

HOW TO RAISE A RACE-WISE FAMILY

To every mother and father longing to make a difference, may your family and your children be the key to bringing hope and healing in our racially broken world.

With these postures of the heart, you can lay a biblical foundation for how to raise race-wise children for both the present and the future.

POSTURE ONE:

WE VALUE MULTIETHNICITY

POSTURE TWO:

WE SEE COLOR

POSTURE THREE:

WE EMBRACE A BIBLICAL VIEW OF RACISM

POSTURE FOUR:

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LAMENT

POSTURE FIVE:

WE SPEAK WORDS OF LOVE AND TRUTH

POSTURE SIX:

WE RESPOND TO CURRENT EVENTS

POSTURE SEVEN:

WE ADDRESS PRIVILEGE

POSTURE EIGHT:

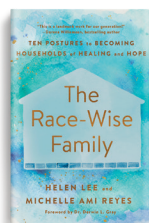
WE ASSESS OUR BIASES

POSTURE NINE:

WE JOURNEY TOWARD RACIAL HEALING

POSTURE TEN:

WE RAISE KINGDOM-MINDED CHILDREN



From *The Race-Wise Family: Ten Postures to Becoming Households of Healing and Hope*
By Helen Lee & Michelle Ami Reyes • Available wherever books are sold.

The Multiethnicity Quotient Assessment

We want to provide you with a tool to easily assess the multiethnicity quotient of your own life. You are welcome to make copies and share them with others. We highly recommend that both you and your spouse or other significant family caregiver(s) take this assessment.

Read through the following statements. If you agree with the statement, give yourself two points. If the statement applies to you only sometimes, give yourself one point. Tally each section separately, and then total all five sections for your final score. These questions are geared toward families and assume that at least one parent and one child are in the household.

COMMUNITY

1. In my nuclear and/or immediate extended family, different ethnicities are represented. ____
2. When I think of my six closest friends, at least half of are from a different ethnic group than mine. ____
3. My neighborhood is at least 20 percent nonwhite. ____
4. My child/children have at least one person of a different ethnicity in their group of closest friends. ____
5. When I look at my five closest neighbors, at least two of them are from a different ethnic group than mine. ____
6. The organization where I work or where my spouse works is at least 20 percent nonwhite. ____
7. I have had training in cross-cultural communication. ____
8. I have had to code-switch in order to communicate effectively in different contexts. ____
9. I appreciate relational styles that are different from my own. ____
10. I have experienced conflict resolution with someone from a different ethnic background. ____

COMMUNITY TOTAL SCORE: ____

CONSUMERISM

1. Of the last five books I've read, at least two were by authors of color. ____
2. When I think about my five favorite books, at least two are by authors of color. ____
3. When I think about my child/children's five favorite books, at least two feature lead characters of color. ____
4. When I think about my five favorite television shows from this past year, at least one features a diverse cast. ____
5. I have watched a foreign-language film in the past year. ____
6. When I think about my ten favorite musicians, at least three are artists of color. ____
7. I intentionally watch television shows or movies featuring people who are different from me and contexts that are unfamiliar to me. ____
8. I notice when people of color are missing from popular culture that I consume. ____
9. I can name ten actors of color, five who are African American and five who are from other ethnic backgrounds. ____
10. I have watched at least two films featuring a nonwhite cast in the past two years. ____

CONSUMERISM TOTAL SCORE: ____

CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. The church I attend is at least 30 percent nonwhite. ____
2. My family chose our church because of its ethnic composition. ____
3. Our church displays a range of worship styles from a variety of cultures. ____
4. People of color are onstage or in the pulpit every Sunday at our church. ____
5. My child/children regularly learns from people of color in Sunday school. ____
6. Our church takes time to lament racial injustice. ____
7. I have attended at least two Christian conferences in person or online with a majority nonwhite speaker list. ____
8. I have attended at least two Christian conferences in person or online with a group of majority nonwhite attendees. ____
9. When I think of the five most influential Christians I follow, read, or listen to, at least two are people of color. ____
10. I regularly tune in to sermons from pastors or other leaders who are nonwhite. ____

CHRISTIAN LIVING TOTAL SCORE: ____

CONVICTIONS AND CONCERNS

1. I understand why more and more states are denouncing Columbus Day as an official holiday. ____
2. I grieve over our nation's history of mistreating people of color, especially indigenous people groups and African Americans. ____
3. I am aware that, until 1965, laws restricting immigration from Asian nations were in effect. ____
4. I recognize that calling the US "a nation of immigrants" does not accurately reflect that there are people groups who are indigenous to our country. ____
5. I understand the terms Jim Crow and the new Jim Crow. ____
6. Regardless of my political leanings, I can celebrate when glass ceilings are broken in politics. ____
7. When I see examples of police brutality toward African Americans, I grieve over those instances of injustice. ____
8. I talk with my child/children about current events that have a racial dimension. ____
9. I understand the impact that NAFTA had on the economic situation in Mexico and the ramifications for immigration from that country. ____
10. I am aware that US restrictions on refugees have become increasingly and overly stringent over the years. ____

CONVICTIONS AND CONCERNS TOTAL SCORE: ____

CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCY

1. I regularly eat food from ethnic backgrounds that are not my own. ____
2. When I think about my five favorite restaurants, at least two are from a culture that is not my own. ____
3. I have given my child/children regular exposure to foods from different cultures. ____
4. I intentionally do not call food from other cultures “ethnic foods.” ____
5. I am familiar with at least two languages that are not my native tongue. ____
6. In the past year, I have eaten food that was unfamiliar to me and that I was uncomfortable with. ____
7. I have traveled to at least two countries outside the US, not including Canada and Mexico. ____
8. I enjoy getting to know cultural contexts that I am not familiar with. ____
9. In the past month, I have been to a grocery store featuring a nonwhite cultural context. ____
10. I regularly watch travel shows featuring different cultural contexts. ____

CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCY TOTAL SCORE: ____

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**TOTAL MULTIETHNICITY
QUOTIENT: TOTAL SCORE: ____**

SCORING (OUT OF 100)

90-100: STRONG

If you scored 90 points or above, it is clear that you value multiethnicity and that it is woven into your life. The next step for you would be to ask yourself whether your family as a whole would rate as highly as you have. If not, what areas are weaker than others, and what can you do to strengthen those areas? Also, consider your extended family members and friends. How can you be an influence in their lives so that they will see that you value multiethnicity and will be inspired or challenged to do the same?

75-89: ENCOURAGING

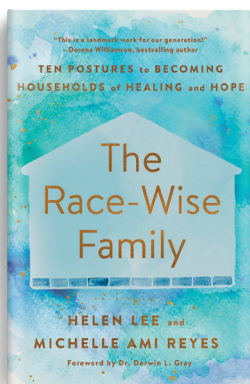
If you scored in this range, you are on the right path to creating and sustaining a multiethnic life, but you have room for improvement. Reaching the next level will require intentionality and effort; otherwise you could stay at this level for the foreseeable future. But if you lean in and choose to deepen your commitment to multiethnicity, you will see dividends not only in your own life but also in your children's lives over time.

60-74: ON YOUR WAY

You value multiethnicity on some level, but there are many areas in your life where you could increase your understanding of and commitment to multiethnic issues. While you could stay at this level without any extreme ramifications to yourself or your family, you will be missing out on more fully relating to people who are different from you, both in the body of Christ and beyond.

BELOW 60: ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Multiethnicity may still be a fairly foreign or distant concept for you. The good news is, by reading this book and beginning to deepen your understanding of race, you are already on the path to greater knowledge about multiethnicity and the value of living a multiethnic life. Ask the Lord to show you which area you can start making changes to, consider the suggestions in appendixes 3 and 5, and periodically reassess yourself to see how you are increasing your Multiethnicity Quotient.



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Valuing Multiethnicity

Creator God,

You intentionally formed distinct cultures and ethnicities as a reflection of your diverse design for creation and as a way to draw all nations closer to yourself. We thank you that you demonstrate your love for humankind in and through a multi-ethnic body. Instill in our family a true love for multiethnicity, not for diversity's sake alone but rather out of a deep conviction that you showcase the power of unity when all of us together worship before you, the Lord Almighty. May we intentionally cultivate space for multiethnicity in our home, our church, and our community in order to bring healing and unity to the body of Christ, and may people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds begin to sense that they are seen and valued by other Christians. We recognize that it is only through this means that the church will become an incredible example of Christian witness and unity. God, may we be your hands and feet.

Amen.



Seeing Color

God of Color and Beauty,

Guide our family to become more ethnically and culturally aware. May we see what you see so that we can become attuned to our own cultural distinctiveness and the cultural distinctiveness of others. May our children believe and see that you created a colorful world on purpose. May we discover how unsatisfying it is to paint ourselves and others into a monolithic, colorless blob. Help us live into our embodied experiences as cultural beings so we can appreciate and give thanks for all the colorful shades of humanity.

Amen.



Understanding a Biblical View of Racism

God, Our Heavenly Maker,

We confess the unkind, unloving ways we have treated other humans. We submit our family to the Spirit's leading because we know that, at the end of time, in the Day of the Lord, people from every tongue, tribe, and nation will be gathered both to worship you and to be judged by you for all we have done and all we have left undone. We confess the North American church's sinful legacy of contributing to racial injustices both large and small, and we commit ourselves here and now to facing how this legacy has kept many from understanding and embracing the true gospel of Jesus Christ, who came to save the world from its sins. God, strip our minds and our hearts of racist thoughts, words, and actions. Use us as your hands and feet to dismantle racism in our country, and lead us into greater obedience and love.

Amen.



Opening Our Hearts to Lament

God of Lament,

We long for a new generation that mourns one another's pain. Soften our own hearts. Instead of marginalizing and sidelining others, instead of dismissing and silencing others, may our family forge new paths of communal lament and compassion. Oh, how different our world might become! God, motivate us as parents to intentionally read psalms of lament with our children and teach them to call on you at all times. May the rhythms of our family make space for both joy and lament. May our children understand that trusting you doesn't result in the absence of pain and despair. We can begin a new legacy in our home and in our community. God, help us lament.

Amen.



Speaking Words of Love and Truth

God of Lament,

We long for a new generation that mourns one another's pain. Soften our own hearts. Instead of marginalizing and sidelining others, instead of dismissing and silencing others, may our family forge new paths of communal lament and compassion. Oh, how different our world might become! God, motivate us as parents to intentionally read psalms of lament with our children and teach them to call on you at all times. May the rhythms of our family make space for both joy and lament. May our children understand that trusting you doesn't result in the absence of pain and despair. We can begin a new legacy in our home and in our community. God, help us lament.

Amen.



Responding to Current Events

God who Is Sovereign Lord over All,

When the world appears to be falling apart all around us, bringing a constant stream of tragedy and injustice into our lives through what we see and hear in the media, help us remember that nothing happens without your knowledge and attention. Help us lean into the truths expressed in your Word—that you never sleep and that you are constantly working for justice and righteousness even when the path to your purposes is unclear to us. Help us be race-wise families who are quick to listen and pray and slow to speak. Give us the discipline to hear all the voices in a news story and to respond in ways that honor and love those who have been victimized or who are struggling. Guide us to respond in ways that don't serve the purposes of the Evil One but promote goodness, truth, and beauty. We humbly ask that you would be Lord of our news feeds and our social media engagements and that nothing we do would detract from your good work in the world around us.

Amen.



Addressing Privilege

God of the Disprivileged,

You lift up the weak and disempowered, and you give greater honor to those on the margins. May we desire to do the same. Give our family wisdom, boldness, and humility as we make conversations about privilege and racial injustice part of our everyday lives. May we and our children see and understand privilege in our own lives and in the world around us, and grant us the courage to give up our privileges for the sake of others. We recognize that dismantling our own power and privilege will be costly, but that is the way of Jesus. We want to be a race-wise family, and this means learning to flip the script and to pursue equity in the way you intend.

God, fortify us for this journey.

Amen.



Assessing Our Biases

God Who Sees,

We pray for clarity about the cultural and systemic influences that shape our relationships, media choices, values, and habits. We ask for greater awareness of our friend groups and the ways we might be perpetuating systems and structures that favor the dominant culture. Give us eyes to see our own limits and shortcomings in order that we might become more open to learning from others and shoring up our own areas of deficient knowledge with the perspectives of those who can help us see you, God, more fully and clearly.

Amen.



Journeying toward Racial Healing

God who Blesses the Poor in Spirit,
You know, dear Lord, how much pain there is in the world today, how the evil of racism and bigotry in all its forms has left wounds in the hearts, minds, and souls of so many people of color. Please send your Spirit to heal all those who suffer, to be the Great Physician for those who are despairing and hurting today. Help the body of Christ to be sensitive to the pain of those who are marginalized and suffering and to respond with kindness, grace, and mercy. As all creation groans for complete restoration, give your people the patience to persevere through hardships. May we know your love and goodness even in our heartache. May we choose to praise you and your mighty deeds with faith and hope, trusting that you will bring your good work to completion in the last days. May your name be lifted up and may your justice roll down, bringing relief and redemption to our broken and divided world.

Amen.



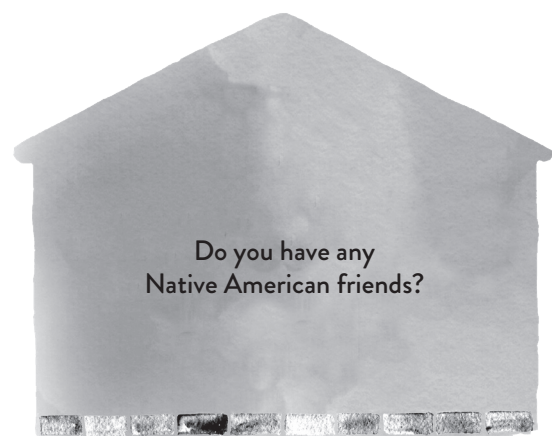
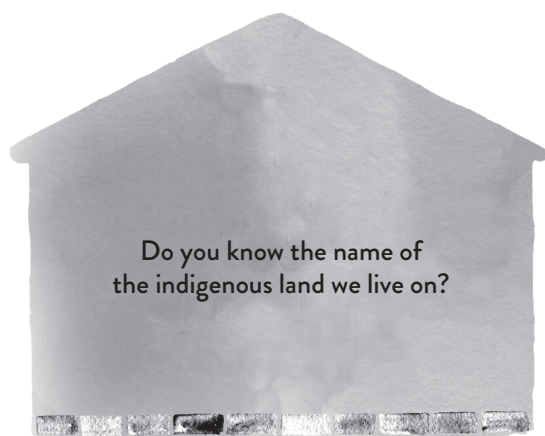
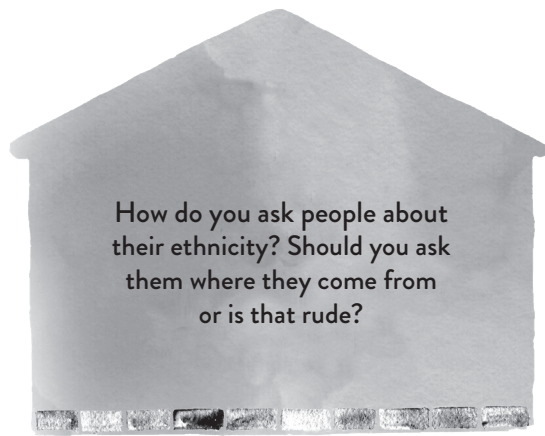
Raising Kingdom-Minded Children

God of the New Heaven and New Earth,
Help us not to conform to the culture around us but to be kingdom-minded in all we do as individuals and as parents. Give us the wisdom to lead our families in a manner that reflects your values and your mission. Protect us from the Evil One, who would endeavor to confuse our minds and lead us astray. May our lives reflect the saving work of Jesus so that others will be drawn to you, especially because of how we handle issues related to race. Thank you for creating a way for all the nations to be adopted into your family and thank you that we have access to your kingdom through the shed blood of the King of kings, Jesus Christ. May we be single-minded in our devotion to our Savior until he comes again to reign forevermore.

Amen.

Use these conversation cards to start and encourage Race-Wise discussions with your family.

The Race-Wise Family is a timely resource to equip Christian parents to better understand the roots of racism and provide practical guidance on addressing issues of race within their families.



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