

21-Day Racial Justice Challenge

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we are committed to the work of dismantling structural racism. Racism is deeply embedded with American culture and history. Racism is not primarily about individual prejudice or an individual's beliefs and attitudes. Rather, racism in the U.S. is a socially constructed system. Some people are advantaged, and others are disadvantaged, merely because of their skin color, ethnic identity or their ancestral background. Social power and prejudice have combined to treat people differently, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Some people are privileged while others are oppressed. As a consequence, there is unequal and inequitable access to resources such as money, education, information and decision-making power.

Confronting the structures and systems in our community, state, nation, and world requires sensitivity and stamina. Before we can confront the harsh realities of racism, it is helpful to have a good foundation. The 21-day Racial Justice Challenge invites us to do something every day to raise awareness about the perniciousness of racism and encourage action in response to that awareness. This challenge has been adapted [by the Jonesboro Presbyterian Church](#) from the version developed by the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#).

Day 1 – Read the PC(USA) church-wide anti-racism policy, [“Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community.”](#)

Day 2 – Study the Week One lesson from the [Facing Racism Study Guide](#).

Day 3 – Watch an [updated version of the Clark doll experiment](#), which explores how early-in-life ideas of racial inferiority and superiority are internalized.

Day 4 – Study the Week Two lesson from the [Facing Racism Study Guide](#).

Day 5 – Read the [resolution](#) of the 223rd General Assembly of the PC(USA) on environmental racism.

Day 6 – Watch the Presbyterian Hunger Program's webinar, [“Impact of Environmental Justice on Low Income and Communities of Color.”](#)

Day 7 – Read what youth at the [2016 Triennium](#) learned about environmental racism.

Day 8 – Study the Week Three lesson from the [Facing Racism Study Guide](#).

Day 9 – Read [“Environmental Justice with Indigenous Peoples.”](#)

Day 10 – Watch the PBS documentary [“Unspoken: America’s Native American Boarding Schools.”](#)

Day 11 – [Take the awareness test.](#) Go out and change what you notice.

Day 12 – Study the Week Four lesson from the [Facing Racism Study Guide.](#)

Day 13 – Read the [Confession of Belhar.](#) Reflect on how your church is using and living into it.

Day 14 – Read the Stated Clerk’s statement: [“Are we complicit in the racism of the alt-right?”](#) by J. Herbert Nelson.

Day 15 – Study the Week Five lesson from the [Racing Racism Study Guide.](#)

Day 16 – Watch the TED Talk [“How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them”](#) by Verna Myers.

Day 17 – Read [“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”](#) by Peggy McIntosh.

Day 18 – Study the Week Six lesson from the [Racing Racism Study Guide.](#)

Day 19 – Watch [“Stated Clerk remembers recent victims of racial violence”](#) by J. Herbert Nelson.

Day 20 – Notice the structures and practices in your church. Raise questions about how they help or hinder racial equity.

Day 21 – Act: Commit to doing the challenge again. Invite someone to join you.

To learn more, please visit <https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/>