

The background features a series of horizontal stripes in various shades of brown, tan, and white. On the right side, several paintbrushes with wooden handles and bristles are arranged vertically, extending from the top to the bottom of the frame. A central light blue rectangular box contains the main title text.

GOD'S DREAM FOR RACIAL
RECONCILIATION IN THE CHURCH

• **MATT 2:1-12**

- DEMOGRAPHICS
- **HOWARD COUNTY IS A “MAJORITY-MINORITY” COUNTY**
- **THE WHITE POPULATION IS LESS THAN 50% OF THE TOTAL**

- CHURCH MINISTRY CHOICES
- **1. SPREAD THE GOSPEL THROUGH ESTABLISHING HOMOGENEOUS CHURCHES**
- **2. SPREAD THE GOSPEL BY TRANSITIONING TO MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY ENGAGING ALL PEOPLE GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY**

- HARD CONVERSATIONS

- **HAVE THE ABILITY TO BRING HEALING AND
ENABLE PEOPLE TO MOVE FORWARD IN
HEALTHIER WAYS.**

- HARD CONVERSATIONS

- **IN SMALL DOSES BECOME A MEANINGFUL WAY OF OPENING LINES OF COMMUNICATION AROUND IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT IMPACT WELLBEING.**

- REVELATION 7:9 – GOD’S DREAM
- **THE MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE WAS SO GREAT THAT JOHN IS THINKING “NO ONE COULD COUNT THIS.”**

- REVELATION 7:9 – GOD'S DREAM
- **JOHN SAW PEOPLE FROM EVERY NATION,
PEOPLE & TRIBE, AND LANGUAGE.**

- REVELATION 7:9 – GOD’S DREAM
- **WE ARE DIVERSE YET SPIRITUALLY UNIFIED.**
- **PART OF GOD’S DREAM IS THAT WE EXPERIENCE DIVERSE PEOPLE GATHERING IN UNITY WITH EQUAL STANDING BEFORE HIM.**

- REVELATION 7:9 – GOD'S DREAM
- **DIVERSITY OF THE CROWD IN THIS PASSAGE IS CRITICALLY SIGNIFICANT TO UNDERSTANDING ITS MEANING.**

- COLORBLINDNESS

- **THE OPPOSITE OF SEEING DIVERSITY IS COLORBLINDNESS.**

- LISTENING BRINGS AWARENESS
- **JAMES 1:19** “MY DEAR BROTHERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY.
- **PROVERBS 18:13** “HE WHO ANSWERS BEFORE LISTENING – THAT IS HIS FOLLY AND HIS SHAME.”

- NUMBERS 21

- **SOMETIMES IN ORDER TO BE HEALED WE HAVE TO LOOK AT HARD THINGS**

- NUMBERS 21
- **DO YOU THINK THAT WHERE SIN IS INVOLVED, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE NEED TO LOOK ON THE SNAKE THAT BIT US TO BE HEALED?**
- **LOOKING AT RACISM IN OUR LAND IS THE BEGINNING HEALING.**

- AVOIDANCE & PASSIVITY
- **GOD'S WORD REQUIRES ACTION.**
- **AVOIDANCE, NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM, LEADS TO PASSIVITY. PASSIVITY ADDS FUEL TO A FIRE.**

- 2 PASSIVE FATHERS
- **JACOB – GENESIS 34**
- **KING DAVID – 2 SAMUEL 13**

- WHAT GOOD IS YOUR FAITH IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING?
- **JAMES 2:15 – 15** “IF A BROTHER OR SISTER IS WITHOUT CLOTHES AND LACKS DAILY FOOD AND ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, ‘GO IN PEACE, STAY WARM, AND BE WELL FED,’ BUT YOU DON’T GIVE THEM WHAT THE BODY NEEDS, WHAT GOOD IS IT?”

- **IF WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS, WE WILL ACT.**

- GOD LOVES JUSTICE
- **JEREMIAH 22:3 THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS:
DO WHAT IS JUST AND RIGHT. RESCUE FROM
THE HAND OF HIS OPPRESSOR THE ONE WHO
HAS BEEN ROBBED**

GOD LOVES JUSTICE

- **PSALM 9:16 THE LORD IS KNOWN BY HIS JUSTICE**
- **PSALM 11:7 HE LOVES JUSTICE**
- **PSALM 106:3 BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MAINTAIN JUSTICE**

- GOD LOVES JUSTICE
- **PROVERBS 21:15 WHEN JUSTICE IS DONE IT BRINGS JOY**
- **ISAIAH 61:8 FOR I THE LORD LOVE JUSTICE**
- **ZECHARIAH 7:9 ADMINISTER TRUE JUSTICE; SHOW MERCY**

- GOD LOVES JUSTICE
- **LUKE 11:42 WOE TO YOU PHARISEES, BECAUSE YOU GIVE GOD A TENTH OF YOUR MINT, RUE AND ALL OTHER KINDS OF GARDEN HERBS, BUT YOU NEGLECT JUSTICE AND THE LOVE OF GOD. YOU SHOULD HAVE PRACTICED THE LATTER WITHOUT LEAVING THE FORMER UNDONE.**

- TERMINOLOGY AROUND RACE IS CHALLENGING
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- **CRITICAL RACE THEORY**
- **INTERSECTIONALITY**
- **SYSTEMATIC RACISM**

- TERMINOLOGY

- **TO BECOME RECONCILERS, WE DON'T HAVE TO AGREE ON ALL THE TERMS. WE CAN ADDRESS THE INJUSTICES THAT WE SEE. WE CAN WORK ON THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.**

- RECONCILIATION IS LOVE IN ACTION

LOVE IS DIFFICULT; WILL REQUIRE SOMETHING OF YOU; WILL BE RISKY; EVOKE THE GREATEST AND HIGHEST JOY; MAY CREATE DEEP WOUNDS WHEN BETRAYED; IS SACRIFICIAL

- RECONCILIATION IS LOVE IN ACTION
- **ENGAGING IN HARD CONVERSATION, LISTENING, STRIVING TO UNDERSTAND, SEEKING JUSTICE IS ONE WAY THAT WE LOVE OTHERS AND LOVE GOD.**

- RECONCILIATION IS LOVE IN ACTION
- **JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN OUT OF LOVE FOR THAT PERSON WHO THINKS DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THE WORLD THAN YOU DO. HE WANTS YOU TO LOVE THEM LIKE HE DOES.**

- WAYS TO PRACTICE RECONCILIATION
- **1. LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND – ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS WHERE THE PURPOSE IS NOT TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION BUT RATHER TO LISTEN TO THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.**
- **BE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR STORY.**

- WAYS TO PRACTICE RECONCILIATION
- **2. BECOME INFORMED. BOOKS, PODCASTS, AUDIOBOOKS. CARE ENOUGH ABOUT OTHERS TO INVEST A LITTLE TIME IN LEARNING.**

- WAYS TO PRACTICE RECONCILIATION
- **3. EAT WITH THOSE WHO DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU. WHAT DOES YOUR TABLE TYPICALLY LOOK LIKE? INVITE THOSE WHO DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU TO YOUR CELEBRATIONS.**

- WAYS TO PRACTICE RECONCILIATION
- **4. CONSIDER JOINING A SMALL GROUP OF DIVERSE PEOPLE AND GO THROUGH A STUDY ON ETHNICITY OR RECONCILIATION.**
- **5. DO JUSTICE BY GETTING INVOLVED IN A SOCIAL MINISTRY.**

- BOOKS
- MANY COLORS OR UNSETTLING TRUTHS BY SOONG CHAN-RAH
- ADVOCATES BY DHATI LEWIS
- WHITE AWAKE BY DANIEL HILL
- DIVIDED BY FAITH BY EMMERSON AND SMITH
- GRACISM BY DR. DAVID ANDERSON