

# ENGAGING WITH TOPICS OF RACISM & INJUSTICE

Daily in our world we can see that our unity with one another is broken. We know the answer is Jesus, so why is it so difficult for us to come together?

The media is filled with examples of pain and brokenness, but avoidance and an “everything is fine” approach doesn’t create growth. While we cannot fix everything; we can learn about ourselves and what’s going on inside of us. We can listen, learn and talk about race with grace and a knowing that we don’t have to have all the answers.

The resources in this document will be helpful as you begin, or continue, your journey with learning about and confronting racism and social injustice. There are a lot of great resources out there. This is not an exhaustive list, but simply a place to start.

Overwhelmed? Pick just one or two as a starting off point.

## WAYS TO ENGAGE IN YOUR JOURNEY WITH RACISM AND INJUSTICE:

### LEARNING, LISTENING, ASKING QUESTIONS AND GROWING

- Spend time regularly in God’s Word. Pray, press into and lean on God.
- Ask for God’s Spirit to give you eyes to see people created in God’s image.
- Listen to a variety of voices. Read materials you may not normally read.
- Keep going. Fight the urge to ignore or push the feelings you experience aside.
- Ask questions like - Where do you see God moving towards people who are oppressed, marginalized, violated, or hurt? What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

## WHERE DO I START?

### THIS IS NEW FOR ME.

- *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, Sun Yung Shin (Editor)
- *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *I'm Still Here*, Austin Channing Brown
- *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Howard Thurman
- *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson
- *Let's talk about Race*, Julius Lester
- *Mending the Divides*, Jon Huckins & Jer Swigart
- *So You Want To Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo
- *Strength to Love*, Martin Luther King Jr.
- *White Awake*, Daniel Hill
- *On Ramp* Podcast
- Hennepin County Library created a list of books around "What is Systematic Racism" to help you begin learning.

Be gentle with  
yourself as you  
take this journey.

## GOING DEEPER

### I'M READY TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER

- *How to be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi
- *I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation*, Chanequa Walker-Barnes
- *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, Resmaa Menakem
- *Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up*, Kathy Khang
- *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (Unabridged), Ibram X. Kendi (audiobook found on Spotify)
- *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*, Mark Charles & Soong-Chan Rah
- *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo

## PARENTS

### RESOURCES FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE

We can talk about race in an age-appropriate way and do so with grace and a knowing that we don't have to have all the answers. Our Next Generation team put together a whole list of resources for parents along with a list of ways to prepare for on-going conversations with your children. Email [kids@thedoor.org](mailto:kids@thedoor.org) for a copy.

## RACISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE & THE CHURCH

- *Becoming Like Creoles: Living and Leading at the Intersections of Injustice, Culture, and Religion*, Curtiss DeYoung (Editor)
- *Beyond Roots: In Search of Black in the Bible*, Dwight McKissic
- *Divided by Faith*, Christian Smith & Michael Emerson
- *Might from the Margins*, Dennis Edwards (former Sr. Pastor at Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis)
- *Prophetic Lament*, Soong Chan Rah
- *“Race Tests”: Racial Boundary Maintenance in White Evangelical Churches*, Glenn E. Bracey & Wendy Leo Moore
- *Rediscipling the White Church: From Cheap Diversity to True Solidarity*, David Swanson
- *The Black Church in the African American Experience*, C. Eric Lincoln
- *The Color of Compromise*, Jemar Tisby
- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, James Cone
- *The Justice Calling: Where Passion Meets Perseverance*, Bethany Hanke Hoang & Kristen Deede Johnson

## “HOW DO WE CHANGE THE SYSTEM?”

- *White Awake*, Daniel Hill
- *Rethinking Incarceration*, Dominique Gilliard
- *Becoming Brave: Finding the Courage to Pursue Racial Injustice Now*, Brenda Salter-McNeil
- *Welcoming the Stranger*, Matthew Sorenson & Jenny Yang

## PODCASTS

- *Code Switch Podcast*
- *On Ramp Podcast*
- *Scene on Radio: Seeing White Podcast*
- *The Antioch Podcast*
- *The Liturgist Podcast* (in particular Episode 34: *Black and White: Racism in America*)
- *Truth's Table Podcast*
- *What is the Black Church?* (Found at [www.nae.net/alexanderpodcast](http://www.nae.net/alexanderpodcast))

This interview with Bishop Claude Alexander of Charlotte, NC gives a good historical description of the Black Church, explaining why aspects of the Black Christian experience has been proven effective in combating white supremacy, thus suggesting a way forward for some multiethnic churches.

## DOCUMENTARIES

- *Jim Crow of the North*, find it on PBS and YouTube
- *Reconstruction: America After the Civil War*, PBS (4-part series)
- *The Uncomfortable Truth*, find it on Amazon Prime (also a podcast)
- *Harriet Tubman: They Called Her Moses*, find it on Amazon Prime
- *My Life with Rosie*, find it on Amazon
- *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*
- *13th*, find it on Netflix

## MOVIES

- *Selma*
- *Marshall*
- *Harriet*
- *Just Mercy*
- *Hidden Figures*
- *Mississippi Burning*

With so many great resources out there, it can feel overwhelming.

A great first step:  
just start with one!

## ORGANIZATIONS, WEBSITES, SPOKESPERSONS

- *Be The Bridge* with Latasha Morrison
- Osheta Moore, specifically her series *Dear White Peacemakers*
- *The Next Question*, web-series with Austin Channing Brown
- Transform Minnesota
- Global Immersion Project

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE

For those ready to dive more deeply into these topics, *Sankofa*, a 3-day immersion experience through the Covenant Church spent explores historic sites of the Civil Rights Movement, helps us connect the freedom struggle of the past to our present realities. [www.covchurch.org/justice/racial-righteousness/sankofa](http://www.covchurch.org/justice/racial-righteousness/sankofa)