

***A reminder to facilitators:*** When you begin, please introduce yourselves and have the group participants share their first names, as well. Remind them of the group agreements (there will be a tent card available with these agreements for your reference). You do not have to ask each of the questions provided and you can feel free to bring in your own. Do your best to wrap up at the designated time. Jot down anything that happens in your group that we should discuss at the debrief. Thank you!

1. What stood out for you from the guest speaker's share? Why?
2. In the book, Stevenson educates us about the many obstacles African Americans experienced in trying to defend themselves when accused of a crime? Do you think these obstacles have been addressed today?
3. Mr. Ruffin is denied medication in police custody, Stevenson has a terrifying encounter with Atlanta police (pgs 37-44) shortly after learning that an unarmed Black teen has been killed by Gadsden police. What, if anything, comes to mind when you read about these two interactions with law enforcement?
4. "Almost everyone on death row had been convicted by an all-White or nearly-White jury. When Walter's trial is moved from a community with a large black population to a more affluent county with a much higher white population, therefore decreasing the potential of black jurors serving on McMillian's jury (page 62). How do you believe a lack of racial diversity and class impact sentencing outcomes?
5. As is the case with many social justice organizations, Stevenson's legal defense center is seriously underfunded while also highly in demand. Not many people would have the stamina to continue facing the major challenges he is facing. What role do the missions of these organizations play in their inability to attract funding? What role can each of us play in supporting underfunded organizations like Stevenson's? Where are you divesting and investing?
6. What seems important as a result of reading the first six chapters of the book? What was new information that has shifted your attitudes about our penal system?