

# Sharing Our Story

## Four Episode Series



## Episode 1 Indigenous Australians

Exploring key eras throughout Australia's history, **SHARING OUR STORY** is a small group resource that examines how the events of our past have affected the lives of Indigenous people in our current generation.

**SHARING OUR STORY** encourages non-Indigenous Australians to reflect on how God sees people, not problems; challenges us to examine our personal convictions; and presents the need to establish a fresh approach to building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian people.



ABOUT WATCH STORIES MAP EVENTS

Log onto the Australian's Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au> , join up and watch Episode 1. You can also download the leaders guide to use a resource.

Spend some time reflecting on what you have just heard in this episode.

Prompt: *"How can it be, in an egalitarian society, that injustice to the marginalised crease scarcely a ripple? The answer I think is found at the threshold: most Australians do not recognise the original inhabitants, the stolen generations, the faceless asylum seekers, as people: at least, not in the same way that we are people. Their humanity is of a different order"* – Julian Burnside.



Read through the following scriptures as a group:  
John 4:1-42 and Luke 19:1-10

Jesus was counter-cultural. We see this in the way he spoke with the woman at the well in John 4, in the way he treated Zacchaeus in Luke 19, along with numerous other examples.

*How can we follow Jesus' example and live counter-culturally with respect to Indigenous people?*



Sometimes when we investigate a challenging topic we come away with more questions than when we began. Invite your group to list any questions that arose for them during the episode.

Encourage your group to share their questions out loud and respond to each other.

The DVD begins to raise the topic of Aboriginal spirituality. To explore this further have a read of *"Rainbow Spirit Theology : Toward an Australian Aboriginal Theology"* by Rainbow Spirit Elders which examines indigenous theology written from stories of the dream time in aboriginal culture.

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## Episode 2

### Cultures Collide

This episode is about going back to the beginning of our shared history to when Europeans first came to this land. It looks at the impact of colonisation and expose people to some of the more tragic and painful aspects of European settlement.



Read Psalm 10.



Log onto the Australian's Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au>, click on 'Group Leaders', click on 'Videos' and watch Episode 2 - Biblical Reflection

As a group discuss the following questions:

Imagine you are experiencing the same terrible injustice and hardship described in the first half of Psalm 10. All your assets have been stolen from you – property, savings, livelihood (job), and you are left with nothing. Moreover, you are living in a society where there is no welfare safety net, other than that provided through your extended family, and your family members are in the same plights as you. How might this affect how you talk to God or even view God? Compare this to Psalm 10:1.

Why is it so hard under such circumstances to believe that God does notice and care about our suffering (verses 14 & 17), and that God will act to bring about an end to the cruelty and injustice that causes it? (verses 15 & 18)?



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Log onto the Australian's Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au>, watch Episode 2.

This may be a difficult session for some due to the content and some of the material that was presented on massacres and violence. Not everyone will agree with what is presented. Be cautious against allowing any one person to speak authoritatively on anything emphasising the need to 'be quick to listen and slow to speak.'

Spend some time reflecting on what you have just heard in this episode.

For further reflection on this era of Indigenous History see SBS program ***"First Australians"*** <http://www.sbs.com.au/firstaustralians/> and other articles documenting massacres and violence found here on SBS nitv <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/subject/massacres>

The Maloga Mission School near Echuca <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/matthews-daniel-4170>

Read some stories of the stolen generations:

<https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/politics/stolen-generations-stories>

[http://stolengenerationstestimonies.com/index.php/about\\_stolen\\_generations.html](http://stolengenerationstestimonies.com/index.php/about_stolen_generations.html)

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### Episode 3

#### Times of Change

This episode examines how, as a nation, we had to come to terms with the way Indigenous and non-Indigenous people could live together and form a new nation. Advocates arose for the rights of Indigenous people and even Prime Ministers began to recognise some of the damage that was done due to our complex and at times tragic history.



Read Amos 5:21-24.



Log onto the Australian's Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au>, click on 'Group Leaders', click on 'Videos' and watch Episode 3 - Biblical Reflection

As a group discuss the following questions:

What does the strength of this language teach us about the heart and mind of God?

Not surprisingly Jesus thought and felt the same way (for example see Matthew 23:23-24)

Share with one another the impact these two passages have on you, and the implications you think they may have for you and your church engage with the hopes and aspirations of Australia's Indigenous people.



Log onto the Australian's Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au>, watch Episode 3.

Group Discussion:

Were you aware that in the '60s we had our own Martin Luther King type advocates? How did you feel watching some of that footage and realising what took place in our country?

*"Sometimes it is hard for people to understand that equal rights don't automatically create equality. In fact, as we heard from Clyde, the abrupt granting of rights and control to Indigenous communities sometimes created new problems."*

How does this affect the way you view Indigenous disadvantage today?

What impact might The Intervention have on a community, its leaders and individuals?

For Further information about:

PM Kevin Rudd's Apology <https://youtu.be/b3TZOGpG6cM>

The Intervention <http://www.australianstogether.org.au/stories/detail/the-intervention>

Mabo <http://www.australianstogether.org.au/stories/detail/mabo-native-title>

Indigenous Policies <http://www.australianstogether.org.au/stories/detail/self-determination>

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## Episode 4

### Resetting Relationship

This episode looks at “where to from here?” and consider the role of the church, and our role as Christians in Australia, in this complex area. Our hope is that we can be part of a new period in history that will become known as a time of healthier, more respectful relationship.



Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

As followers of Jesus we experience the wonder of reconciliation with God, and as a result of this we have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation.



Log onto the Australian’s Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au>, click on ‘Group Leaders’, click on ‘Videos’ and watch Episode 3 - Biblical Reflection

As a group discuss the following questions:

Reflect on this statement: *“We don’t need an evangelistic message anymore, we need a transformational relationship.”*

Have you experienced a ‘transformational relationship’? One that changed your life



Log onto the Australian’s Together website <http://www.australianstogether.org.au>, watch Episode 4.

As a group discuss the following questions:

Having reflected on the previous eras, why is an era focussed on relationship important?

How might the church discover what ‘oneness’ is and looks like?

What does Australians Together mean to you?

What new insights have you had during this study?

### Post-it Notes:

Invite your group to choose one or more words to describe how they are feeling after completing the SHARING YOUR STORY dvds. Ask them to write down their feelings on post-it notes and have each person stick their post-it note on a wall. Encourage your group to stand back and reflect on the words.