|  |
| --- |
| **Part 1 and Part 2 Questions** |
| **Question 1:** Ch. 2 - What does viewing our society through caste reveal for you that you had not noticed before? |
| **Question 2:** Ch. 2- What are the differences for you between caste and race? How do those differences affect your biases? |
| **Question 3:** Ch. 4 - Compare the quote “They are not black…” to the statement “I don’t see color.” |
| **Question 4:** Ch. 9 - “Evil asks little of the dominant caste other than to sit back and do nothing.” What does this mean for you? |
| **Question 5:** Of the chapters in Part 2, which stood out to you the most in understanding how arbitrary humans have been and are divided? |
| **Extra Questions:*** Ch. 1 - Why do so many people, in the wake of violence, protests, and disputed elections, decry, “This is not America”, or “I don’t recognize my country”?
* Ch. 6 - Why do race and caste persist in our society despite the fact that they are “manmade” and not due to our genetics?
* Which of the analogies(the house, vitals, permafrost, silent earthquakes, untouchables, the Matrix…) in Part 1resonate the most with you in understanding what caste means?
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Part 3 and Part 4 Questions** |
| **Question 1:** Pillar5- Have you ever found yourself at the bottom of a hierarchy? Have you observed how others on the bottom rung are treated in a group? How do you respond in such situations? |
| **Question 2:** Pillar 7- Several examples of violence against lower caste peoples are described, some at the hands of peers in the lower caste. How is this behavior present in our schools and what can be done about it? |
| **Question 3:** Pillar8- As this section concludes is there a pillar or pillars that stand out to you? Is there a pillar that you can make a difference with? Did any of them surprise you or were confirming to you? |
| **Question 4:** Ch. 10- How do we see “central miscasting” appear in our students, classrooms, and educational systems? What is the effect of these, perhaps false and limiting, stories we tell about certain students? |
| **Question 5:** Ch. 11- Given the research percentages on p. 186 -7, how do we deal with unconscious bias in a profession where most educators are white? |
| **Extra Questions:*** Pillar 2- How have you experienced being held in a fixed place within your own micro society?
* Ch. 15- Has legislation really changed caste and race in the United States?
* Ch. 17-18- What is your reaction to reading the Satchel Paige story? Consider the potentially equaled losses in the medical/research fields.
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Part 5 and Part 6 Questions** |
| **Question 1:**Ch. 20- The author stated: “Caste behavior is essentially a response to one’s assigned place in the hierarchy.” How does this statement play out in schools and society?  |
| **Question 2:** Ch. 23- “This happened because good people were silent and let it happen” (pg. 300). How often is this the case today, and what should we be prepared to do to counter the silence? |
| **Question 3:** Ch. 25- How did Obama’s presidency upset rather than solve racial tensions and the caste system? |
| **Question 4:** Ch. 27- Why does America continue to hold onto our outward symbols of caste? |
| **Question 5:** Ch. 29- How might the US caste system contribute to all the ways it compares to other countries?  |
| **Extra Questions:*** Ch. 19: What was your reaction to the explanation of how evil can occur? How does it resonate for you personally, in your life and choices?
* Ch. 20- In what concrete ways can we decentralize the white, dominant narrative in our classrooms, school and lives?
* Ch. 27- What would the US be like if we approached our past and the horrors of slavery as the Germans recognize the Holocaust?
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Part 7 and Epilogue Questions** |
| **Question 1:** Ch.30- What “sacred thread” do you bear that needs to be shed and destroyed? |
| **Question 2:** Ch. 31- Why is the heart the last frontier to beat caste and racism? |
| **Question 3:** What role can we play in our schools and society to dismantle racism and caste? |
| **Question 4:** What is one powerful question you could ask the person who says, “If we keep talking about things like racism or caste-ism, they will never go away?” |
| **Question 5:** What will it take to dismantle the American caste system? |
| **Extra Questions:*** Ch. 30- Have you experienced something like Wilkerson did at the restaurant? Were you her, her friend, the manager, or the waiter? How did your caste play into what you experienced or how you reacted?
* Do you believe our schools, like Wilkerson calls for on behalf of our nation, need a “Truth and Reconciliation Committee”? What do you predict would be the outcome?
 |

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession would like to give a huge thank you to the facilitators who created these questions for the February and March 2021 book study of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.