



We can't keep sweeping issues of racism in America under the rug.
Do Black lives really matter?
We will view movies and documentaries that will challenge us
to confront our understanding of our beliefs about racism.

Our second movie this season is *Burden*. Mike Burden was a Ku Klux Klan member who left the Klan, eventually aligning himself with a Black minister he was once told to assassinate. Meanwhile, Rev. Kennedy preaches a gospel of love from his pulpit. But notably, he and his family soon find that loving one's enemies becomes much more difficult when it becomes personal. It sounds too neat, too crazy, too scripted. But Mike Burden is real. This movie is a redemption story that doesn't cut corners and or look for easy answers. It can be rented on Amazon, Apple TV, You Tube, and Red Box.

Burden Study Guide (Season 2 Movie 2)

This movie is inspired by true events which occurred in Laurens, South Carolina in the Spring of 1996.

Cast information

Mike Burden – lead character, adopted by Klan leader
 Reverend Kennedy – leader of New Beginnings Baptist Church
 Tom Griffin – Klan leader in Laurens
 Ronny – Tom's son (race car driver)
 Clint – one of Tom's followers
 Judy – Mike's girlfriend
 Franklin – Judy's young son
 Clarence – childhood playmate of Mike's
 Duane – Clarence's son and Franklin's playmate

1. Describe the incident at the store with the Reverend and Judy. What injustice did the African American customer say happened to her? What did Reverend Kennedy suggest that the store manager do to rectify the situation? Why didn't the Reverend say to fire the employee?

2. Describe Mike Burden's upbringing? Why may he have been influenced to join the Klan by Tom Griffin?

3. **What similarities do you see between Reverend Kennedy to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? Would you have been strong enough to put your family in danger to support Mike Burden?**
4. Describe Judy and her son Franklin and their role in changing the heart of Mike Burden.
5. At the Klan rally, Tom Griffin said, "We have to keep our families safe and blood pure. Why do some people believe that Blacks are dangerous and inferior to whites?"
6. **What stories or stereotypes about Blacks did you grow up hearing? Write some of them down.**
7. **Quitting smoking can be one of life's most difficult challenges. You may need several attempts to finally reach your goal. The most common causes of relapse are stress, weight gain, and symptoms of nicotine and tobacco withdrawal. Based on this example of addiction, what challenges might a racist person encounter in their daily lives as they tried to change their lifestyle or life habits and how would you, their family or friends need to do to support them as they confront their beliefs?**

Challenge Question –Choose an action to confront racism.

Be prepared to share your plans and your discussions when we meet on December 16, 2021.

1. Interview your parents, aunts & uncles, or grandparents about what your family told them about Black people. What beliefs or practices did your family have about Black people? What did your family teach or tell you about racism? If your perception/belief about Black people or racism is different from your family's be prepared to tell us why.

2. You are invited to participate in a series of eight sessions by reading and discussing the book (*Collective Amnesia: American Apartheid* by Eugene D. Betit. This book helps us visualize the last four centuries of racism in the United States. The sessions will be Wednesday morning from 10:45am – 12:00 pm. **First discussion is on 11/10/2021. Next discussion is 11/24/2021.** It is not too late to join the discussions lead by Sister Barbara Green. See the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael webpage for your information <https://sanrafaelop.org/events/>

3. You are invited to participate in a series of eight zoom sessions on Monday afternoons at 4:30 on *White Fragility* by Robin di Angelo. **First discussion is on 11/8/2021. Next discussion is 11/22/2021.** It is not too late to join he discussions will be facilitated by Ms. Maureen Burnett, Sister Barbara Green, and Ms. Sally Karste. See the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael webpage for your information <https://sanrafaelop.org/events/>

Additional Information related to this movie

- Hope & Hate - ABC Primetime Provided Jun 16, 2020 Updated Jan 12, 2021

https://www.postandcourier.com/hope-hate---abc-primetime/video_0dc1ce4a-54f9-11eb-9d9d-8f65e2b95313.html

- How One Man Convinced 200 Ku Klux Klan Members to Give Up Their Robes

<https://www.npr.org/2017/08/20/544861933/how-one-man-convinced-200-ku-klux-klan-members-to-give-up-their-robles>