forms of education shaping you?
- Towards the end, they emphasize community, freedom, and co-creation as important marks of a faith-filled pedagogy. How would you want to engage or encourage your academic community in these ways?

PRAY (10 mins)

- Pray for one another, for the ways we teach, and for discernment in how we shape and influence students educational formation.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, *Atando Cabos: Latinx Contributions to Theological Education*, 2021.
- Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Educating for Shalom: Essays on Christian Higher Education*, 2004
- Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, 1970



**Brian
Brock**

**Devan
Stahl**

5) THEOLOGY & DISABILITY

Disability invites us to be disrupted in our ideas of ourselves as human beings and as the church, and to be open to the Spirit's work and gifts among all of us. This conversation will help us begin to understand disability, how technology shapes the ways we see the world and make decisions, as well as how the church can do better when it comes to welcoming everyone.

READ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Where have you seen God's grace being sufficient for you in the midst of your challenges?
- Paul saw his "disability" in light of Christ's power. Where in your work, department, or life do you need to see Christ's power more clearly?
- Do you sense any invitations from God to more fully embrace weakness?

LISTEN (30 mins) – Play podcast episode 5

REFLECT – Take a moment to reflect and capture something that challenged, troubled, or encouraged you.

DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Brian shares how disruption has shaped his life and the ways in which theology needs to be accommodated to those disruptions. Has your view of God ever been shaped by disability or disruption? If so, how so?
- If disability is just part of what it means to be human and the church has been dealing with it throughout its existence why don't we talk about it more? How does your discipline talk about it?
- Brian and Devan talk about how disability is a disruptive invitation to the church to engage with difference, while also living in dependence on one another. How might we begin doing that as individuals and as a community?

PRAY (10 mins)

- Pray for one another, see if you are sensing any needed disruptions in your lives, and ask to be open to the Spirit's work in your community.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Brian Brock, *Wondrously Wounded: Theology, Disability, and the Body of Christ*, 2019
- Devan Stahl, *Imaging and Imagining Illness: Becoming Whole in a Broken Body*, 2018
- Amos Yong, *The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God*, 2011



6) WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

What exactly is theology and how does it make a difference in our work and our world? This episode allows us to hear from a host of different biblical, theological, and religious scholars on their perspectives on these questions and consider what we've learned about theology in this series.

READ Acts 22:3-9 and DISCUSS (10 mins)

- How does Paul describe his theology in this passage? What's the significance of those descriptions?
- In light of his conversion, what aspects of Paul's theology do you think changed or had to change?
- Where do you sense your theology may need to grow and be challenged? How has this discussion series shaped your theology?

LISTEN (30 mins) – Play podcast episode 6

REFLECT – Take a moment to reflect and capture something that challenged, troubled, or encouraged you.

DISCUSS (10 mins)

- Each of the scholars interviewed share a different angle on the relevance and impact theology has in our lives. Was there a particular response(s) that resonated with you? If so, why?
- The conversation highlighted that Christian theology is formed at the interplay of scripture, history, philosophy, ethics, and humanity's lived experience. Do you find that to be true? From your perspective, which area needs to be elevated and engaged with more? What could that look like?
- Jonathan Tran talks about how theology disrupts us in the questions God is asking of us. Where do you sense God may be disrupting your world and understanding of him? How might that change how you live your life?

PRAY (10 mins)

- Pray for one another, see if you are sensing any needed disruptions in your lives, and ask to be open to the Spirit's work in your community.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Edited by Gene Green, Stephen Pardue, K.K. Yeo, *Majority World Theology: Christian Doctrine in Global Context*, 2020.
- Vince Bacote, *The Political Disciple: A Theology of Public Life*, 2015