Questioning Guide for Black Power Closing Discussion

1. Opponents of Black Power argued that the Voting Rights Act would bring about political equality in the South if blacks could be patient long enough to let it work. Is political equality enough for blacks to truly be equal in the late 1960s or was more necessary?
    a. Do Black Power advocates hold a realistic view of the America's free market economy?
    b. Could the Beloved Community approach have accomplished Black Power's economic goals?
    c. Which approach would most likely increase economic opportunities for black citizens?
2. The two sides have differing views of government and its role in the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1960s. How accurate were Black Power advocates' views of government? Should the advocates of Black Power have expected government to meet their needs?
    a. What lessons were learned from the experience of the MFDP?
3. Roy Wilkins compares Black Power to apartheid in reverse and reduces it down to violence. First, is Wilkins' view accurate and second, can Black Power exist without violence?
4. In the Socratic seminar, we discussed whether SNCC's view of human nature was accurate. How does the Beloved Community view of human nature compare to the perspective of Black Power advocates on the issue? Within the Black Power debate over acceptable and effective change strategies, which side held a more defensible view of human nature? In light of your answer, which side had the best strategy for bringing about change?
5. Was Black Power a more realistic strategy than the Beloved Community for achieving full equality for black citizens in the late 1960s?