

Lesson Plans that Work

Racial Justice Lesson Plan for Youth

Practicing the Way of Love

Lesson Four Theme	Becoming Beloved Community Path	Primary Scripture	Scripture 2	Way of Love Practice
Bias	Practicing the Way of Love	John 4:1-42 Focus: v7-9	Luke 18:9-14 Focus: v11-13	Turn

Prayer

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit move every human heart. Move our hearts so that barriers that divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease. Move our hearts so that our divisions heal and we live in justice and peace. We pray these things in the name of our brother, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
- Modified prayer for Social Justice BCP p. 823

About Bias

Bias is something we all share. Bias is our likes and dislikes about groups or individuals. Our bias is greatly influenced by what we see in the media every day. Media doesn't just mean news, or social media, although it includes those outlets. Media also includes signs, billboards, commercials, tv show plots, songs, and books. Consider who creates the majority of those messages: the dominant culture. When our bias is at work, our actions don't match our values. Bias doesn't make someone racist, as all people have a bias. But actions based on our biases can result in racism and white supremacy. We have to keep our biases in check so we don't harm others with our words and actions.

Becoming Beloved Community Four-fold path: Practicing the Way of Love

Practicing the Way of Love helps us turn from our bias toward the vision of community God has for us.

Baptismal Promise

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Questions:

- How can we recognize our bias?
- How do we invite others to call us out when we don't recognize our bias?
- How will we grow as reconcilers, healers, and justice-bearers?
- How will we actively grow relationships across divisions and see Christ in the other?

Bible Study

Scripture 1: [John 4:1-42](#)

Scripture 2: [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Questions:

- Read John 4:1-42. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- Read verses 7-9. What surprises you about these passages? Notice and comment on anything you wish to share.
- Read the three verses one more time. What do those verses say about bias? What do you notice about Jesus' bias? The disciples' bias?
- Now read Luke 18:9-14. What words or phrases do you notice?
- Read verses 11-13. What surprises you about those verses? Share any observations or realizations you have.
- Read verses 11-13 one more time. What do these verses say to you about bias? What can we learn about how God wants us to see each other and ourselves?
- What happens once the Samaritans believe in Jesus?
- Read a different translation, like the Common English Bible, The Message, or King James. How does it compare? Which do you prefer?

Activity: Check Your Bias

Take the Harvard Implicit Bias test on racism. Please be aware that there are multiple tests; select the one called Race IAT. <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

- How did you score? Were you surprised by your results?
- Take the test at least one more time. Did your results change?
- What conclusions can you draw about bias based on your results? Share your thoughts in your community.
- If you wish, take other tests to check your bias about gender, age, weight, and other topics.

Review and revise your history. Make any changes you wish to make based on your understanding of bias, privilege, and racism. Check on your Beloved Community story in your group. Any changes or additions? Anything you need to remove?

Way of Love practice: Turn

<https://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/practice/turn> (length 3:54 minutes)

Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus

God offers us unlimited grace. Jesus' death grants us forgiveness from all our sins, including the sin of racism and all of its' evils that keep us separated from each other and God.

Prayer

God, you give me a mind to think and notice. Help me detect my bias when my actions don't match my intentions. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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