



SIX WORDS

Week 5

The Very Good Gospel by Lisa Sharon Harper
 Chapters 8-10

CURRENT SERIES:

Six Words

Oct 16 - Nov 20

*Reading Scripture
 Through The
 Language Of Jesus*

Jesus was not a Christian. He was Jewish. In this series we're going to look at the meanings of six words in the language that Jesus spoke, giving us a fuller picture of his message and his hope for the world. Our prayer is that by unearthing the meaning of these words, our church community is called to the action of living a more abundant life.

OPENING:

Begin tonight by saying a simple prayer to ask for God's presence as we journey through this book together.

DISCUSSION:

The arc of these chapters moves from shalom in personal relationships, within families, to relations within and between races, and finally to relations within and between nations. You will take your group through a similar experience, moving from the personal to the corporate in your discussion.

Family

Where have you encountered God in all of it? (pg. 134)

- How did your family shape your view of God?
- Which relationships were safe? Which ones were difficult?
- What parts of your experience have been, or need to be redeemed?

Race

In the US, whiteness is the centerpiece around which all else revolves. (pg. 149)

- How has your racial experience shaped your view of God?
- What implicit biases do you bring to the table?
- If you didn't grow up in a diverse community, how has your experience with God changed since moving to New York?

Nations

The purpose of greatness is to bless, not oppress. (pg. 162)

- Where have you recognized a conflation of nationalism and faith in your American experience?
- Have you experienced something different in other parts of the world?
- *How might shalom upend current policies of government that build their wealth on lands, treasure, and dignity stolen from indigenous peoples around the globe?* (pg. 176)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/6 - [FCQ 2016: Brian McLaren](#)

Visit forefrontnyc.com/calendar-mh for more events

CLOSING PRAYER:

Make some space for silence. People can choose to write their prayers during the time, or to be silent and meditate on these themes. Read each bullet point aloud, and pause after each for a few minutes of silence.

- Thank God for his active healing in your family.
- Thank God for evening more of himself to us through the racial diversity present in our community.
- Pray for the nations of the world. Pray for empire to be overcome by *shalom*.

Close the prayer by thanking God for the time aloud.