

## USG Racial Healing SGM ~ Imagination ~ January, 2021

drawn from Soul Matters materials, see the full packet for more of all of these elements  
[www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com](http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com)



### To Engage Before We Meet (Any or All)

**Unfinished Portraits** On using imagination to honor the loss of black lives.

<https://www.facebook.com/60SecDocs/videos/384017189256735/?v=384017189256735>

**Angela Oguntala on TED Radio Hour**, her topic is: How Do We Achieve the Future We Imagine? [www.npr.org/transcripts/711197124](http://www.npr.org/transcripts/711197124)

**Landfill Harmonic** <http://www.landfillharmonicmovie.com/> (the trailer is free)  
Landfill Harmonic follows the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a Paraguayan musical group that plays instruments made entirely out of garbage. When their story goes viral, the orchestra is catapulted into the global spotlight. Under the guidance of idealistic music director Favio Chavez, the orchestra must navigate a strange new world of arenas and sold-out concerts. However, when a natural disaster strikes their community, Favio must find a way to keep the orchestra intact and provide a source of hope for their town. The film is a testimony to the transformative power of music and the resilience of the human spirit.

**Kindred**, Octavia E. Butler <https://www.octaviabutler.com/kindred>

### Session Plan

#### Chalice Lighting

History is birthed out of the imagination. It literally was conjured up. Imagination is so powerful that it could set forth 400, 500 years of something wrong, which means that it very well could set forth 400, 500 years of something right. That's sort of the beauty of humanity. [Jason Reynolds](#)

**Check-in** *Share something of your journey with racism or where racism is showing up in your life now.*

#### Quotes for Inspiration/Readings

Imagination is one of the spoils of colonization, which in many ways is claiming who gets to imagine the future for a given geography. Losing our imagination is a symptom of trauma. Reclaiming the right to dream the future, strengthening the muscle to imagine together as Black people, is a revolutionary decolonizing activity. adrienne maree brown, Emergent Strategy

Nobody is more dangerous than he who imagines himself pure in heart.  
James Baldwin

What will become of a failure? What can be built with an honest mistake? Keep paying attention. Keep dreaming and supposing that more is possible. We don't know the ending. And if you are tired, then it must be time to rest. Staying curious is like a muscle. We flex - reaching for what we don't yet know. And relax - leaving space for what is yet to come. Rev. Theresa I. Soto

You can either think that the world is getting better or that the future will be much better than it is now, or you can think that the world is getting worse. But that continuum isn't as important to me, actually, as this idea of, do you think you have agency in this world that is either getting better or worse? [Angela Oguntala](#)

Charlene Caruthers, Radical Imagination  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5vQW9sqmck>

**Sitting in Silence** *Take a few moments to sit quietly and reflect upon your thoughts.*

### **Questions**

What "made up" cultural story do you think our society most suffers from? Do you see a connection between racism/white supremacy and imagination?

**Sharing/Deep Listening** *Respond with your thoughts and experiences with the topic. We create a safe space by listening deeply and not responding. When sharing, connect with what is true for you. When listening, give the speaker your full attention rather than thinking about what you will share.*

**Reflection and Gratitude** *This is a time to respond briefly to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared. Consider lifting up one comment or experience for which you are particularly grateful.*

### **Singing**

Tracy Chapman, Talkin' About A Revolution  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv8FBjo1Y8I>

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

My favorite Baldwin quote is, "The interior life is the real life... The intangible dreams of a person may have a tangible effect on the world." It's basically saying, what one can imagine, internally, what one can think about when nobody knows, when nobody's around, one's secrets, could shift human life. What an amazing thing. [Jason Reynolds](#)