

Faith and Racial Justice

Module 3: Changing Systems and Structures

By fostering active listening, holy conversation, and prayer, Faith and Racial Justice turns a group of individuals into a community rooted in trust and compassion. Through new learning from articles, videos, and resource books, it lends new insights to participants' awareness of privilege and racism. By encouraging new spiritual practices and informed action, it cultivates an expanding community of Christians who work to dismantle racism in their respective contexts.

This process will challenge your own thinking about racism, its causes, and its impact, while helping you discern practical steps to address it. Group members are encouraged to contribute to the conversation and to be open to new perspectives. Faith and Racial Justice invite group members to risk vulnerability by sharing their struggles and challenges.

Books:

- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
- The New Jim Crow Organizing Guide by Daniel Hunter
- 40 Days of Prayer by Cheri Mills

Overview of Sessions

Session 1: Introduction to the Racial Wealth Gap: Your group will engage in a Racial Wealth Gap Simulation, through which they will learn about the policies that created the wealth disparities we have today.

Session 2: The Wealth Gap and its Consequences: Participants explore the effects of the racial wealth gap on their local communities and discern ways to work toward closing the gap.

Session 3: Redlining and its Consequences: Confronting White Myths about "The Hood": Participants learn about redlining's lasting effects on their local community and/or cities across the United States.

Session 4: Faith Communities and Reentry: This session explores the challenges that the formerly incarcerated face upon reentering society, and equips participants to mobilize their churches or community for action.

Session 5: Addressing Racism in our Faith Communities: During the first half of this session, a guest speaker visits your group. During the second half, participants learn how to guide their faith communities (or other institutions of which they are a part) in becoming antiracist.

Session 6: The Reparations Debate: Participants learn about why reparations are being called for and explore a few reparations proposals.

Session 7: Mobilizing for Criminal Justice Reform: This session focuses on grassroots organizing techniques that participants can use to mobilize their communities for action.

Session 8: Commitment to Action: Participants make concrete plans for how they will work toward racial justice, committing themselves to action.