

At Home Faith Based Activities Week of June 7th – June 14th

Loving our Neighbor and Racism

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12

What do we tell our children about race and racism? We begin by reminding them that we all are made in the image of God who loves us—and that we promise in our baptismal covenant “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” to love our neighbors as ourselves, and “to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” Love and peace are words our children hear us use often, but what about justice? “Justice is what love looks like in public,” says Cornel West. It is the work of the church, and of families, too.

It has been a hard week and a holy week as our hearts weep for the injustice in the world against our brothers and sister of color and God calls us to action through education and through prayer.

This week the faith at home children activities are focused on loving our neighbor. Each activity has scripture. Invite you children to look up the scripture in the Bible. Discuss together how the scripture relates to the activity.

1. Sesame Street Town Hall : Standing up to Racism

Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.—Galatians 6:2

This is a good place to start with your children. Elmo and the experts walk with you as you watch this as a family. They introduce facts and questions to share.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/05/us/sesame-racism-town-hall-how-to-watch/index.html>



2. Short Family Guide from Virginia Theological Seminary

These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gate. Zechariah 8:16

We owe it to our children to tell them the truth, no matter how uncomfortable it makes us feel. There are people in the world who hate others because of their skin color, religion or nation of origin. Sharing the truth helps build trust with your child, as they'll know they can come to you to answer the hard questions with honesty. Below is a family guide link from Virginia Theological Seminary that discusses how to support racial justice now.

<https://wendyclairebarrie.com/2020/06/07/a-short-family-guide-to-support-racial-justice-now/?fbclid=IwAR0SWOY76n9bCqWiloD0LYH66leR2GS6ga1h66v2ct5IJfZ6X2GFwX5vBCM>



3. Children's Books

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. Revelation 1:3

Reading makes all other learning possible. It is a building block of education and connection to the world, our imagination and possibilities. The books below are a small list that can also help explain racism and protest to your children. These are recommended by the New York Times, Christiana Cobb-Dozier, a school counselor in Los Angeles, and Christian Robinson, a Sacramento-based author and illustrator of children's books, about how to talk to children about racism. All can be found on amazon www.amazon.com

- *Black Is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy and Ekua Holmes
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Stagg
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi



4. Make signs for Black Lives

- Make signs from what you are discussing as a family and walk around your neighborhood to bring awareness to your community
- Organize a neighbor walk/peaceful protest for injustice
- Leave your signs in your yard on in your widows



5. Anti-Racism Resources

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

This is a working document for scaffolding anti-racism resources. The goal is to facilitate growth for white folks to become allies, and eventually accomplices for anti-racist work. These resources have been ordered in an attempt to make them more accessible. Click on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrAq4iBNb4nVlcTsLcNIW8zjaQXBLkWayL8EaPlh0bc/preview?pru=AAABcqPxvno%2A18uLsl_5J0wnuSzdE8F8MA&fbclid=IwAR3SHUpnA0HWmzxA0hxGkafuVQUokCY3eKNDN657B4i11RnZ5_qo5E4Wgis

RACIAL JUSTICE

6. Healing and Awareness through Music

I will sing of your love and justice; to you, LORD, I will sing praise. Psalm 101:1

Music has a way of opening our hearts and helping us feel more connected to others, to ourselves, and to the world around us. As a result, it is a direct line to our emotions and state of being. Consequently, it has been used as a therapeutic intervention since the late 18th century. By the early 20th century, physicians, musicians, and psychiatrists were using it as a treatment aid in a variety of settings.

- Lean on Me: Washington DC June 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSdLMsRfc3U>
- 12 year old gospel artist Keedron Bryant shared a heartfelt song about living life as a young black man in America following the tragic death of Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzmBWQ2p1sk>



7. Sabbath Rest

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. Genesis 2:3

- What will you do this week to observe Sabbath rest?

