

American Lessons

by Mark Won, p. 38

A Navy chaplain's letter to his younger self on race, faith, and fatherhood.

1. Where did you live when you were in junior-high school? What was the racial and ethnic demographic of your school?
2. Mark Won found it difficult to believe that his children are facing the same prejudice he faced as a child. What changes have you seen in conversations about race in your lifetime? What do you think has stayed the same?
3. Why is it necessary for Won to advise his younger self to make friends with the humble and wise rather than the smart and successful? Can you name a friend who is humble and wise? What does humility and wisdom look like in that person?
4. Courage is the repeated advice throughout the article. When have you needed the reminder for courage in your life?
5. What part of the letter impacted you most?