



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

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*Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world.*

*And ready to fight for it."*

*- Arundati Roy*

## **WEEK FIVE - Theme for the Week**

Silent Witness

### **Readings from *Caste***

Ch. 8 – The Nazis and the Acceleration of Caste

Ch. 9 – The Evil of Silence

### **Scripture**

#### **Habakkuk 1:13**

You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

#### **Ephesians 6:13**

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

#### **Genesis 1:27**

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

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. "Evil asks little of the dominant caste other than to sit back and do nothing," Wilkerson observes. Whether in the dominant caste or not, what are some ways that each of us can learn to see evil more clearly and stand up to the negative effects of the caste system?
2. Some factors that prompt silence in the face of evil include fear of death or injury, fear of ostracism, and fear of losing place or privilege. How do these fears silence us and how can we begin to face them to challenge evil?

### **Action Steps**

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1. Take the time to read the [report](#) on *Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls* that didn't get addressed at the last PCUSA General Assembly. It will be revised for the Assembly in 2022 and updated.
  - What does this document convict you of in your local faith community?
  - What "noticings" do you need to have?
  - Are there things in this report that intersect with the life of your particular faith community and what you can be about? If not, what is new, and what do you need to learn about?
  - What help and conversation partners do you need?