

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF REMEMBER THE TITANS

LEARNING TO SEE EACH OTHER

DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide invites reflection on prejudice, connection, and what it really takes to become a team.

“It’s not about the color of our skin, but the content of our character.”
— HERMAN BOONE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

i BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Remember the *Titans* is based on the true story of a newly integrated high school in 1971. It depicts the racism and segregation of its era honestly. Discuss with care and respect.



1 FIRST IMPRESSIONS

At the start, the players see each other through stereotypes. How do first impressions and assumptions influence relationships in our own lives?



2 EQUAL STATUS MATTERS

Allport’s contact hypothesis says equal status reduces prejudice. How did being teammates—competing for the same positions—create equality on the team? Where do we see (or not see) equality in our world?



3 A SHARED GOAL

The team has one goal: to win together. How do common goals unite groups? What shared goals could bring people together in your school, community, or family?



4 COOPERATION BUILDS TRUST

It’s not just proximity; it’s meaningful cooperation that changes hearts and minds. When have you needed to rely on someone different from you to succeed?



5 LEADERSHIP SETS THE STANDARD

Coach Boone creates conditions for respect, accountability, and connection. What kind of leader do we need more of today?



6 SEEING THE PERSON, NOT THE CATEGORY

Players learn names, stories, and dreams—and stereotypes fade. How does knowing someone’s story change how we treat them?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- ♥ What prejudice or bias have I held (even subtly) that I want to challenge?
- ♥ Who is someone different from me that I could make more of an effort to know?
- ♥ What can I do this week to create more inclusion?

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Think of a group you belong to (team, class, club, church, family). Map the four conditions that reduce prejudice:



EQUAL STATUS



COMMON GOAL



COOPERATION



SUPPORT OF AUTHORITY

What’s strong in your group? What could be improved?

TAKEAWAY



Prejudice isn’t inevitable. Under the right conditions, contact can lead to understanding, respect, and even friendship. We don’t just play together—we become someone’s teammate, someone’s friend.



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Understanding minds.



Strengthening connections.