

ReconcilingWorks Book Club Reflection Questions



March 2026

Here are **10 reflection questions** for your *ReconcilingWorks* book club discussion of [**The Power of Bridging**](#) by John A. Powell, director of [**Othering & Belonging Institute**](#). These questions are rooted in the book's themes of connection, *belonging*, *bridging differences*, and *overcoming othering* — and are framed to align with [**ReconcilingWorks' values**](#) of inclusion, neighbor-love, community building, and congregational welcome for LGBTQIA+ people and a commitment of anti-racism.

Discussion Questions: Bridging, Belonging, and Church Community

- 1. What does “bridging” mean to you in the context of your congregation and neighborhood?**
How might practicing intentional bridging change the way your community encounters those who feel “othered”? [**Can we Build a World Where We All Belong? – Greater Good Magazine**](#)
- 2. In what ways have you experienced or witnessed *othering* or *breaking* (division or exclusion) in church life or in local community relationships?**
How can your congregation respond with practices that foster belonging instead? [**Can we Build a World Where We All Belong? – Greater Good Magazine**](#)
- 3. [**ReconcilingWorks**](#) emphasizes full welcome and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ and a commitment of anti-racism.**
How does the book's idea of bridging challenge or inspire you to strengthen that welcome in your congregation?
- 4. [**Powell speaks \(video\)**](#) of listening with curiosity and heart, not just intellect.**
How can you and/or your congregation model deep, compassionate listening with neighbors whose life experiences differ greatly from your own?
- 5. Where in your local community are there divides or divides-of-experience (race, gender, sexuality, class)?**
What would bridging across those divides look like in practical terms for your congregation? [**On Bridging: Evidence and Guidance from Real-World Cases**](#)

6. **Church community is both formed by shared faith and shaped by difference.**
How does the practice of bridging expand our understanding of “neighbor” beyond comfort zones and familiar circles? [The Power of Bridging - Blinkist](#)
7. **ReconcilingWorks encourages naming and advocating inclusion publicly (e.g., RIC statements).**
How can narratives of belonging and bridges built within your congregation influence the wider community’s sense of welcome and justice? [RIC Sunday - ReconcilingWorks](#)
8. **The book talks about the human tendency to “see what we believe.”**
What assumptions or beliefs within your congregation might need facing or reframing to build deeper bridges with LGBTQIA+ and immigrant neighbors or others not traditionally centered in your community? [The Power of Bridging - Blinkist](#)
9. **Reflect on a time when someone from outside your usual circle became a teacher or partner in your journey.**
What did that bridging relationship teach you about love, belonging, or community? What might that teach your congregation? [On Bridging: Evidence and Guidance from Real-World Cases](#)
10. **What is one actionable step you and/or your congregation can take after this book to intentionally practice bridging in the next month?**
(Examples: a community listening circle, inviting a neighbor from a different background for conversation, partnering with another congregation on a service project, offering educational resources on belonging and inclusion.) [Can we Build a World Where We All Belong? – Greater Good Magazine](#)