Separate But Equal
Discussion Questions

**Directions:** In your groups, please discuss and write down your answers to the following questions related to the film, *Separate But Equal*.

1. How did life for African Americans in the 1950s compare to the lives of white, middle-class Americans?

2. Why do you think the child hesitated when choosing which doll he was most like?

3. Why do you think the children favored the white doll over the black doll?

4. What does the state of the black school indicate about education for African Americans?

5. How would you feel about your education if that was your school?

6. What do you think about the man telling the African Americans in the movie to be “quiet up there?”
7. Does it matter if you are audibly told you are inferior, or do actions speak louder than words? Explain your answer.

8. What was the argument against desegregating schools?

9. What was the argument for desegregating schools?

10. Do you think the federal government should enforce social laws, especially when society is not willing to cooperate, or should the government conform to society and allow social evolution to run its course, however slow that process is?

11. Do you think the historical treatment of African Americans has an effect on both blacks and whites today? Explain your answer. Give an example.

12. In what ways are African Americans denied the same rights, opportunities, or privileges as whites today?

13. Do you think there is a certain amount of segregation (based on race, socio-economic status, etc.) in schools today, even if it is not intended to be segregation? Why or why not?