



**CYF**  
**RACIAL  
JUSTICE  
RESOURCE**

Racial Justice  
Resource for  
those who work  
with children and  
young people

*Children, Young People and Families*



**Joining the dots between  
church, home and community**

The CYF (Children, Young people, and Families) Round Table is made up of people from around our Baptist family, who have a regional or association responsibility in these areas. All of these leaders have experience, training and a passion for working with children, young people and families. For further information visit [www.baptist.org.uk/cyf](http://www.baptist.org.uk/cyf)



## **Introduction**

Welcome to this resource created by the Children, Young People and Families Round Table. It aims to speak positively into the racial justice issues which were illustrated so clearly during 2020 following the death of George Floyd. Through history, reflection and questioning we hope to create space that will open new avenues for conversation.

## **Contents**

### **Black and Brown people: a walk through history**

How many influential people of colour and societies do you know about? These pages provide important places to start.

### **Resources**

Films, books, YouTube clips and websites to help you reflect

### **Questions**

What are the experiences and who are the voices that are informing your thinking regarding racial justice?

### **Space to Encounter God**

Bible study, reflection, prayers

### **Conclusion**

What is your next step? What are the words that you need to speak?



## Black and Brown people - early history

### 43 AD



**Roman rule in Britain begins. The Numerus Maurorum Aurelianorum, an African auxiliary unit, takes its position on Hadrian's Wall (c100-c400) as part of the Roman army and helps guard the outermost reaches of the empire. During the Roman Empire several Roman Emperors were born in Africa.**

### 354

**Augustine of Hippo born. Augustine and his family were Berbers, an ethnic group indigenous to North Africa. Also known as Saint Augustine, he was a theologian, philosopher, and the Bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa. He arguably is the most influential theologian of Western Christianity..**

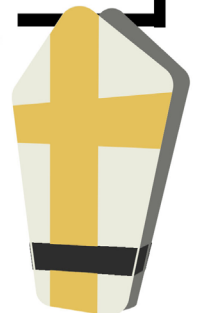
### 400



**Kingdom of Ghana. A large sub-Saharan state established. Archaeological evidence suggests that Ghana had achieved a high level of civilisation (advanced metalworking, an indigenous trading network). Its capital, Koumbi Saleh, had a population of 30,000.**

### 668

**African-born scholar Hadrian of Canterbury, having rejected a papal request to become Archbishop of Canterbury, travels to Britain with Theodore, who took up the post instead. Hadrian becomes an abbot in Canterbury.**



### 1100

**Massive stone structures in Zimbabwe show that a civilisation flourished around this time. Although these ruins are very impressive, with a great wall measuring 246m long, this ancient city is just one of many in the region. More than 600 stone ruins have been identified in modern-day Zimbabwe and nearly 7,500 have been found in Northern South Africa.**



# 1350

**The highly centralised Kingdom of Kongo is established during this period and is surrounded by the formidable kingdoms of Teke, Tio, Dembo and Ndongo. One of its kings, Mani Kongo Diogo 1, tried unsuccessfully to stop the Atlantic slave trade.**



# 1604



**A play featuring a fully rounded black leading character, Othello, is performed for the first time. In some ways Shakespeare's portrayal of a black character was far superior to the often dehumanising representations of black people that were to follow in much European literature.**

# 1739

**After a long-running war, the Maroons (runaway enslaved Africans who formed their own communities) force Edward Trelawny, the British governor of Jamaica, to sign a peace agreement.**



# 1773

**Phillis Wheatley, an African American, comes to London where her poetry had gained a following. She has a book of poems published.**





## Black and Brown historical figures



**W.E.B** Du Bois - Sociologist, activist  
**1868-1963**

The first African American to gain a PhD from Harvard, Du Bois wrote several studies on American black society. He later became a key figure in the civil rights movement and co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

**Harriet** Tubman - Abolitionist  
**1820-1913**

A runaway slave, Tubman went on to aid the escape of hundreds of slaves via the Underground Railroad, a network of houses willing to help those on their way to freedom in Canada. Nicknamed 'Moses', she later served in the Civil War.



**Lewis** Howard Latimer - Inventor  
**1848-1928**

The son of escaped slaves, Latimer is considered one of the greatest black inventors, notably due to his improvement of carbon filaments in light bulbs. He worked with Thomas Edison and Alexander Bell and secured many different patents.

**Marcus** Garvey - Civil rights activist  
**1887-1940**

Garvey became an inspiration for future civil rights activists by travelling across America urging African-Americans to be proud of their heritage and to return to the continent. He founded the Black Star Shipping Line and United Negro Improvement Association.



**Sam** Sharpe - Freedom fighter and Baptist minister  
**1804-1832**

A Baptist deacon, a freedom fighter and the main instigator of the 1831 Slave Rebellion in Jamaica which was instrumental in bringing about the abolition of slavery.

**Yaa Asantewaa - An influential Ashanti Queen  
1850**

Her birthdate is contested; she is generally believed to be born between the 1840s to 1860s in the Ashanti Confederacy in present-day Ghana. She was a skilled farmer before ascending to the title Queen Mother in the 1880s. It is believed that she was chosen for this title due to the matrilineal aspect of the Ashanti culture and that her elder brother Nana Akwasi Afrane Okpase, who was a powerful ruler at the time, appointed her to the role. Her leadership and passion led to her role as Commander in Chief of the Ashanti army.



**Frederick Douglass - Abolitionist, writer,  
statesman**

**1818-95**

A former slave, Douglass became one of the primary abolitionists in America. His books and speeches focused on his experiences. He started *The North Star*, a newspaper edited and written by black people. He later campaigned for the rights of women.

**Paul Bogle - Cleric  
1822-65**

A hero in Jamaica, Bogle was a Baptist deacon who used his education and wealth to help the black community. He led the Morant Bay Rebellion, in which many were killed by British troops sent to quell the uprising. He was hanged by the British.



**Mary Seacole - Nurse  
1805-1881**

Seacole was a pioneering nurse and heroine of the Crimean War, who as a woman of mixed race overcame a double prejudice. Mary Jane Grant was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805. Her father was a Scottish soldier, and her mother a Jamaican. Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother, who kept a boarding house for invalid soldiers.







## ▶ **Black and Brown historical figures - continued**

### **Haile Selassie - World leader 1892-1975**

Accepted by Rastafarians as a symbol of God incarnate, the former emperor of Ethiopia became a worldwide anti-Fascist figure after appealing to the United Nations for help against Mussolini's invading armies. An ally of the west and opponent of colonisation.



### **Elijah McCoy – Inventor 1843-1929**

Often regarded as one of the most famous black inventors ever, McCoy was credited for 50 inventions over the span of his career. In an effort to improve efficiency and eliminate the frequent stopping necessary for lubrication of trains, McCoy devised a method of automating the task. In 1872 he developed a 'lubricating cup' that could automatically drip oil when and where needed — vital in avoiding sticking to the track. The lubricating cup met with enormous success and orders for it came in from railroad companies all over the country. It was so popular that when other inventors attempted to steal his idea and sell their own versions of the device, companies were not fooled. They insisted on the authentic device, calling it 'the Real McCoy'.



### **Gladys West - Mathematician 1930-**

Gladys West used her mathematical and programming expertise to invent an accurate model of the Earth which was used as the foundation for the creation of the Global Positioning System (GPS).




## Reflecting on Black History

Since 1966 in the comics, and from 2016 in the recent Marvel films, the African nation called Wakanda has been depicted as an advanced country. It helped show black and brown people and their heritage in a positive way. Many white people who live in Western countries often think of African countries as poor, underdeveloped and in need of help. It is also thought that before these countries had help from white people, they were very primitive people.

Looking at three historical examples shows this is not true:


**400**




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**1100**

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**1350**



**T**he highly centralised Kingdom of Kongo is established during this period and is surrounded by the formidable kingdoms of Teke, Tio, Dembo and Ndongo. One of its kings, Mani Kongo Diogo 1, tried unsuccessfully to stop the Atlantic slave trade.

What have you learnt?

Has the way you think about black and brown people changed?

How can you make a difference?



## Films to watch

Films are a very good way to reflect on issues and from a racial justice perspective these are well worth watching. Note the film age rating beside each title.



### **Hidden Figures (PG)**

The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the US space program.



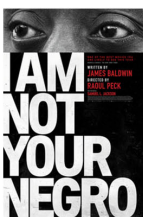
### **Black or White (12)**

A grieving widower is drawn into a custody battle over his granddaughter, whom he helped raise her entire life.



### **The Same Kind of Different As Me (12)**

International art dealer Ron Hall must befriend a dangerous homeless man in order to save his struggling marriage to his wife, a woman whose dreams will lead all three of them on the journey of their lives.



### **I Am Not Your Negro (12A)**

Writer James Baldwin tells the story of race in modern America with his unfinished novel, *Remember This House*.



### **American Son (15)**

An estranged couple reunite in a Florida police station to help find their missing teenage son.



### **13th - Netflix (15)**

An 'intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States', first released in 2016.



### **When They See Us - Netflix (15)**

Based on true events in 1989 this film explores the lives and families of the five male suspects who were falsely accused then prosecuted on charges related to the rape and assault of a woman in Central Park.



### **Just Mercy - Sky Movies/NowTV/Virgin Movies/Amazon (12)**

The true story of lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his battle for justice in Alabama, defending those wrongly condemned of crime on death row.



### **BlacKkKlansman - Sky Movies/Amazon/NowTV/Netflix (15)**

Based on the 2014 memoir *Black Klansman* by Ron Stallworth, and set in the 1970s, this follows the first African-American detective in the city police as he sets out to infiltrate and expose the local Ku Klux Klan chapter.



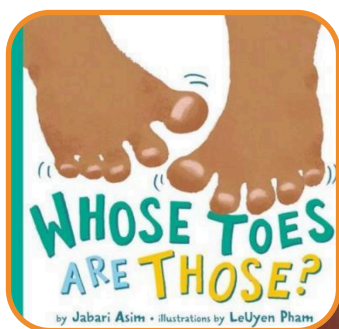


## Books to read

There are many books available that can help us all begin the process of educating ourselves regarding race and the injustices and inequalities that are faced by black and brown people. If you don't know where to begin then this link will lead you to a comprehensive list [www.baptist.org.uk/rjbooks](http://www.baptist.org.uk/rjbooks). Top choices to start with are: *We need to talk about Race* - Ben Lindsey and *Dear White Christians* - Jennifer Harvey.

What books might you read? Where are the spaces and people that can help you reflect on what you've read?

There is also opportunity for us to engage with the world of the child and the books that they're reading either at school or at home. There are plenty out there and this is just a very small selection.

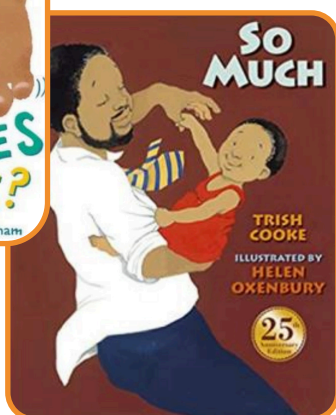


### **Whose Toes Are Those?**

Age: 0-3

Author: Jabari Asim

Illustrator: LeUyen Pham

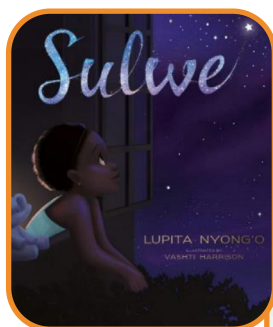


### **So Much**

Age: 3-5

Author: Trish Cooke

Illustrator: Helen Oxenbury

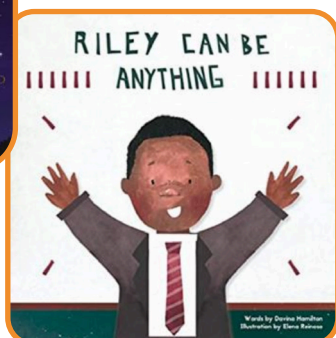


### **Riley Can Be Anything**

Age: 5-7

Author: Davina Hamilton

Illustrator: Elena Reinoso



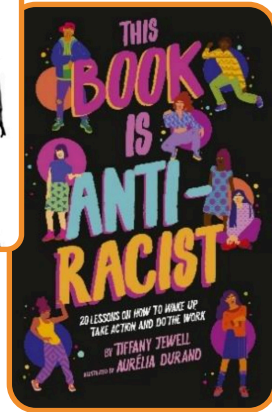
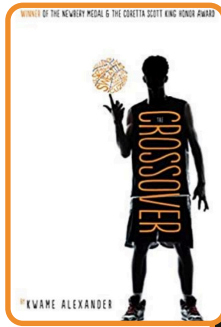
### **Sulwe**

Age: 5-8

Author: Lupita Nyong'o

Illustrator: Vashti Harrison





### **This Book is Anti-Racist**

Age: 9+

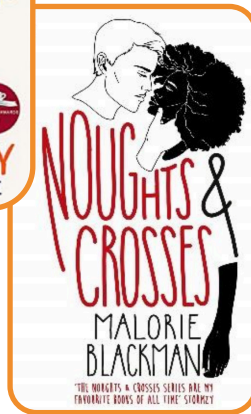
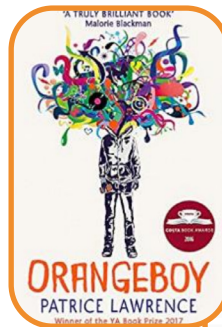
Author: Tiffany Jewell

Illustrator: Aurelia Durand

### **The Crossover**

Age: 9+

Author: Kwame Alexander



### **Noughts & Crosses**

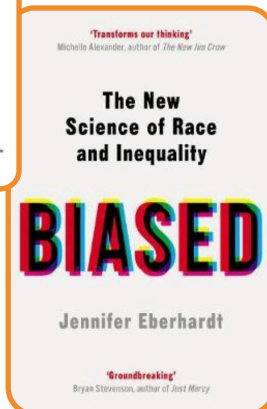
Age: 11+

Author: Malorie Blackman

### **Orangeboy**

Age: 13+

Author: Patrice Lawrence



### **Biased**

Age: 16+

Author: Jennifer Eberhardt

### **Why I'm No longer Talking to White People About Race**

Age: 16+

Author: Reni Eddo-Lodge

This could be a chance to look through the books that are in the crèche or toddler groups to make sure that the pictures include a range of skin tones and that the stories celebrate the diversity that there is in God's creation. Some of these books might be being read by the children and young people at school. How can we help them begin to bring their faith into those discussions and vice versa?





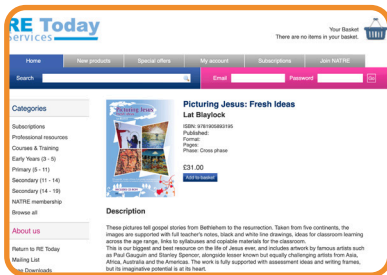
# Resources to engage with

There are many creative and informative ways which can inform your thinking and ministry around racial justice. Outlined below are particularly helpful resources which can be used personally and with groups of young people.



## Wonderful Youth

*Wonderful Youth* enables young people of colour to read the Bible through their cultural and theological lenses. It is also an opportunity to broaden the horizons of young white people who might only be familiar with their own cultural lens. There are currently three editions which can be found here <https://www.baptist.org.uk/wonderfulyouth>



## Picturing Jesus: Fresh ideas

These pictures tell gospel stories from Bethlehem to the resurrection. Taken from five continents, the images are supported with full teacher's notes, black and white line drawings, ideas for classroom learning across the age range, links to syllabuses and copiable materials for the classroom.

<https://shop.retoday.org.uk/9781905893195>



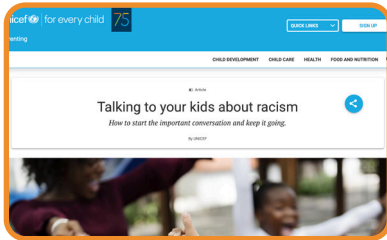
## Jesus Mafa

Vie de Jesus Mafa (Life of Jesus Mafa) was an initiative undertaken in the 1970s to help teach the gospel in Northern Cameroon. French Catholic missionary François Vidil worked with Mafa Christian communities in Cameroon to create an enormous catalogue of paintings depicting the life of Jesus as an African man. Now available to use free of charge <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/> and search 'Jesus Mafa'



## Parenting for Faith

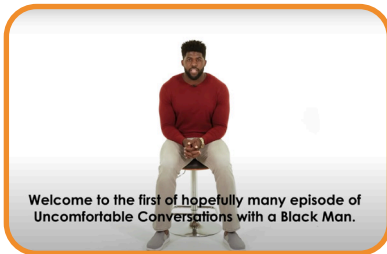
How can we talk to our children and teens about injustice? Parenting for Faith wanted to make their contribution to this discussion by helping families of all experiences, shapes and ethnicities explore what God says through scripture about injustice, whether it's racial, ethnic, social, gender or any other <https://parentingforfaith.org/post/injustice>



### Talking to your kids about racism

Conversations about racism and discrimination will look different for each family. While there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach, the science is clear: the earlier parents start the conversation with their children the better.

<https://www.unicef.org/parenting/talking-to-your-kids-about-racism>



### Uncomfortable conversations with a black man

Emmanuel Acho sits down to have an ‘uncomfortable conversation’ with white America, in order to educate and inform on racism, system racism, social injustice, rioting and the hurt African Americans are feeling today.

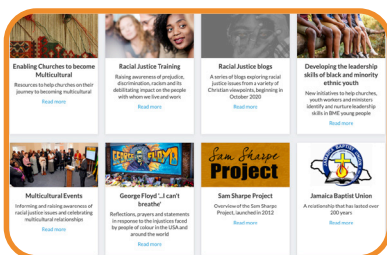
<https://youtu.be/h8jUA7JBkF4>



### Check your blind spot – Joshua Luke Smith

Joshua Luke Smith says ‘I wrote this poem because something has to change. For too long I’ve lived with an ignorance towards matters of race and privilege, not realising what I don’t know impacts people around me as much as what I do’.

<https://youtu.be/5f4b3ln7A4c>



### Baptists Together Website

The racial justice area of the Baptists Together website is an excellent starting point for a deeper dive into further resources including Just Aware, Journeying to Justice, Multicultural Church, Racial Justice Blogs, Sam Sharpe Project, webinars and the Racial Justice Advocacy Forum.

<https://www.baptist.org.uk/racialjustice>



## Questions to Ask

What are the experiences and who are the voices that are informing your thinking regarding racial justice? How can you make it an integrated aspect of your ministry?

How many times has a black or brown person preached in your church? If 'rarely', then take this opportunity to challenge the status quo by suggesting that the visiting preaching slots are used by under-represented groups. It is important for people to see people like themselves in the different roles at church, otherwise there is an unconscious assumption that some roles are for white people, some roles are for women, etc.



Are there families or young black or brown people that want to share their experiences with the youth group? (They might not, and that's fine too!) How might you help the young people or older children reflect on what they have heard or experienced themselves?

Are there YouTube clips that the young people are watching that have helped them with their thinking? Engage with the voices that they are listening to, however raw the language might be. Conversely, are they listening to voices that need challenging?



Take this opportunity to stop and look at your ministry through the lens of racial justice. In the crèche, do the toys and books represent a diverse expression of childhood and family life?

Are the images and clips that are used representative of a range of ethnicities? In preparing to facilitate a session or do a talk, do you only use commentaries or other books that are written by those who are white?



Is there diversity represented on your team? Who are the voices that are missing? How might they be included going forward?

Are there cultural behaviours that are preventing some from finding their voice or feeling that they are part of the church family?





# MANOELAKURE

A 19 year old West African boy stood, knelt and prayed where the statue once stood of a West African slave trader Bristol 2020

**Take some time to read the passage slowly.  
Is there a word or sentence that stands out for you?  
How does it make you feel?  
What does it reveal to you about God?  
What does it reveal to you about yourself?**

Quit your worship charades.  
I can't stand your trivial religious games:  
Monthly conferences, weekly Sabbaths, special meetings—  
meetings, meetings, meetings—I can't stand one more!  
Meetings for this, meetings for that. I hate them!  
You've worn me out!  
I'm sick of your religion, religion, religion,  
while you go right on sinning.  
When you put on your next prayer-performance,  
I'll be looking the other way.  
No matter how long or loud or often you pray,  
I'll not be listening.

And do you know why? Because you've been tearing people to pieces, and your hands are bloody.  
Go home and wash up.  
Clean up your act.  
Sweep your lives clean of your evildoings  
so I don't have to look at them any longer.  
Say no to wrong.  
Learn to do good.  
Work for justice.  
Help the down-and-out.  
Stand up for the homeless.  
Go to bat for the defenseless.  
*Isaiah 1: 13-17 (The Message)*





## Space To Encounter God

Take some time to look at the image.

What do you notice?

How does it make you feel?

Where do you notice God in this image?

Is there anywhere where God feels absent or silent?







## Prayers

Amie Buhari (member of the CYF Round Table and Director of the Hebe Foundation) asked us not to remain silent. All voices are welcomed and needed in challenging the structures that exclude and silence the voices of our black and brown brothers and sisters. In light of this, members of the CYF Round Table were encouraged to add their voice through prayers of lament and petition. Here are some of our prayers - what would your prayer be?

**Lord I ask for your forgiveness that it has taken me  
so long to understand my place of privilege,  
given to me by luck of the place of my birth.  
I recognise my privilege to have been born in to freedom.  
God help me to use it to fight for justice to stand up for those  
who don't have a voice or who are tired of speaking.  
Give me courage to choose to speak up and not be a bystander.  
Open my eyes and ears to see what goes on around me to re-learn our history.  
I choose not be implicit by my silence.  
Lord I offer my hands, feet and voice to stand for justice  
Amen**

### **Voice**

*God your voice has power  
Where there was chaos your voice created diverse beauty  
God your voice has power  
Where there was no hope you spoke promises and gave hope  
God your voice became flesh and showed us freedom  
Our voice has power may we use it to challenge, may our voice bring about  
change, may our voice make a difference.  
Our voice needs to become flesh... may our presence bring freedom and hope.*

### **Silence**

*For the times when our silence has colluded with the structures that oppress -  
we are sorry.  
For when our voice has silenced others - we are sorry.  
Instead may our voice choose silence so that another voice may be heard.  
May our silence be a place of stillness with God so that our hearts, minds and  
bodies are ready for action.  
And may our voice join with others in the cries for justice.*

May you have the space to feel all that you need to feel.  
May you have the company of friends and family where you can just be.  
As you journey through times of light and shade,  
may you encounter the love of the One that knows you and all that you need.





Lord of Heaven and Earth, Creator of us all.  
We are all made in your image yet when I remain silent, when I am afraid,  
when I feel awkward, I do not see,  
I do not listen and I do not say.  
Lord forgive me for my part in racial injustice.  
Where I feel shame, may you bring boldness to speak out.  
Where I feel awkward, may you show me how to hold injustice up to the light.  
When my friends are weary, open my mouth.  
When my friends are persecuted, stand me up.  
Lord continue to open my eyes to see.  
Amen

**God says – “I see you”**  
**I see your pain**  
**I see your suffering**  
**I see your history**  
**I see who you are meant to be**  
**I see all your potential**  
**I see all your unspoken longings**  
**I see you as equal**  
**I see you as my child**  
**I see you created in my image**  
**God says – “I see you”**

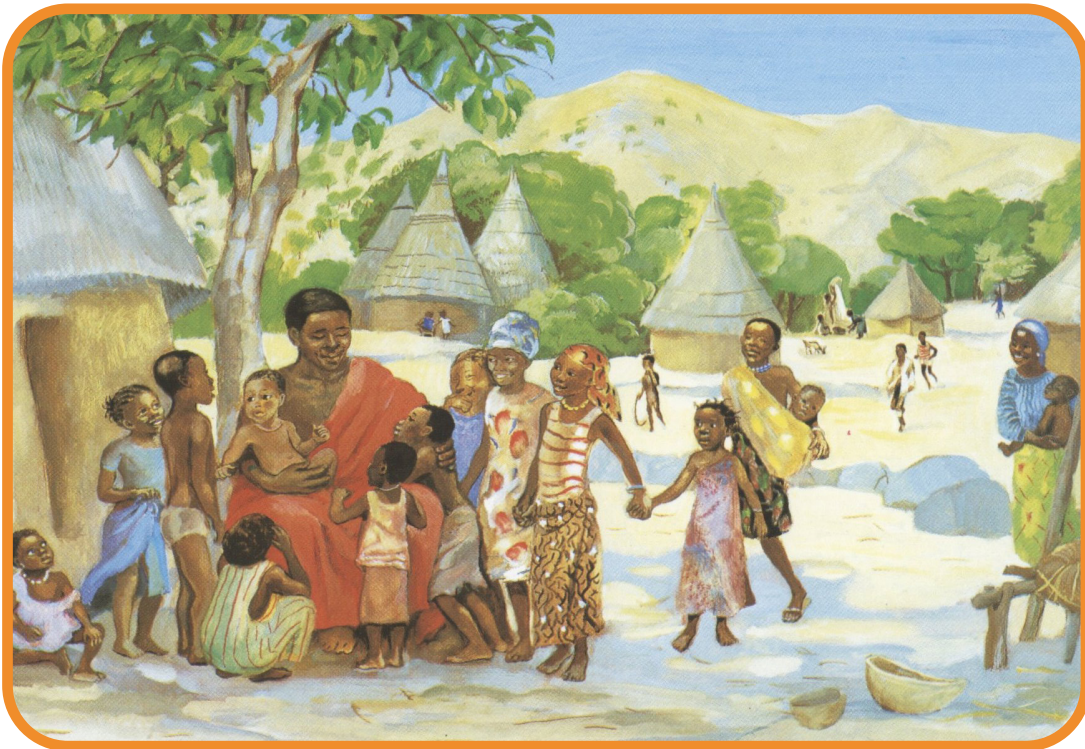




## Conclusion

This resource was only ever meant to be a conversation starter. A way of encouraging us to start talking and listening to the young people that we work with. A way of helping children celebrate their wonderful diversity. A way of supporting families in having these vital conversations. Finally, we hope it has been an opportunity for you to stop, to ponder and wonder what might be and the part you can play.

What is your next step? What are the words that you need to speak? How will you continue to change the culture so that it reflects God's kingdom more closely? How will you engage with racial justice so that it remains part of your church's mission? The one thing we can't do is nothing.



**May you give away power so that another can use theirs**  
**May you know when to be silent so that another voice can be heard**  
**May you be willing to change so that another can find their place of belonging**  
**And may you know God's presence as you pursue justice in all that you do**

# Credits

## People Images

Frederick Douglass:

[https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/55500/55558/55558\\_douglass\\_fre.htm](https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/55500/55558/55558_douglass_fre.htm)

Elijah McCoy:

<https://www.invent.org/inductees/elijah-mccoy>

Haile Selassie:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haile\\_Selassie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haile_Selassie)

Lewis Latimer:

<https://blackinventor.com/lewis-latimer>

Harriet Tubman:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e3/Harriet\\_Tubman\\_1895.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e3/Harriet_Tubman_1895.jpg)

Marcus Garvey:

<https://jis.gov.jm/information/heroes/marcus-mosiah-garvey>

Mary Seacole:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Seacole#/media/File:Mary\\_Jane\\_Seacole.jpeg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Seacole#/media/File:Mary_Jane_Seacole.jpeg)

Paul Bogle:

<https://jis.gov.jm/information/heroes/paul-bogle>

Sam Sharpe:

<https://jis.gov.jm/information/heroes/samuel-sharpe>

Gladys West:

<https://media.defense.gov/2018/Dec/06/2002069983/-1/-1/0/181206-F-DT527-087.JPG>

W E B Du Bois:

[https://housatonicheritage.org/education/du\\_bois\\_educational\\_series](https://housatonicheritage.org/education/du_bois_educational_series)

Yaa Asantewaa:

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Manoel Akure close up image: Nenagh Jones

## Other images

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1773 Phillis Wheatley:

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Theatre Masks:

FreePik.com

Flags:

from Wikipedia

## Jesus Mafa images:

Christ on Gethsemane

Holy Family

Jesus among the teachers

Jesus as a child in Nazareth

Jesus welcomes the children

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-processquery.pl?SID=20210716817189439&code=act&code=act&SubjectLC=Christian+art+and+symbolism+--+Cameroon&SortOrder=Title&=phrase>

## Content sources include:

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*Children, Young People and Families*



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