



YOUTH STUDY

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PARTICIPANT HANDOUT

Responding to Racism

Racial Identities Matter

Our racial identities affect our experiences with education, employment, and many other areas of our lives—including our relationships with each other. The prophet Micah tells us that God requires of us justice and kindness. Learning to recognize the ways unjust social structures affect our lives and the lives of others can help all of us to begin or to further develop concrete strategies to work against racism.

Prayer

Our hearts and minds
long for a world where justice is real.
May each of us,
with our different experiences,
our unique identities,
learn to take strong steps
of courage and compassion
to bring such a world into being.
Amen.

Definitions Matter

Prejudice includes stereotypes and negative assumptions that any of us might hold about another racial group based on incomplete or false information. Prejudice is interpersonal. Prejudice is not the same thing as racism. A person of any racial group might hold prejudice against another group.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Racism is a system of advantage and disadvantage based on race. It's structural. There are relationships between prejudice and racism, but they are distinct phenomenon. For racism to happen a group must suffer systematic disadvantage.

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