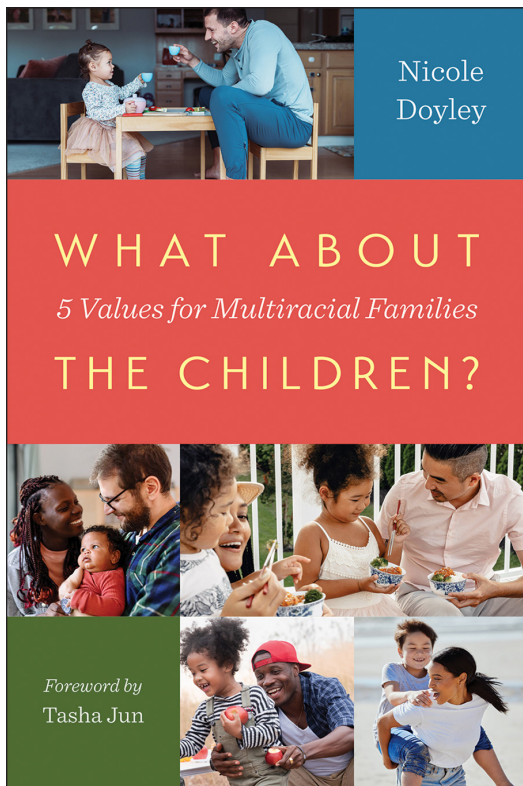


# Book Club Questions for Nicole Doyley's *What about the Children?*



1. What anxieties about parenting multiracial children did you have before becoming a parent? Do you think you had a realistic understanding of what their experience might be like? Why or why not?
2. How do your kids racially or ethnically identify? Do your kids understand why they look the way they do? How have you sought to affirm each part of their ethnicity? Did any of the Steps for Application in the book stand out as ideas you want to implement?
3. Have you ever thought that color blindness is a good thing, that your kids' Christian identity or their human identity is the only truly important part of their identity? If so, what makes you hesitant to highlight racial differences?
4. Where have you seen examples of colorism in society and in your family? Do people treat your lighter-skinned children differently from your darker-skinned ones? Have your kids ever expressed dismay that siblings are treated differently because of their skin color, eye shape, or hair texture?
5. When have you needed to seek help or insight from someone who shares part of your child's racial identity that you do not? How can you embrace discomfort so that your child can be more comfortable?
6. What kinds of conversations have you had with your child's other parent about racial identity development? Who teaches most of the values in your home? Does this lead to an imbalance in whose values are taught? How can you and your partner both be more involved in teaching your kids culture?
7. What is your relationship like with your extended family—on both sides? What has been your parents' or grandparents' attitude toward your spouse and/or children? Are they a source of support in affirming your child's identity and imparting cultural values or will their racial biases hurt your child's self-image?
8. How are you cultivating a diverse community for your family? What BIPOC people of influence or leadership do your children have in their lives? How often do you get together with friends who have a different worldview from you? Are you able to talk about your differences and learn from each other?

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## More Questions for *What about the Children?*

9. Chapter 5 explores shibboleths that are important for fitting in with different cultural groups, both among peers and elders. Are there skills or attributes that would help your child feel accepted in the various racial groups with which they identify?
10. How can you tell whether your kids have internalized racist or colorist beauty standards? What parts of themselves are they trying to highlight or hide? Who do they consider handsome or beautiful?
11. What examples of cultural racism do you see in television shows or on the news? How can you combat racial stereotypes like Myth of the Dangerous Black Man or the Myth of the Model Minority with your children?
12. Why do you think the average white family has more wealth than the average Black or Brown family? Why do you think Black and Hispanic men are incarcerated at a disproportionately high rate? Can you explain these societal realities to your BIPOC child in a way that preserves their sense of confidence and self-worth?
13. What is your personal history with race and racism? What were you were taught about other cultures growing up?
  - If you are white, think honestly about white supremacy. Do you believe that white people are globally wealthier than Black and Brown people because white culture is better? If you are married, do you harbor any feelings of superiority to your spouse or your spouse's extended family?
  - If you are BIPOC, how has racism or colorism affected your life? What do you want your partner or children to understand that they may not?
14. Have you and your spouse talked about “The Talk”? What will that look like and when will you start having it? Will you need to ask friends or family members who can speak from experience to help teach your sons how to stay safe during encounters with the police or other authority figures?
15. What kinds of conversations will you have with your teens and young adults about dating? How can you teach your daughters how to stay safe around men who see them as exotic?
16. The book features many testimonials (including the author's) of kids in multiracial families feeling “on the outside” or not fully a part of one or more cultures. What insights have you gained to help you raise kids that fully identify with all parts of their heritage?

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