



Leader Notes

Racism is based on pride and the felt need to exercise superiority over another group based on their ethnicity. It is based on the false idea that in order for someone to win, someone else must lose. That is not God's design. Imagine how different the world would be if we treated each other as we are: made in the image of God.

The Big Idea

What we believe and how we practice those beliefs should be a reflection of our love for God and His people

Focus Scripture

Genesis 1:26

Acts 17:26

Romans 2:11

Mark 12:30-31

Materials Needed

Conflicted Scripture Card

Come Together (5 minutes)

(or choose your own activity)

Think of your closest friend. What is one thing that makes the two of you so very different but you've learned to like about them?

Connect It: Racism is a word we hear a lot today, and it is definitely something that exists today. We're going to look at what God says about His people - His creation, and what that means about our behavior towards others. Our goal here today is not to argue about what the world says but to see what God has to say and what that means for us.

Talk About It! (25-30 minutes)

(get students talking and thinking – you may not have time to discuss every question)

1. What would you say racism is? Have you ever experienced racism?
2. Culture and media like to tell us what to think of each other. They like to take an opinion and present it as truth, often dividing people and pitting them against one another. I wonder how different people would be towards one another if we all understood what God says. Check out this short video clip.
(<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/176267>)
3. How should seeing others as image bearers (Genesis 1:26) change the way we see and treat people? Ask yourself, "am I showing others the respect they deserve because we are both made in the image of God?"
4. Look up Acts 17:26 and Romans 2:11. What do we learn about races from these two passages? (*we're all one race, human race, descended from one couple; God doesn't play favorites/make distinctions between races*)
5. God doesn't discriminate, we do. God created everyone equal; we are the ones who make decisions about who is superior and inferior. When we break from God's plan, hurt and pain is the result. There's only one real solution to ending racism. Check this out.

Video: (Conflicted Racism B on USB)

6. Look up Mark 12:30-31. How can you sum up the two greatest commandments?

7. How do you think the sin of racism would be impacted if we all lived out these two commandments?
8. Do you feel like you treat people differently based on the assumption that you are better or because of stereotypes that you may have heard? Why or why not? Is that really loving God and others?
9. How we react and treat others matters. It's important that we think about what WE do, how WE react. Check out this short clip.

Video (Conflicted Racism A on USB)

10. What thoughts do you have after hearing this short clip from Brett?



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Talk About It!

(continued)

10. It's important to think about our own behavior. We are accountable for the way we treat people. What can you do to understand others who are different than you?
11. When we love others, personal racism goes away. We can do all kinds of things to fight social injustices, but we have to look at our own hearts. Jesus died for ALL of us. If we want to change the world, we have to change hearts. What can you do to truly work at changing YOUR heart?
 - Are you welcoming to others, even those who are different than you?
 - When new people are around you, do they feel welcomed and loved?
 - When you are in a conversation with someone who disagrees with you, how do you handle it? Are you good at listening and asking questions or are you trying to make your point?

Next Step (10 minutes)

(help students apply this to their life)

Truth is we can't end racism, or any other social problems of the world, here tonight. We can't force others to change. However, we can begin to make the world better by starting with our own hearts. We start thinking about how we can be the best at loving God and loving others. We start catching ourselves when we find that we're not looking at others as humans created by God in His image.

I challenge you to keep these thoughts going by completing this 5 day devotional with me. Look for "Trending:Race" on YouVersion. This is a small step we can take to keep working on our own hearts.

Also, share the Conflicted: Racism scripture card with each student as a reminder of what God has to say about this.

Pray together

