

Syllabus Studying Race and Racism

As part of our Baptismal Vows this question is asked of the person who is to be baptized:

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

What does that actually mean, specifically in light of issues surrounding race and racism. Over a 5 week period, we will meet In person but also through Zoom so folks can call in.

Requirements:

1. Before each meeting, spend time watching/listening to the assigned presentations in order to be prepared for discussion.
 2. Be open to listening, and learn from each other. If you are white to be especially attentive to members who are not and seek to learn from their experience.
 3. Confidentiality is expected.
-

Week 1 -- Read "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Read http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/letter_birmingham_jail.pdf

OR if you'd rather listen to/watch it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATPSht6318o>

Further reading: Robin DiAngelo on "White Fragility" --
<https://www.amazon.com/article/twib>

Week 2 -- What is Antiracism? Watch the following

- Being Antiracist: A Primer -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C17xI1hG1ZE&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2MclfOx0F81VJxUS9-ITfmzliVzZ8Ecgvdivjlte5wD0e75LQwYPI_n4U
- Deconstructing White Privilege --
https://www.umc.org/en/content/deconstructing-white-privilege-gcorr?fbclid=IwAR1SHx0t9CbASw2UWeH1rcftrpRycgbkkDoxA_EX5kHFgsLovaUIFdTS8r0
- Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man
 - <https://uncomfortableconvos.com/episode/episode-1>
 - <https://uncomfortableconvos.com/episode/episode-2>

Suggested activity: 21-Day Racial Equity Habit building Challenge --
<https://www.eddiemoorejnr.com/21daychallenge>

Week 3 -- Deeper than just saying one is "not racist?" -- listen to Podcast with Ibram X. Kendi and Brene Brown --

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist/>

Suggested activity: Listen and/or subscribe to one of the following podcasts:

- Code Switch -- <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch>
- Our National Conversation About Race -- <https://www.showaboutrace.com/episodes-notes>
- We Live Here -- <http://www.welivehere.show/posts> (might want to look beyond the Covid-19 podcasts, though they speak to how racism plays out in midst of this pandemic)
- The View from Somewhere -- <https://www.lewispants.com> (Might want to listen to this one:
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/how-black-lives-matter-changed-the-news/id1481617425?i=1000454405216>)

Week 4 -- Watch movie -- Just Mercy (Amazon Prime)

Further Readings:

- Duke Divinity School Magazine -- Overcoming Racial Faith:
https://divinity.duke.edu/sites/divinity.duke.edu/files/divinity-magazine/DukeDivinityMag_Spring15.WEB_.compressed.pdf
- “The Case for Reparations,” and essay by Ta-Nehisi Coates:
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- “The Idea of America,” an essay by Nikole Hannah-Jones, traces America’s history from 1619 onward:
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/black-history-american-democracy.html>
- “Many Thousands Gone,” an essay by James Baldwin:
<http://faculty.gordonstate.edu/Isanders-senu/Many%20Thousand%20Gone%20by%20James%20Baldwin.pdf>

Week 5 -- Watch movie -- I am not your Negro (Amazon Prime)

Further the Conversation and reading.

How is God calling you to take what you have learned and apply it to your life and faith?