

RACISM AWARENESS STARTER KIT

These resources are meant to be a starting point for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of race, racism, and racial injustice. This is a first step toward engaging in the work of reconciliation.

ARTICLE

"Lament for Ahmaud: The Day My Daddy Screamed"

by *Pastor Julian Newman*

> <https://medium.com/@juliansnewman/lament-for-ahmaud-the-day-my-daddy-screamed-1589f95e322a>

VIDEO

"A Discussion on Racism" w/ *Carl Lentz & Bishop T.D. Jakes*

> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYku4vlwnTQ>

FILM

13th | A Netflix Documentary by Ava Duvernay

> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

> <https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741?s=a&trkid=13747225&t=more>

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION GUIDE

"Lament for Ahmaud: The Day My Daddy Screamed"

by Pastor Julian Newman

Summary:

This essay discusses the significance of video evidence of police brutality, presents six invalidating responses to incidents of racism, and offers five practical ways fair-minded people can confront racism.

Questions to Consider:

1. Pastor Julian talked about the six actions of invalidation, when it comes talking about racism. Have you ever been a recipient or participate in an act of invalidation? Please share your experience.
2. Pastor Julian listed five ways one can help disrupt racism, which one stood out to you the most and why?
3. How do the five ways (in disrupting racism) he listed line up with biblical values?
4. How do you think Jesus dealt with prejudices?

"A Discussion on Racism" w/ Carl Lentz & Bishop T.D. Jakes

Summary:

Pastor Carl Lentz and Bishop T.D. Jakes discuss racism in order to bring greater awareness to the very real problem and to help the Church see how we can all play a part in being the solution in this day and age.

Questions to Consider:

1. How did this interview impact you?
2. Did TD Jakes share anything that surprised or enlightened you? Was there anything shared that you struggled with? Anything you disagreed with?
3. Bishop Jakes said the history of slavery and Jim Crow isn't very long ago. At what point should a race/ethnic group move past atrocities committed against them?
4. What parallels did Bishop Jakes draw between slavery, Jim Crow, etc. and child abuse? How did that resonate with you?
5. Do you believe in systematic racism? Why or why not?
6. Were you able to relate to Bishop Jakes' story of being concerned for his son's safety following the car accident? How so, or why not?
7. Read Luke 10:25-37. Who is your "neighbor"?
8. What responsibility does the Church have in responding to social injustices?
9. According to Bishop Jakes, Joseph, Moses, and Jesus had what in common that allowed them to lead effectively?

"A Discussion on Racism" (continued)

More Questions to Consider:

10. When someone of a different race or background opens up about their life and struggles, how can you respond in a way that shows you are listening and you understand?
11. What did Pastor Carl Lentz mean when he said "our world is uneven"?
12. Pastor Carl Lentz said "we need to enlarge our pool of information" in our quest for justice and equity. How are you "enlarging" the pool from which you're gathering information on justice and equity?
13. Can you think of a way to be more vocal (versus silent) about racism and injustice?

Moving Forward:

Take 10-15 minutes to talk with someone with a visible difference (hair, eye color, shoe size.) Come up with a list of 12 things you have in common. Pray God's identity over each other. Pray for unity among Christ's body.

13th | A Netflix Documentary by Ava Duvernay

Summary:

This film traces a 150 year-old history of race, incarceration, and disempowerment of minority communities in America.

Questions to Consider:

1. Did you feel helpless, inspired, stirred to action, or a combination of all three? Do you think the message of the film was ultimately hopeful? Why or why not?
2. This documentary emphasizes that the current crisis of mass incarceration is directly tied to our country's legacy and history of slavery. Do you agree with the film drawing the connection between mass incarceration and slavery?*
3. How did this film impact your understanding of the prison system? Was there a particular case or series of facts that altered or challenged any of your pre-existing views? Please explain.*
4. Were you surprised to learn about the racial underpinnings of these legislative policies, and the active role of the state in criminalizing and targeting communities of color?*
5. How do you think media and popular culture representations of Black Americans, particularly of Black men, have contributed to a dangerous climate of white fear and anxiety?*
6. How can we challenge these instances of racism and dehumanization?*
7. Why is studying the history of peoples pain so important in building a relationship with them?
8. What does Jesus preach about our attitudes towards those in prison? How does this inspire and/or challenge you?