

What Would Jesus Do ~
What Can I Do?:
A Seven Week Study on Social Justice Issues

A Huffman Ministries, Inc. Publication



Teacher's Manual
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Table of Contents
Teacher's Manual

Teacher's Section	34
Handouts	39
Invitational Flyer	40
Children Need	41
Fillmorian Thoughts on Child Rearing	42
95 Theses	43
Letter from a Birmingham Jail	49
Resources – Homophobia	57
Spong's Speech on Homosexuality	58
Classes	
Our Role In Creating a Socially Just World	9
Social Justice for Children	14
Social Justice for Women	18
Feeding the Hungry: What is the Christian's Role?	21
Racism: Do We Still Carry It Within Us?	24
Our Home: A Clean, Sustainable Environment	27
Homophobia and Heterosexism	31

Table of Contents
Student Workbook

Our Role In Creating a Socially Just World	8
Social Justice for Children	14
Social Justice for Women	20
Feeding the Hungry: What is the Christian's Role?	25
Racism: Do We Still Carry It Within Us?	29
Our Home: A Clean, Sustainable Environment	34
Homophobia and Heterosexism	38

Teacher's Guide or For the Facilitator

You have agreed to facilitate seven weeks of critical conversation around social justice issues. This is a big task! Huffman Ministries hopes to make your job easier by offering:

- ☞ Core ideas
- ☞ Conversation
- ☞ Quotes
- ☞ Viewpoints
- ☞ Learning activities
- ☞ Teaching ideas
- ☞ Resources
- ☞ Meditations
- ☞ Handouts
- ☞ A teacher's supply list
- ☞ Other materials or suggestions you might need to do a quality job with these topics.

Please read this guide thoroughly for additional ideas and ways to work with a group, develop as much active participation as possible, and keep the group lively and upbeat. The topics are presented in *alphabetical order* for your convenience in re-referencing the topics later.

Alphabetically Ordered Teacher Topics

Agreement/Disagreement

There is probably no document in existence that every person would totally agree with. You, as a facilitator, may not like or appreciate the writer's comments or those of others who are quoted in the material. Your students might take offense to some of the material or to the ways you present it. Never fear! Take it all in stride and remember the times you didn't appreciate everything being presented to you. Ask for a little tolerance and patience and stop for prayer whenever needed. As long as your group sticks to your group agreements, everything should be smooth.

Equipment and Supplies

We have chosen not to make this an equipment intensive course. The facilitator is not asked to use PowerPoint slides or a computer in class. It would be helpful if each week a cassette or CD player were available for music. Occasionally it is suggested that students use an internet-capable computer to perform a search, but if this is not possible in your meeting place, simply suggest an alternative activity.

Many activities involve supplies such as paper, crayons, a flip chart or white board, etc. The facilitator will make sure these supplies are available for class each week or ask for a volunteer to help with providing, purchasing, and organizing the supplies.

V. Racism: Do We Still Carry It Within Us?

Opening

Welcome

Group Agreements and Details

Opening Prayer

Core Message (29)

Are we really healed from old racist views?

Scripture and Quotes (29)

Hebrews 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers.

I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. Out of the hard and unusual struggle through which he is compelled to pass, he gets a strength, a confidence, that one misses whose pathway is comparatively smooth by reason of birth and race. –Booker T. Washington

For every man who lives without freedom, the rest of us must face the guilt. –Lillian Hellman, *The Watch on the Rhine*, 1941

Unless man is committed to the belief that all mankind are his brothers, then he labors in vain and hypocritically in the vineyards of equality. –Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law. –Aristotle

I have a dream that one day...the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. –Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ask if the group knows of other scriptures or quotes that would support our theme.

Key Ideas (29)

Explore our deepest thoughts and fears about those of different color and custom.

Special Presentation (29)

Large group discussion. The teacher asks the hard questions, in increasing level of complexity (as teachers feels led by responses in the room), allowing students to answer and discuss. Ask for a scribe to document responses on a flip chart.

1. What are your feelings about racism at this time?
2. Can you tell about a time when you disliked people of another culture or race?
3. Which racial epithets or slurs were you taught in your family of origin?
4. How do you feel about this language today?
5. What are ways in which you have chosen not to include people from different races in your life?
6. How would you feel if your daughter or sister married a man from another culture?

7. Would you consider marrying a person of a different skin color?
8. How do you feel about interracial marriage and the children of such marriages?
9. Are you more afraid when you meet a black man on the street than when you meet a white man on the street?
10. Are you more uncomfortable on an elevator with a person of another race than you are with someone of your own race?
11. What do you still have to learn about people who are different from you?
12. In what ways would you be spiritually advanced by spending more time with people from various cultures and nations?
13. What do you do today to understand people who are not like you?
14. What do you wish you had done in the past to know more about different cultures?
15. Do you believe that God had a chosen people to the detriment and ill treatment of all others?
16. Can you tell about a time when you were a victim of racism? How did it feel? What would you have done to stop it if you had unlimited resources at the time? What would you do now to keep others from being a victim of racism as you were?
17. Do you believe that there are different people in the world for a reason deeper than we can understand? Why or why not?

Suggestions for Small Group Exploration (32)

Discuss a time when, in your thinking or language, you were less than in alignment about people of different color and custom.

To whom might you appeal for help with lingering questions or fears around race?

What did that feel like? How would you like to respond differently now?

What are tools do we have in Unity that might be useful with continued healing around these issues?

Do you still have unhealed issues around race or ethnicity? If so, can you document them for later exploration?

Activity Options (32)

1. Draw a picture, write a poem or song lyrics, or do a dance or pantomime that describes your feeling of oneness with all peoples of the world.
2. Hand out copies of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* (available in the Handouts section). Spend as much time as possible reading over it – becoming familiar or re-familiar with it – and ask a class member to lead a group prayer over our awarenesses of continued racism and our role in it. How can we heal ourselves? How can continued racism be stopped?

Music or Media

Choose from a wide variety of songs that celebrate oneness with others. A few suggestions are Daniel Nahmod's "One Power," Barbra Striesand's "People." Or think of others that would support the theme.

Handout or Take-home

Letter from a Birmingham Jail (MLK, Jr.) Ask students who have not read it to read it this week in their prayer and devotional time.

Follow-up Activity or Suggestion (33)

Each night this next week before bed, sing this familiar bedtime prayer to yourself:

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

In your quiet prayer and meditation time before bed, ask yourself how you feel about this song. What do you believe was the original intent of the lyricist? Why would Christian people have chosen to teach this song to their children? Pray, asking for deliverance from any fear you may still carry in your mind or body around people who are different from you. If anything comes up for you, pray believing that you are strong, powerful, and able to overcome any old teaching or belief system that no longer serves you.

Final Comments on Core Message (33)

Are we really healed from old racist views? Today we have done some deep work on our feelings about early teachings that might not be working for us today. Let us continue searching and peeling off onion layers of error thought in order to continue healing and moving forward on our spiritual path with God and all other sentient beings.

Closing

Thank helpers, attendees, and guests
Announce next week's subject and hand out invitation flyers
Final announcements
Group Pray-out

Teacher's Supply List

Worksheet for small group exploration
Flip chart
CD player
CD's of oneness with all people
Paper and markers
Copies of Letter from a Birmingham Jail