

Confronting **Racism** as Spiritual Practice

*Book Study and Discussion hosted by
DaySpring Baptist Church*



Session 5: What Now?

1

Opening Prayer

2

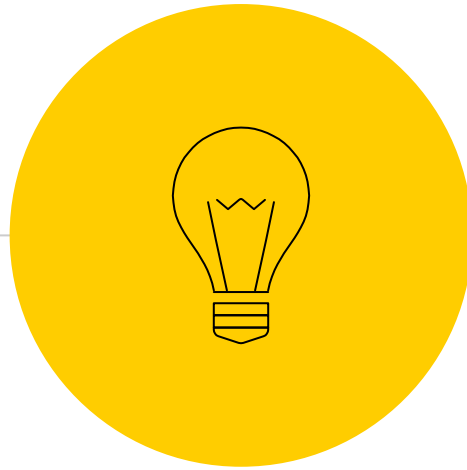
Confronting Racism as Spiritual Practice



Today's Topics

- The ARC of Racial Justice
- Living the Good Life in the Midst of Conflict
- Discerning Possibility

In breakout groups, you'll have an opportunity to share your reflections.



The ARC of Racial Justice

Awareness
Relationships
Commitment



Addressing Conflict

- ⦿ There is no way to confront racism without encountering conflict.
- ⦿ A commitment to nonviolence does not require avoiding confrontation.
- ⦿ Racism itself is antagonistic. We cannot dismantle the system without expecting resistance.
- ⦿ Christian churches have a role in promoting hope, reconciliation, and perseverance.



What does it look like to live a good life in the midst of conflict?

- ☉ We live a good life in the midst of ongoing conflict by taking responsibility for the impact of our actions on others.
- ☉ We live a good life in the midst of ongoing conflict by refusing to be afraid.
- ☉ We live a good life in the midst of ongoing conflict by maintaining an awareness of relatedness.
- ☉ We live a good life in the midst of ongoing conflict by discerning possibility.

From *Introduction to Christian Ethics: Conflict, Faith, and Human Life* by Ellen Ott Marshall p.148



Taking Responsibility

Complicity - » Accountability - » Responsibility

- ⦿ What harm am I causing?
- ⦿ How am I complicit in racism?
- ⦿ What is my work?



Being Courageous

The Real Culture Wars

- Culture of deception:
 - Repression
 - Silence
 - Morality dictated by fear of loss or devaluation
- Culture of Moral Courage
 - Empathy
 - Nonviolence
 - Seek and find relationships that support the surviving and thriving of all creation

Religious Ethical Mediation

- Living into tensions
- Processes of selfcriticism and mutual criticism from the perspective of global moral flourishing

From Marcia Riggs, "Living as Religious Ethical Mediators: A Vocation for People of Faith in the Twenty-First Century." in *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader*, edited by Katie Geneva Cannon, Emilie M. Townes and Angela D. Sims.



Maintaining Awareness of Relatedness

- ☉ Seeing ourselves as connected to others:

 - People with more power, status and privilege

 - People with less power, status and privilege

 - People with whom we disagree

- ☉ Working from a place of love, not ideology

 - 1 John 3: 124

 - How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action (v. 1718)

- ☉ Working from a commitment to justice, not ideology

 - See this video from the BibleProject that invites us to reflect upon the sadness and anger that has erupted in our culture over the realities of racial injustice in our world.

 - [Click here to watch video](#)

- ☉ Working cooperatively, not paternalistically



Discerning Possibility

When we hear these options, how might we respond with questions intended to elicit new information or insight?

- Reparation: corporate confession, repentance, and restoration
- Civic or Ecclesiastical Reparations
- Take down Confederate Monuments
- Learn from the Black Church
- Start a New Seminary/Compose a New Curriculum:
- Host Freedom Schools and Pilgrimages
- Make Juneteenth a Holiday
- Participate in the Modern Civil Rights Movement
- Publicly Denounce Racism
- Hold the Church Accountable for Ongoing Racism

4

Break

5

Breakout groups until 5:20 pm



Discerning Possibility

What is the church's role in a divided society?

- **The Church as Refuge:** *The church should refrain from taking political stances to create a sanctuary where diverse people come together to worship.*
- **The Church as Mediator** *The church should promote healing and understanding across divisions and teach skills to engage with different perspectives, listen to marginalized voices, and be agents of reconciliation.*
- **The Church as Prophetic Voice** *The church should be a prophetic voice in the midst of tensions. Responsibilities of the church include speaking to political issues, pursuing justice, and advocating for righteousness.*



Thanks!

Any questions ?



Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

● Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)

● Photographs by [Unsplash](#)