

For discussion groups



Take a topic from the news and listen to different interpretations of it – everyone has an opinion but no-one's opinion is more right than anyone else's.

Listen to a selection of different world music (including one or two home favourites) and talk about how it was for you.



Read well-loved Bible stories. Try and set them in a different context and then think how people in that different context might react to them.

Always share feedback on these sessions, for then you will grow in your pilgrimage.

Some words of encouragement and support

- ❖ Do not try to travel long distances – the effort can spoil the attempt!
- ❖ If your nearest group of difference is a long way away you could arrange to meet halfway (in the summer) or exchange cards, cassette or video tapes, newsletters, photographs or write to each other
- ❖ Think of other ways of sharing who and what you are
- ❖ Talk about the way your women's group works and listen to how other groups work. Share what you have heard.

Produced by the Women's Network Office of The Methodist Church,
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Women's Network of the Methodist Church aims to encourage, enable and equip women to participate fully in the life of the church and in society.

RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT



The long-term aims of this project are to recognise our own racial prejudice whatever our ethnicity, to further address the issue of racial justice in our churches and communities and to facilitate the participation of women of colour in all the structures of Women's Network.

To achieve these overarching aims our objectives are to:

- ❖ Encourage women and their local, Circuit and District groups to encounter difference
- ❖ Equip women's groups to participate in Racial Justice workshops
- ❖ Enable women to support women caught in the asylum seeking process, particularly those women who are experiencing Domestic Violence.

Supporting Women in Asylum Centres

We will provide an information pack, containing information on existing groups and a list of Asylum/Refugee Centres

Provide ideas for being hospitable to women in asylum centres by:

- ❖ visiting
- ❖ adult literacy programmes
- ❖ 1:1 learning programmes
- ❖ symbol and sign vocabulary sheets

Join with Southall Black Sisters in campaigning for relief for these women and conclude this at Women's Network Conference 2004

Enable/empower people to feel they can do this.

Encountering Difference - A Way for Pilgrimage

*A model for a church, Circuit or District group
(to be adapted according to individual / group needs)*

The group to identify (measure) where and who they are in 2002/3. Monitor the "journey" your group follows over the following 2 years. Bring the story of your pilgrimage to Women's Network Conference in 2004.

Arrange to do, or go out and meet a group that is different once a quarter with your group. Evolve how you can build on that experience in your own situation (gradually begin to meet or "do" more often). Share what that experience has meant to each of you. Perhaps you could pray together in couples, or with participants contributing, as a way of happily concluding your time together.

[We envisage that women's groups may wish to meet other women's church groups who are nearby but not necessarily in the same Circuit. Circuit groups to meet neighbouring Circuit groups and perhaps different District groups could begin to form relationships.]

We hope that you will create your own opportunities to meet different groups but, wherever possible, please try to go out to people to be alongside them. Try not to let the expectation be that people will come to you.

As you get to know one another you will be able to share more and more of your differences.

- ❖ Traditional stories and experiences can be told.
- ❖ Traditional foods can be offered.
- ❖ Hold a fashion show with a difference. Encourage traditional costumes and hairstyles to be worn and talked about. Explore the uses of a sari.
- ❖ Invite bands of different ethnicity to share their music with you.

Your pilgrimage will grow when you share feedback of the experiences you encounter. Always try to find a way of expressing your responses which shows respect for other people's life journeys.

Resources available to accompany you on your journey

- ❖ *Jesus is Dread*, R Beckford, pub. Dartmann, Longman & Todd ISBN 0232522413
- ❖ *Born Among Us*, Methodist Publishing House www.mph.org.uk
- ❖ *The Christ We Share*, Methodist Publishing House (as above)
- ❖ *Picturing Jesus*, Christian Education Publishing www.ncec.org.uk ISBN 1851001425
- ❖ *Faith Stories and Experiences of Black Elders Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land*, A. Reddie, pub. Jessica Kingsley ISBN 1853029939