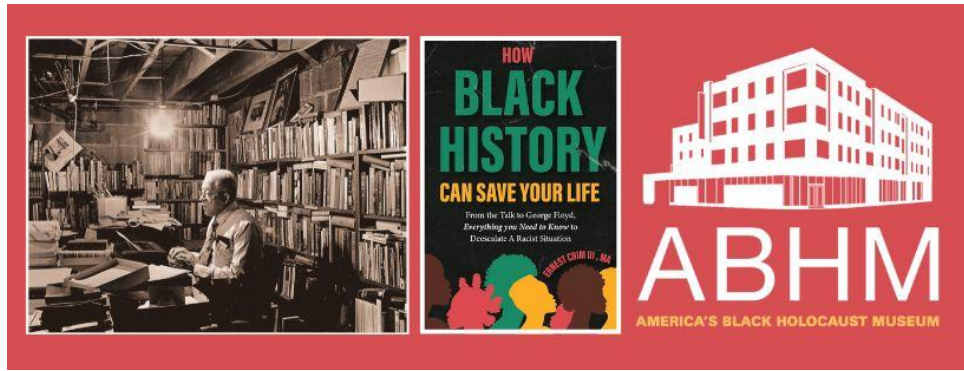




ABHM Book Club Discussion Guide

August 29th, 2026 at 1:30 PM

***How Black History Can Save Your Life* by Ernest Crim III**

How to Use this Guide:

ABHM staff created this guide to assist in reading and discussion of Ernest Crim III's *How Black History Can Save Your Life* (2025). Please feel free to print a copy and keep it with your book as you lend to friends and others who are interested. Do not expect to get through all of the questions during the upcoming meeting nor in one sitting. Perhaps consider them as conversation starters or an invitation to reflect more deeply about your own or shared experiences.

Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Through sharing his life's story, Crim also takes us through the history of Black people broadly in this country from its founding. What is something you learned that you did not know before? How can you use that knowledge in your own life? See pages 13, 39, 43, and 296.
2. What do you think Crim means by the title? How did Black history save him? Do you think it can save us? If so, how? See pages 21, 116, 117, 125, and 202.
3. What influence did Crim's parents have on his life's trajectory, especially his mother? What does this tell us about how and where Black history is taught truthfully? See pages 25 and 54.
4. What was Crim's approach in the classroom and in working with students? What kind of impact do you think having open and honest conversations about this country's past with young folks can have? See pages 14, 17, 179, 225, 229, 240, 245, and 300.

5. On page 165, Crim talks about the Marion, Indiana lynching that Dr. Cameron (ABHM Founder) survived, although he does not mention Dr. Cameron. What does his retelling add to our understanding of that day? What does this book tell us about spectacle lynchings, in general? See pages 59, 74, 164, 165, and 274.
6. Like ABHM, Crim starts his understanding of Black history in Africa before enslavement. Why does he feel this is important? Do you also think it is important? If so, why? See pages 57, 92, and 213.
7. This year is the 250th anniversary of the United States. What does this book add to our understanding of this country's founding? What does this book provide us in terms of guidance for how we move forward? How does it complicate or add to this commemoration? See pages 50, 125, 133, 214, and 221.
8. Crim chose to record his 2016 hate crime incident, which resulted in national dialogue and launching his activism beyond the classroom. What does activism look like today with social media? How is this digital archiving similar and different to museum work of preserving historical trauma and triumphs? See pages 149, 171, 236, 255, 292, and 302.
9. In this book, Crim centers the importance of education in the Black community and argues that it is an essential, life-saving tool for self-empowerment, racial justice, and healing. Do you agree? How have standard education systems presented American history? How can we better present and preserve truth-telling in history? See pages 13, 29, 76, 101, 104, 125, and 303.
10. Given Crim's view that Black history is a tool to transform the future rather than just study the past, what role should museums like ABHM hold in modern social justice movements? See page 87.