

# COUNTY-WIDE BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

*We are grateful that you have committed to lead a book discussion group over the summer. Below are a few tips to guide you along the way, including the list of books to choose from and how to reach us for support. We look forward to hearing about your discussion groups over the summer.* - JCMP Public Education Team

## Book List

*Just Mercy*  
Bryan Stevenson

*The Cross and  
the Lynching Tree*  
James H. Cone

*Strange Fruit*  
Lillian Smith

*Homegoing*  
Yaa Gyasi

*Legacies of Lynching*  
Jonathan Markovitz

## Remember

The topic of lynching is a very difficult subject matter and there is a possibility that it could trigger participants in different ways.

- + Create an environment where people can ask for what they need.
- + Express compassion.
- + Allow participants to step away if needed.
- + Silence is okay.

## Tips to Leading a Book Discussion

- + We suggest a group of no more than six participants.
- + Select a title and meeting place.
- + Be realistic with your schedule. Pick a day and time that works for everyone.
- + Set ground rules; i.e. respecting one another and listening
- + Incorporate snacks if possible
- + Avoid meeting too often
- + It's good to have prepared questions but allow the discussion to "flow".
- + Discussion groups can choose to read the entire book then meet to discuss OR meet over consecutive weeks and discuss by chapter.