

Lesson Plans that Work

Racial Justice Lesson Plans for Youth

Lesson Six Theme	Becoming Beloved Community Path	Primary Scripture	Scripture 2	Way of Love Practice
Solidarity	Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions	Ephesians 2:13-22 Focus: 2:15-16	Micah 6:1-8 Focus: 6:8	Go

Prayer

Almighty God, you created us in your image.

Give us the grace to fight fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression.

Help us use our freedom to maintain justice in our communities.

Help us to honor and respect our freedom and use it to bring glory to you.

We ask these things in the name of our brother, your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever. Amen.

- Modified prayer for Social Justice BCP p. 209

About Solidarity

“If you have come here to help me, you’re wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

– Lilla Watson, Australian Aboriginal activist and artist

If we had to do the work of anti-racism alone, we’d be in trouble. It would be challenging, and we would probably quit after a while. The good news is that God wants us to do this work together, in community - just the way God wants us to join together in worship, prayer, and blessing others. We can work in solidarity with each other, with shared goals and actions that will build and grow the Beloved Community and dismantle racism.

Being an ally is a way to be in solidarity with black and brown people. A great way to be an ally is to spend your privilege. Another way is to speak up and out as soon as you see racism, even if it’s to your parents or teachers. As you choose the ways you will be an ally, make sure it’s not for show. When we add our lives of faith to our work dismantling racism, our intentions will be known by the people you seek to serve. Ensure you’re not trying to save anyone, though - people of color don’t need to be saved. We need you to use your agency to stop racism where you see it. None of us can do this work alone, and thankfully, we don’t have to.

Being an Ally vs. Living in Solidarity

In a wonderful conversation between Canon Stephanie Spellers and Dean Kelly Brown Douglas Dean Douglas shares her thoughts.

(This is typed out below, however if you have the capability, you can show the video of this conversation that starts around minute 16:00 <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/resources/podcasts/wilderness-time-podcast/> Session 3 Video)

“There’s one word that I don’t like to use, and that’s the word allies. Like when people say ‘we’re you’re ally’ because it always suggests to me that say in this instance we’re talking about the reality of the struggle against the temptations of white supremacy and people often say even in this moment to people of color “We’re your ally in that struggle.” No, actually, if you we’re going to talk about allies, we’re your ally because it’s your problem. When we suggest that we are allies we act as if it’s not our problem.

“When we think of the word solidarity, we are saying that we are absolutely with you in the struggle toward a more just future. The solidarity is a solidarity around the commitment. A commitment to a future where we not only say that in this instance black lives matters but we create future and a reality where they in fact do matter.

“This is, as you’ve often heard me say, a future where everyone is treated as the sacred precious children of God’s that they are. All are treated and respected equally as the sacred equal children of God’s that they are.

“...solidarity begins with solitary with the [people on the] underside. Listening, understanding, and recognizing what injustice looks like for them so and then therefore what justice looks like. We only know God’s justice when those on the outside and underside of that justice say AH! This is justice. Otherwise, all we’re doing is tweaking an unjust system, so it works for us. You only know it when people who have most experienced injustice tell you about it. So, a commitment to God’s justice always begins with solitary in listening and learning from those on the underside, the crucified class of people. That Jesus was crucified indicates his utter, absolute solidarity with those crucified classes of people. Uncompromised. Our solidarity means going through the cross.

“Solidarity doesn’t begin in conversation; it begins in action in the commitment.”

How Can You Live in Solidarity?

In a youth group forum at our church, a young person (Jaiya) who is a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color), shared a story about being at CVS with a friend standing in line. They were together but staggered as they were paying separately, and Jaiya was in front. The cashier called McKenzie up to pay, bypassing Jaiya. McKenzie said, “Excuse me, my friend was ahead of me. She’s next.” You don’t have to spend money to spend your privilege and live in solidarity, but you can also use your resources as you’re inclined and able.

Here are more ways you can spend your privilege and speak out.

- Invite someone who is usually not listened to or heard to speak before you.
- Interrupt and speak out when someone ignores or cuts off a person of color. This includes lighter-skinned people of color inviting darker-skinned people of color to speak.
- When you see something that’s not right, speak up. If you don’t feel safe, find help.
- When you notice aggression toward someone of a different race, think about how you can respond:
 - Interrupt the encounter.
 - Check with the person after the encounter.

- Step in.
- Deflect the situation by beginning a conversation with the one experiencing aggression.
- What are your ideas? Add them to your anti-racism toolkit and share them with your group.
- Tell someone who can help, such as a teacher, parent, friend, colleague.

Becoming Beloved Community Four-fold path:

Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions

Taking action in solidarity with people who do not benefit from the dominant culture's privileges means we spend our privilege to repair the breach created by racism and white supremacy.

Baptismal Promise

We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

We will, with God's help.

Questions:

- Reflecting on institutions and systems that are broken, how will solidarity help?
- How will we participate in the repair, restoration, and healing of people, institutions, and systems using solidarity as our method?
- How is solidarity different from allyship? How can solidarity help you to be an anti-racist?

Bible Study

Scripture 1: [Ephesians 2:13-22](#)

Scripture 2: [Micah 6:1-8](#)

Questions:

- Read Ephesians 2:13-22. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- Read verses 15-16, 19-20. 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 solidarity? How do they help your understanding of what it means to stand up with and for other people?
- Now read Micah 6:1-8. What words or phrases do you notice?
- Read verse 8. What surprises you about this verse? Share any observations or realizations you have.
- Read verse 8 one more time. What does this verse add to your understanding of solidarity?

Activity: Expose oppression & Add More Tools to your Toolkit

What systems or institutions cause disproportionate harm to people of color? Name them and record the names. These systems might include schools, clubs, stores, and churches. Are you a part of any of those systems? Speak about your experiences. Brainstorm ways you can be an ally, working in solidarity with others to dismantle racism in those systems.

Add to your anti-racism toolkit by continuing your education.

- If you learned about slavery, add knowledge about convict leasing.
- If you learned about the Great Migration, add knowledge about the Western settlements.
- If you learned about disproportionate incarceration, add knowledge about the crack epidemic vs. the heroin epidemic.

All of this knowledge adds to your ability to see others as siblings in Christ.

Read *Speaking of Freedom* by The Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and The Rev. Winnie Varghese. <https://medium.com/@revsteph/speaking-of-freedom-54ad2a49eb05>

Read Chapter 16 in *This Book Is Anti-racist* for ideas on allyship.

Way of Love practice: Go

<https://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/practice/go> (length 2:23 minutes)

Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus
How does solidarity depend on us practicing Go?

Prayer

God, thank you for all of your many blessings. I have so much for which to be thankful. Help me use my gifts and privilege to stand up for those who need justice and seek equality. Help me dismantle racism by standing next to my siblings in Christ, no matter how difficult it might be. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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