

Suggested Interview Questions for Lisa Sharon Harper
author of *The Very Good Gospel* (WaterBrook)

On a pilgrimage several years ago you explored the Cherokee Trail of Tears and the African American experience, from slavery to the Civil Rights Movement. As an African-American woman with Native American ancestry, and a Christian, how did coming face to face with the brutal treatment of your ancestors cause you to question the goodness of the gospel?

How did you come to understand the “forcefully, vehemently, abundantly good” nature of the gospel?

What is at the heart of the biblical concept of shalom?

You say that “the peace of self is dependent upon the peace of the other.” Talk about this web of relationships that God created.

You weave your personal story throughout the book, including painful childhood experiences such as bullying, sex abuse, and a family broken by divorce. How have you found shalom in your own life and relationships?

We’re in the midst of an unusual, and to many, disturbing, election season. What can the good news of shalom speak into such a time? Can God’s governance affect how we govern?

You point out that it’s not hard to see where we need God to speak today—we live in a time of terrorist attacks, police shootings of unarmed black men, and a rise in the activities of white supremacist groups. How can we seek shalom between the races, and between nations?

How can the biblical doctrine of the image of God help restore relationships between the genders? Relationships between the races?

What is the lie about race that has shaped the western worldview? How can we dismantle that lie and the systems based on it?

What does it mean to have shalom with God?

What are some ways the church can end the culture of patriarchy?

You give the example of people scavenging for food in a garbage dump in Haiti as an example of the brokenness of the human relationship with the rest of creation. How can we restore shalom to the environment?

Families can be broken through divorce, as your family was, and by systemic oppression such as immigration policies, poverty, and other ills. What does shalom for broken families look like?

You hold Pope Francis up as a witness for peace. How can we follow his example?

Where can we find “thick” evidence of the Kingdom of God?