



BOOK CLUB KIT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** The first chapter is titled “Why Black Lives Matter Matters.” In this chapter, what does Bunn argue are the central forces at work to ensure Black lives would matter and continue to matter, and what galvanized those forces in America?
- 2.** How have homophobia and transphobia been weaponized against the Black Lives Matter movement? How would succumbing to these biases destabilize the movement, and what does that say about the importance of solidarity across marginalized groups?
- 3.** How did the civil rights movement of the 1960s lay the groundwork for today’s BLM movement? How does the contemporary movement diverge from earlier iterations?
- 4.** What does Benjamin O’Keefe argue are the core tenets of allyship? What are scenarios where you or the allies in your life could better incorporate the practice?
- 5.** Despite being a physician, Susan Moore’s COVID-19 complaints were still dismissed by her white doctor. What does her death emphasize about the insidious effects of medical racism?
- 6.** We see that the new voter suppression laws, particularly in Georgia around Sunday voting, are targeting Black church congregants. Will this signal an elevated return to activist roots for the Black church? And does this, once and for all, remove the veil of the separation of church and state?
- 7.** More and more, we see that the white evangelical church is serving as an incubator for white supremacists and white supremacist violence. Should there be more widespread examination and repudiation of a theology that buttresses white supremacy?
- 8.** The Black church has historically neglected and even shunned its LGBTQ members. What do you think needs to change for the Black church to reexamine its relationship with the queer community?

- 9.** Our society's overreliance on policing caused the death of Daniel Prude, when significant investment in mental health care and an emphasis on community responders could have prevented his encounter with police. Why do you think there is such reluctance to invest in these programs? How could Prude's case, and the cases of those like him, be handled more humanely?
- 10.** How is law enforcement's response to the January 6 Capitol riot and their treatment of Dylann Roof illustrative of the differences between how police handle perceived threats based on skin color? What does this reveal about the biases ingrained in agents of law enforcement?
- 11.** The stringent criminalization of crack by the Reagan administration, compared to the more compassionate response to the opioid epidemic today, is one example of racialized legal discrimination. What are some other situations or policies where you have noticed a similar disparity?
- 12.** How do the experiences of Qadree Jacobs and Michelle Simmons underscore the need for greater societal and institutional change, as well as criminal justice reform? How did the environments and situations they were born into, or that were inescapable during their childhoods, impede their success?
- 13.** Elena Vanko provides insight into Halden Prison in Norway, which has a track record for improving both recidivism and outcomes for those who have been imprisoned, yet the U.S. continues to rely heavily on less humane methods. How do discriminatory institutions and systems in the U.S. benefit—politically, economically, and socially—from mass incarceration?
- 14.** Black women were particularly essential to the changing political tides of 2020, but that burden can take a significant toll on mental health. How can our society better balance amplifying important voices with ensuring those most affected don't have to fight alone?
- 15.** When Thomas W. Mitchell visited his hometown of San Francisco, he noticed a stark decrease in the African American population and, conversely, that the city had begun to capitalize on the Black legacy with the Historic Jazz District. What are other examples of white people or organizations profiting off Black people when it is convenient for them? Have you seen examples in your own life or neighborhood?

SAY THEIR NAMES: A PROTEST PLAYLIST

WAKE UP EVERYBODY (FEAT. TEDDY PENDERGRASS) BY HAROLD MELVIN + THE BLUE NOTES

FIGHT THE POWER BY PUBLIC ENEMY

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME BY SAM COOKE

REDEMPTION SONG BY BOB MARLEY + THE WAILERS

I JUST WANNA LIVE BY KEEDRON BRYANT

ALRIGHT BY KENDRICK LAMAR

FIGHT FOR YOU BY H.E.R.

WINTER IN AMERICA BY GIL SCOTT-HERON

TAKE ME TO THE ALLEY BY GREGORY PORTER

FREEDOM (FEAT. KENDRICK LAMAR) BY BEYONCÉ

WE THE PEOPLE... BY A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

MARKED MAN BY KIDD FUNKADELIC BAND

RIKERS ISLAND BY RAPHAEL SAADIA

TAKE MY HAND, PRECIOUS LORD BY MAHALIA JACKSON

MOTHERLESS CHIL' BY SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME BY BRIAN OWENS, THOMAS OWENS

MONTERO (CALL ME BY YOUR NAME) BY LIL NAS X

FUCK THA POLICE BY N.W.A.

RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE BY FUGEES

RESPECT BY ARETHA FRANKLIN

THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED BY GIL SCOTT-HERON

YEAH BY YOLANDA ADAMS

WHAT'S GOING ON BY MARVIN GAYE

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME BY SEAL

SAY IT LOUD - I'M BLACK AND I'M PROUD BY JAMES BROWN

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TO LISTEN

