

## Week 8 Discussion Guide



### Current Events

*What topic did you choose? I trust it was important to you! And that your message will help communicate some very important aspect of your identity, concerns and hopes to those close to you. In the case you took a peek at any of the resources provided, here are a few prompts for reflection:*

**Baratunde Thurston:** We're bombarded with headlines sometimes before we can process the sunrise. And sometimes it can be tricky to figure out who did what to who, and why, and who deserved it and who's accountable, and so on. Where have you seen these dynamics play out in your news feed? Can you think of or find any that seem to operate in the way Baratunde is describing?

**Lauryn Hill's Black Rage:** This is a stirring piece, in that it contains imagery and truth from America's past that is rarely talked about or processed or acknowledged. What were your thoughts or first reactions to the song lyrics as well as the visuals? How would you describe your predominant feeling as the song ended, what emotions were you left with?

**Angela Davis - Are Prisons Obsolete?:** There are many perspectives on the prison industrial complex and the system of policing/punishment in general. How did Angela's message speak to yours. Were there concepts that felt new? Who in your family would be quick to dismiss these ideas? Who might agree?

**Rachel Cargle - Black Lives Matter Explained:** From the article, "*As Columbia Law Professor Kimberle Crenshaw explains, saying black lives matter 'is simply aspirational,' it's a rallying cry for a shift in statistical numbers that show that people who are black are twice as likely to be killed by a police officer while unarmed, compared to a white individual.*"

How has BLM shown up in your family, what have been some messages that seem to co-exists, what are messages that feel incompatible? How did the article help in articulating the contextual backdrop of "Black Lives Matter"?

Rachel goes on to say, *"If a patient being rushed to the ER after an accident were to point to their mangled leg and say, 'This is what matters right now,' and the doctor saw the scrapes and bruises of other areas and countered, 'but all of you matters,' wouldn't there be a question as to why he doesn't show urgency in aiding that what is most at risk?"* How might your family members respond to Rachel's question?

**Duluth Model for power and control:** Originally geared toward individuals who batter their partners (or children), consider how the power and control wheel speaks to the way the U.S. treats people of color, either overtly or covertly; through laws and regulations, community practices, attitudes and unchecked values/beliefs about others. Where have you seen the power and control wheel come to life, either in your own family or throughout the communities in which you live and interact?

**Multi Ethnic Placement Act / ICWA:** Have you heard about these policies before? ICWA sought to *"protect the best interest of Indian Children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families by the establishment of minimum Federal standards for the removal of Indian children and placement of such children in homes which will reflect the unique values of Indian culture..."* (25 U.S. C. 1902). When do you think it might be ok to make sure a child of color gets placed with parents whose racial identity matches? When might we need to give room for a child of color to be placed with white parents? How do these policies seem to shape whether or not that happens?

**Decolonize Mental Health:** The term itself ("de-colonize") feels somewhat loaded these days. It certainly holds different meanings for different people and communities. How did you interpret the term based on what you read in the article on mental health? As an adoptee, how has the mental health community served you in your pursuit of support, or how has it fallen short? As a parent or caregiver, what's it been like to receive your child's bid for support and show up in a way that the author recommends? How would you sum up the article if you were recommending therapy to a friend or family member?