



*The Uncomfortable Truth* (2017), from Award-winning filmmaker Loki Mulholland is his story as he dives into the 400 year history of institutional racism in America and he is confronted with the shocking reality that his family helped start it all from the very beginning. Loki is an activist and son of civil rights icon, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, The film is available to rent on Amazon (95 minutes)

### Season 3 - Film #5 *The Uncomfortable Truth*

- Loki Mulholland - family historian and filmmaker, born in Georgia in September 1941
- Luvaughn Brown - born in 1944, raised in Mississippi, At the age of sixteen, Luvaughn Brown (also known as Luvagh Stamps) was arrested for his participation in a sit-in at Jackson, Mississippi Walgreens' lunch counter on July 11, 1961.
- Joan Trumpauer Mulholland - born September 14, 1941, is an American civil rights activist who was active in the 1960s. She was one of the Freedom Riders who was arrested in Jackson, Mississippi in 1961 and was confined for two months in the Maximum Security Unit of the Mississippi State Penitentiary (known as "Parchman Farm").

Study Guide Questions for March 27, 2023.

Be prepared to discuss # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

1. Describe Loki's family's example of fact vs myth. How do myths about African Americans affect stereotypes and beliefs that some White people have?



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2. Describe America's violent history and the constitutional law enacted in 1787 to support slavery.
  
3. Describe which American leaders had slaves while in office. What is the “I Never Owned Slaves Syndrome”? How do some White people use Barack Obama’s legacy as a reason to say “African Americans have arrived”?
  
4. What are the origins of Loki’s family in Jamestown, Virginia? Describe the key crops that increased farmers productivity in America in the 1700-1800s. Why did slave owners begin human trafficking? What are the long term effects of this human trafficking on African American families today?
  
5. Describe America’s history of not seeing all people as human beings. What legislation did America put into place to support this racist construct? What racist beliefs do some White people have about African Americans? Loki said, “If you tell a lie long enough, you begin to believe it.” What did he mean?
  
6. Though the Civil War ended in April 1865 slavery did not. What did the 13th amendment do and still does do to maintain slavery?



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7. In the movie, *Birth of a Nation*, Slaves/African Americans were depicted as savages who raped white women and pillaged. Loki reminds us that slave owners used rape to instill fear in African Americans. Slave owners forced slaves to engage in sex to create a stronger “breed.” African American men have been killed for looking at people. Based on what James Baldwin said about people being a product of their environment, how would you expect miserable, dehumanized, and hopeless people to behave? What does Loki say is the reason for this violent treatment toward African Americans?
  
8. When Blacks protest against injustices, the news reports that African Americans are rioting. When white people protest, the press describes it as, “Whites are exercising their first amendment rights.” Why is it that African Americans are described as, “Running Amuck” when white people savagely beaten, killed, and tortured Nat Turner, Jesse Washington, and the people of Greenwood, Oklahoma?
  
9. America has a history of denying African Americans access to education and economic progress. Describe how African Americans were not included in the first implementation of Social Security. How did the military try to limit the African Americans' access to a career in the service? How did that backfire?
  
10. Describe how America has denied African Americans including African American veterans who fought for America, access to property and homes - the American dream.



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11. Describe how former Presidents have used racial fears to gain votes and put policies and programs in place which continued to deny African Americans access to opportunities.
  
12. What did Loki and LuVaughn highlight about America's "War on Drugs Program"?
  
13. Loki said the structure/system may change but the foundation of slavery remains. Describe the new structure "Color Blind Society."

Slavery  
Racism

Jim Crow  
Racism

Color Blind Society  
Racism

14. Loki was looking for his Aunt Mary. He did not find any evidence about her life other than the entry in the ledger that she was owned by his grandfather. Why did Loki research his family history and produce this documentary?

### **Challenge Actions for our meeting March 27, 2023**

What will you do now to learn more, teach or confront Racism? Here are opportunities for more learning, unlearning and relearning:

- [13th Amendment Documentary on YouTube \(100 minutes\)](#) and on Netflix.
- [The Racist truth about the War on Drugs \(2021\)](#)
- [Supreme Injustice: Slavery in the Nation's Highest Court - A book talk with Paul Finkelman \(2021\)](#)