

FAMILY HISTORY/INFLUENCES QUESTIONNAIRE

According to psychologists and sociologists, children as early as age 2 start to recognize racial, gender, and other differences in people and begin observing how older family members respond to those differences. Biases and affiliations further develop as children enter school and interact with others. What did your upbringing offer you in terms of appreciating racial differences? Were you taught how to address racism? Complete this questionnaire and see.

On this sheet, put a check mark next to each of the statements that applies to your life and circumstances.

1. *My grandparents were born and reared outside the United States.*
2. *My parent(s) spoke a language other than English/American Sign Language in our home.*
3. *I was reared in communities where I regularly interacted with many people of different races and languages.*
4. *I grew up in churches where I regularly worshiped with many people of all races.*
5. *As a child, I learned to speak a language besides English/American Sign.*
6. *I had un-stereotypic toys and books featuring People of Color in my childhood.*
7. *I never heard my grandparent(s) use racist language against/about anyone.*
8. *I never heard my parent(s) use racist language against/about anyone.*
9. *My parents discussed with me the realities of racial discrimination and racism.*
10. *When a racist incident made the news or happened around us during my childhood, my parent(s) sat me down and explained it in age-appropriate ways.*
11. *My parents taught me that confronting racial injustice was integral to my faith.*
12. *My circle of close childhood friends and playmates included People of Color.*
13. *People of Color were among my parents' close circle of friends and we visited with them regularly.*
14. *I was educated in pre-collegiate schools where the contributions of People of Color were pretty widely taught by my teachers.*
15. *As a child/teen, I was encouraged by my parents and teachers to seek information about the contributions of People of Color in my community, nation and world.*
16. *As a child, I witnessed my parent/guardian/close adult relative speaking/acting against racism at least once.*

- ▶ If you checked 1-6 statements, you likely did not grow up with a skill set to help you appreciate racial differences and understand racism. Your learning began in adulthood.
- ▶ If you checked 7-11 statements, you probably gained some implicit or explicit ideas and tools for assessing the role of racial difference and racism. You are adding to your skill set.
- ▶ If you checked 12 or more statements, your upbringing likely included experiences, role modeling, and personal tools to help you understand the realities of racial identity and racism. This online course may be too basic for you. Please consider taking some of our other courses.

