

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ephesians 6:10-17

**“System Racism, Social Holiness
and the Powers and Principalities of
Our Time”**

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Questions:

1. What is the armor you wear to confront injustice, and how do you decide what armor to put on and take off in a given situation?
2. What tools do we need to support and help us in our struggle against mass incarceration and the school to prison pipeline? In our struggle against environmental, structural, and institutional racism?
3. How do we prepare to advocate for dismantling school to prison pipeline? Think about: Our social capital (aka relationships), research data, practicing the spiritual disciplines. What resources do you/we need?

General Questions and Actions Based on the United Methodist Social Principles

Poverty and Income Inequality:

1. What basic resources do communities of color and therefore their children lack for survival, to be successful to the best of their ability in school and the community at large?
2. Where do you see the effects of poverty in your communities, local and city wide? What are the root causes of poverty in these communities?

Action Steps:

- Identify what resources lacking and how you can help to provide for them. Is it affordable housing, food insecurity, employment, school supplies, access to online learning?
- If not already doing so, connect with community organizations that are addressing these issues. Ask your local school directly how you can help.
- Be and stay informed on school board, county and city policies and procedures that impact the outcomes for children, youth, and their families.

Climate Justice, Environmental Racism

Degradation of natural resources and placement of communities in areas more likely to be negatively impacted by disasters has fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities including people of color. This impacts the overall physical, emotional, and mental health of the children, youth, and their families.

1. This describes neighborhoods in our cities and surrounding areas. Which ones do you know?
2. What 20th-21st century policies and procedures have made a positive impact on these neighborhoods?
3. Why do effort to address climate justice & change often exclude particular issues and concerns of communities of color?

Action Steps:

- Get access to all pertinent information and significant decision -making power over industrial, agricultural, and other developments that have potential to do significant harm to the land, air and water.
- Make phone calls and provide written communication to local, state, and national officials.

Criminal Justice
School to Prison Pipeline and Mass Incarceration

1. What measures do your local, state, and national policy making bodies take to mitigate the root causes of crime? Causes such as poverty, lack of adequate and appropriate educational opportunities, recreational activities, counseling and mental health services, job training, financial services, and housing.
2. Do you know what resources are available in your communities to address those causes listed above and how to connect families to those resources?
3. What are the discipline policies in the school district (s) in your communities?
4. What form of juvenile justice system exists in your city and county?

Action Steps:

- Know what you don't know. Identify and locate the above resources. Explore your communities beyond your specific neighborhood.
- If there are limited to none, connect with organizations that will help you get them available in your areas.
- Connect with Community in Schools organization
- Learn about and advocate for Restorative Justice and rehabilitation support systems
- Access <https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/service-advocacy>.

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