

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

Subversive Witness

Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege



BY **RENÉE JAMES**

WITH *SUBVERSIVE WITNESS; Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege*, author Dominique Dubois Gilliard gifts the Church with a profound and timely call to justice. In its pages, Gilliard offers *all* of us a biblically grounded and expansive space in which to face our privilege.

This is not another text that bashes our White brothers and sisters. Yes, Gilliard discusses systemic racism. But he goes beyond that because privilege comes in so many forms – skin colour yes, but also gender, citizenship, education, income-earning capacity, geography, age, health and mobility. The list goes on.

Gilliard shows us that church conversations about privilege needn't end in the usual places: denial, mired in controversy or stuck in the weight of the topic. The Bible shows us another way!

And so he unpacks the stories of Pharaoh's daughter, Vashti and Esther, Moses, Paul and Silas, Jesus and Zacchaeus to show how all of us can leverage our advantages – our privileges – to resist systemic sin, stand in solidarity, birth liberation, create systemic change, foster social transformation and proclaim the Good News.

I work at the intersection of gender, colour and age in a ministry space that is largely White, though this is changing. I read this book with gladness – for its grounding in Scripture and for the gentle firm way in which Gilliard invites me to consider that though I know what it means to be marginalized, I'm also privileged. This book gave me the gift of hope.

May this book become mandatory reading for any individual, group or church feeling God's call to work for social justice. 📖



An Invitation

Perhaps your book club may want to join CBWOQ staff and volunteer leaders online for three sessions of book discussion plus prayer and Scripture reflection.

Wednesday June 1, 8 and 15
at 7:30 p.m.

Additional resources for you and your group

In early May, do visit baptistwomen.com/resources-2022-book-club for links to videos and prompts to help your group discussions.