



A Self-Paced Study Guide for
the Presbytery of East Iowa

WEEK ELEVEN - Theme for the Week

Half as Worthy

Readings from *Caste*

Ch. 13 – The Insecure Alpha and the Purpose of an Underdog

Ch. 14 – The Intrusion of Caste in Everyday Life

Ch. 15 – The Urgent Necessity of a Bottom Rung

Scripture

Romans 3:20-24

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in ^[a] Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Genesis 1:27

So God created humans in his own image, in the image of God he created them. . . .

Question for Reflection

In your journal or in your discussion group, discuss the following question:

How has the pandemic shifted how you feel about the American caste system? What was unseen for you that is now seen?

Action Steps

The Social Identity Wheel

- Our society strongly influences how we categorize other people and ourselves based on these identities in significant ways. Social identities influence the experiences we have as members of any particular group. They are shaped by common history, shared experiences, legal and historical decisions, and day-to-day interactions.
- Social identities also affect personal identities. For example, your social class may have a strong impact on the education you receive and the profession that you end up in.

Here is the link to the Social Identity Wheel:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w7yo6ljyS0pnevEO-BOrE7Aohmaa9n5Jf/view>

Please fill out this wheel the same way you filled out the personal identity wheel. In the inner circle, record the identities that are the most important or salient to you, and in the outer circle record other identities that are less important or salient to you at this moment in time.

Again, share your wheel with a partner and explain a few of your identities and why you placed them in the inner or outer circle. Note: What you share from your own social identity wheel will impact how reflective participants will be about their own identities. Here is an example of how honest and reflective you are encouraged to be when sharing your own social identity wheel:

"I wrote 'white,' for my race, in the inner circle. I put this in the inner circle because while in this case I am part of the dominant racial group in our society, I also am constantly working to understand how my whiteness affords me privileges in my everyday life, compared with the oppression that people of color face. This is something that I think about and engage with a lot, so this identity is very salient for me.

"In the outer circle I listed my identity in the ability/health category as 'able and healthy.' I did this because I move through my day-to-day life with relative ease. I can go where I need to and do what I need to do without interruption based on disability or health concerns. Not only am I privileged in this regard, but in doing this exercise I also realized that this is something I take for granted and do not give a lot of thought to."