
Injustice Anywhere

Study Guide

Contributors

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This Study Guide is designed to be used along with the film as a tool for discussion, reflection, and action. It is written primarily with members and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in mind, but we hope that the guide will prove useful far beyond this faith community. Our prayer is that it helps us all as we seek racial and social justice for all God's people.

SECTION ONE: The Ferguson Uprising

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.” ~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK)

1. What are incidents of social justice crises in your city?
2. What did you see community folks doing that inspired you?
3. When those incidents of social justice took place, how did it make you feel? What were your initial reactions to what you felt, saw, heard, or experienced?
4. From whom, what, and where did you get your information regarding those incidents of social justice, and how did that information impact you?
5. How might matters regarding incidents of social injustice become a matter of faith for you? What biblical texts address those realities for you?
6. How does this film affect your views on racism?
7. The movement in Ferguson is often painted with a broad brush. What stories in the film counteract what you have heard? How does the film help you disrupt other dominant media narratives around people of color?

SECTION TWO: The Church Wakes Up!

“The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.” ~MLK

1. Church leaders realized early they had no real relationships with the people of Ferguson. What kinds of relationships do you need to nurture in your own community?
2. What keeps us from nurturing and strengthening community relationships? What might we do to overcome these barriers?
3. What are some possibilities that congregations can explore to begin the process of establishing relationships with the neighbors from their surrounding community?
4. How might those newly formed relationships strengthen and/or impact the work of your church, and the overall health of your community?
5. How do you understand the relationship between the church and politics—the church and the public stance it makes on justice issues? Can the church be political?
6. How has or how can involvement in social justice movements change the church/faith community?
7. How can Christianity, in particular because of its oppressive history as it relates especially to African Americans, be used to truly liberate people?

SECTION THREE: JOIN THE MOVEMENT

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” ~MLK

1. What do you think keeps people from getting involved in issues of racial justice?
2. How might our understanding of racial and social justice connect to the ministry and model set forth by the prophets, Jesus Christ, and the Apostles as described throughout the sacred text?
3. What is your congregation or organization’s next step in the struggle for racial justice?
4. What kinds of racial justice activities can you and/or your church begin within the next 3 months?
5. How can we teach children about injustice and diversity?
6. What kind of partnerships would help your work on racial justice to be more effective and sustainable? What municipal, organizational, or denominational connections might need to be made?
7. What specific roles would local organizers and activists like churches and people of faith to play?
8. What are the long-term policy changes we should be pressing for now?
9. How might the broader work and emphases of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) inform and support your work?

10. How can you ensure your congregation/region does not get stuck in conversations about race without ever moving to actions that impact racist structures?
11. How can we begin our work on structural racism within our congregations/regions? How can we impact structural racism at the general church level?



In cooperation with other Disciples, the National Benevolent Association (NBA) has supported efforts for justice and racial reconciliation in the St. Louis area by promoting and facilitating conversation, gathering, advocacy, and healing. The NBA commissioned this gathering of stories after the death of Michael Brown in August 2014 on behalf of local Disciples seeking to respond to the crisis. The viewpoints presented here reflect a story of collective experiences from individuals impacted by the events in Ferguson and do not necessarily represent the views of these supporting organizations.