

# Lesson Plans that Work

## Racial Justice Lesson Plan for Youth

### Telling the Truth about the Church and Race

| Lesson Three Theme | Becoming Beloved Community Path             | Scripture 1                                  | Scripture 2  | Way of Love Practice |
|--------------------|---|--|--|----------------------|
| Privilege          | Telling the Truth about the Church and Race | <a href="#">James 2:1-26</a><br>Focus: 2:1-4 | <a href="#">Matthew 20:1-16</a><br>Focus: 20:10-16 | Bless                |

### Prayer

O God, look with pity on the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions.  
 Have mercy on us for what we see and what we ignore.  
 Help us to eliminate our cruelty to our neighbors.  
 Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all.  
 Help us be one who helps others.  
 And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land.  
 We ask all this through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.  
 – *Modified prayer for the Oppressed BCP p. 826*

### About Privilege

Privilege in the context of racial justice is those parts of our identities that benefit us. In our last lesson, we identified the dominant culture. Members of the dominant culture have certain levels of privilege, even if they differ in socioeconomic status or gender. If you are white, middle class or higher, cisgender, and male, you have more privilege than a black, middle-class or higher, cisgender, and female person. The intersectionality of our identities determines our level of privilege. For example, I am a black woman, so I don't have as much privilege as a white man. I have a master's degree and work full time, so I have privilege due to my education. Where I find privilege, I spend it on others with less than what I have. Being a person of color does not mean you are powerless. We have privilege to spend!

### Becoming Beloved Community Four-fold path:

#### Telling the Truth about the church and race

Acknowledging our privilege is a step in telling the truth about our complicity in racism and white supremacy.

## Baptismal Promise

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Questions:

- What have we done and left undone regarding racial justice and healing?
- How can we use our privilege to combat racism and bring about justice?

## Bible Study

**Scripture 1:** [James 2:1-26](#)

**Scripture 2:** [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

- Read James 2:1-26. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- Read verses 2-4 and 26. What surprises you about these passages? Notice and comment on anything you wish to share.
- Read the four verses one more time. What do those verses say about privilege?
- Now read Matthew 20:1-16. What words or phrases do you notice?
- Read verses 10-16. What surprises you about those verses? Share any observations or realizations you have.
- Read verses 10-16 one more time. What do you think about the laborers who arrived first? What do those verses say about the landowner?
- How can you apply the learning from James to your understanding of privilege and spending your privilege?
- How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew inform your understanding of privilege? Did you learn more from the landowner or the laborers? Why?
- Read a different translation. How does it change your understanding of the scripture?

## Activity: Learn Our History, Write Your History

- Learn the history of our country's practices of slavery and racism. Picture books offer a way to study these issues in 32 pages. Or, read chapters six through nine in Tiffany Jewell's book *This Book is Anti-Racist*.
- Expand your identity map by writing your history. As you learn the history of this country's racism and white supremacy, include those aspects into your account, as appropriate. For example, did your family benefit from slavery, either directly or indirectly? Who can you ask? How does it feel, to tell the truth about your history?

## Way of Love practice: Bless

<https://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/practice/bless> (length 2:41 minutes)

Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

- How do you share your faith with others, explicitly or implicitly?
- How can you spend your privilege on others?
- What new way can you find to bless someone?

## **Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for your many blessings. Help me recognize my privilege and spend it on those who have less than I have. I ask this in the name of your son, my brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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