

## **Youth Group Small Group Ministry (January 11, 2015)**

**Topic: Race & Justice in America**

**Advisor: David Gonzalez-Rice; Mentor: Gretchen Edstrom**

### **Opening Words & Chalice Lighting**

“No, no we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

- The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. from his speech “I Have a Dream,” delivered at The March on Washington, 1963

**Purpose:** We come together to build connections and to talk about what deeply matters.

### **Reading of Group Covenant**

Golden rule: Treat others how you want to be treated

Respect each other

No side talking

No phones except for time check

Don't take someone else's seat if they called 5's

Get outside together

When someone is breaking the Covenant, we'll say “Wyoming.” (Change made at 1/4/15 meeting.)

**Check-In:** Each person shares how they are doing.

**Activity:** Read the full March on Washington Speech. Sit in a circle around the chalice and pass the book around having everyone take a turn reading a page or two until finished. We're going to read this speech in light of the recent Eric Garner and Michael Brown killings by police officers. (Ask if anyone needs clarification on what happened in these cases, and offer the simple facts before beginning.)

### **Questions**

- ⬆ Rev. King refers to not being satisfied in 1963 about justice and equality in America for African Americans. Do you think he would be satisfied in 2015? Why or why not?
- ⬆ Are you satisfied with the state of race relations in America today? Are you satisfied with your own heart and how you think and feel about people who are a different race or ethnicity from you?
- ⬆ Rev. King uses a lot of poetic language and beautiful imagery in this speech. What is your favorite line or image and how does it make you feel?

**Check-Out & Confidentiality Check:** Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like to be held confidential? Otherwise this is a reminder that we treat each others' sharing with kindness and respect.

### **Closing:**

“African-American men are being taught a lesson about how this society values, or devalues, our lives. I've always said the notion that racism is a thing of the past was absurd — and that those who espoused the “post-racial” myth were either naive or disingenuous. Now, tragically, you see why.”

—Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist & columnist, from The Washington Post, 12/3/14