Assumptions and ground rules.

1) We are here because we know that racism exists in America and in the church.
2) Our stance is primarily one of learning and humility. We aim to understand what Austin Channing Brown has to say.
3) We will read the book.
4) No one person should dominate the discussion. If you have spoken already, make sure all others have a chance to speak before you speak again. Facilitators may invite quieter people to speak and may ask more forthright people to listen.
5) We will be honest and kind.
6) We trust God’s Holy Spirit to be with us as we wrestle with what we learn and seek to apply it to our lives.
7) Confidentiality – you may share broad conversation topics but not specifics of someone’s life. If you want to share, ask first. If you want something not to be shared, be explicit.
8) Please set your name in your “rename self” so we know what to call you.
Session 2, July 8, 2020, chapters 5 – 7 including interlude.

7-7:20 Introduction, ground rules, and prayer.

Whiteness at work – introduction by Pr Sarah. These chapters are about the way Austin, in her professional life, faced the power of white dominant culture - including white fragility and its cousin, white guilt - and her response.

We’ll start by looking at the daily annoyances, the subtle messages of whiteness that Austin points out are part of her daily life as a black woman.

Look at pgs 71 – 76. What are some of the “daily annoyances, the subtle messages of whiteness.”

What are her “life hacks?”

And why is it important for Austin to remind herself what she loves about being a black girl? 81-84

Think for a moment, what is something you deeply appreciate about your culture?

7:20 – 7:30 Video – process, thoughts?

7:30 – Introduce white fragility. Robin DiAngelo:

White people react to "racial stress" with an "outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the stress-inducing situation.

7:30 – 7:40 – Breakout groups white fragility, definition etc.

- Questions:
- Q1: White fragility
  - a. What stories does Austin share about times she navigated the emotional fragility of white people who did not respect her authority because she is a black woman.
  - b. Share an instance when you encountered white fragility.
  - c. Have you ever been overcome by your own fragility?
  - d. How can white fragility been resisted?

7:40 – 7:50 – Nice white people.
- Q2: In chapter 7 Austin writes "Sadly, most white people are more worried about being called racist than about whether or not their actions are in fact racist or harmful." Has this been your experience?

- On Page 101, Austin says “most white people still believe that they are good and the true racists are easy to spot.”
- What’s the problem with believing that “niceness disproves the presence of racism?”
- The Relational Defense.

7:50-8:05 – White fragility’s cousin, white Guilt.

- Q3: Guilt "I am not a priest for the white soul."
  - a. What kinds of confessions does Austin recount hearing from white people?
  - b. If you are white, how do you handle white guilt?
  - c. If you are a person of color, what do you do when you encounter white guilt?

8:05 – 8:10 – So what are you going to do differently? 5 min writing...

- wrap up. Take aways.
Next week: Pages 112-130