



Anti-Racism Resource List

Our larger community is being called into the significant work of joining God's renewal, a renewal that's ushering greater racial justice, reconciliation, and level ground. This is long work to commit ourselves to, but we're in it together, and hope the following resources will help equip our community for the journey. While learning and unlearning are important parts of this renewal, they are not the end goal. Our hope is that these resources will help us understand the complex layers that give racism power in our world, so that we can begin to disassemble its power—both in our own lives, in our church life, and in the city of Vancouver.

Note: This list was adapted from a pastoral colleague who shares similar values as Artisan Church. Last modified June 23, 2020.

Books

The following suggestions are organized by genre: memoir, non-fiction, theological non-fiction, and Canadian fiction. Descriptions were copied and pasted from various reviews or online summaries.

Memoir

***Between the World And Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Written in the form of a letter to Coates's 15-year-old son, who is trying to make sense of blatant racial injustice and come to grips with his place in a world that refuses to guarantee for him the freedoms that so many others take for granted. "I write you in your 15th year," Coates states in the early pages. "And you know now, if you did not before, that the police departments of your country have been endowed with the authority to destroy your body. . . . I tell you now that the question of how one should live within a black body, within a country lost in the Dream, is the question of my life, and the pursuit of this question, I have found, ultimately answers itself."

The biggest question for Coates is rooted in the hidden connection between the American Dream as lived in the suburbs and the violence that ruled his daily life growing up in Baltimore. "Fear ruled everything around me, and I knew, as all black people do, that this fear was connected to the Dream out there, to the unworried boys, to pie and pot roast, to the white fences and green lawns nightly beamed into our television sets. But how? Religion could not tell me. The schools could not tell me. The streets could not help me see beyond the scramble of each day. And I was such a curious boy."

***I've Been Meaning To Tell You: A Letter To My Daughter* by David Chariandy**

When a moment of quietly ignored bigotry prompted his three-year-old daughter to ask "what happened?" David Chariandy began wondering how to discuss with his children the politics of race. A decade later, in a newly heated era of both struggle and divisions, he writes a letter to his now thirteen-year-old daughter. David is the son of Black and South Asian migrants from Trinidad, and he draws upon his personal and ancestral past, including the legacies of slavery, indenture, and immigration, as well as the experiences of growing up a visible minority within the land of one's birth (Canada). In sharing with his daughter his own story, he hopes to help cultivate within her a sense of identity and responsibility that balances the painful truths of the past and present with hopeful possibilities for the future.

***I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown**

From a powerful new voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up black, Christian, and female in middle-class white America. Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with a racialized America came at age seven, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, Austin writes, "I had to learn what it means to love blackness," a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America's racial divide as a writer, speaker, and expert who helps organizations practice genuine inclusion.

In a time when nearly all institutions (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claim to value "diversity" in their mission statements, *I'm Still Here* is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words. Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric—from black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations. For listeners who have engaged with America's legacy on race through the writing of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michael Eric Dyson, *I'm Still Here* is an illuminating look at how white, middle-class Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the listener to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how blackness—if we let it—can save us all.

Theological Non-Fiction

***Rediscipling the White Church: From Cheap Diversity to True Solidarity* by David W. Swanson**

In this simple but powerful book, Pastor David Swanson contends that discipleship, not diversity, lies at the heart of our white churches' racial brokenness. Before white churches can pursue diversity, he argues, we must first take steps to address the faulty discipleship that has led to our segregation in the first place. White evangelical churches must also realize that the main tools they have used to assess the world (individualism, relationalism, and anti-structuralism) are unable to address racism. Drawing on the work of philosopher James K. A. Smith and others, Swanson proposes that we rethink our churches' habits, or liturgies, and imagine together holistic, communal discipleship practices that can reform us as members of Christ's diverse body.

***The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Christian Origins of Race* By Willie James Jennings**

Jennings' masterpiece describes in detail the way heretical theology set the stage for the eventual social construct of race. The book traces this neglected (intentionally forgotten?) history by following the lives of a few different key individuals from around the world. This book is more academic but is a masterpiece. If you aren't sure about taking the deep dive just yet, you can read an article length version [here](#).

***Can "White" People Be Saved?: Triangulating Race, Theology, and Mission.* Edited by Love L. Sechrest, Johnny Ramírez-Johnson, and Amos Yong.**

Yes, White people can be saved. In God's redemptive plan, that goes without saying. But what about the reality of white normativity? This idea and way of being in the world has been parasitically joined to Christianity, and this is the ground of many of our problems today. It is time to redouble the efforts of the church and its institutions to muster well-informed, gospel-based initiatives to fight racialized injustice and overcome the heresy of whiteness.

Written by a world-class roster of scholars, *Can "White" People Be Saved?* develops language to describe the current realities of race and racism. It challenges evangelical Christianity in particular to think more critically and constructively about race, ethnicity, migration, and mission in relation to white supremacy.

Historical and contemporary perspectives from Africa and the African diaspora prompt fresh theological and missiological questions about place and identity. Native American and Latinx experiences of colonialism, migration, and hybridity inspire theologies and practices of shalom. And Asian and Asian American experiences of ethnicity and class generate transnational resources for responding to the challenge of systemic injustice. With their call for practical resistance to the Western whiteness project, the perspectives in this volume can revitalize a vision of racial justice and peace in the body of Christ.

***Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys: A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way* by Richard Twiss**

The gospel of Jesus has not always been good news for Native Americans. The history of North America is marred by atrocities committed against Native peoples. Indigenous cultures were erased in the name of Christianity. As a result, to this day few Native Americans are followers of Jesus. However, despite the far-reaching effects of colonialism, some Natives have forged culturally authentic ways to follow the way of Jesus. In his final work, Richard Twiss provides a contextualized Indigenous expression of the Christian faith among the Native communities of North America. He surveys the painful, complicated history of Christian missions among

Indigenous peoples and chronicles more hopeful visions of culturally contextual Native Christian faith. For Twiss, contextualization is not merely a formula or evangelistic strategy, but rather a relational process of theological and cultural reflection within a local community. Native leaders reframe the gospel narrative in light of post-colonization, reincorporating traditional practices and rituals while critiquing and correcting the assumptions of American Christian mythologies. Twiss gives voice to the stories of Native followers of Jesus, with perspectives on theology and spirituality plus concrete models for intercultural ministry. Future generations of Native followers of Jesus, and those working cross culturally with them, will be indebted to this work.

***White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to Be White* by Daniel Hill**

Daniel Hill will never forget the day he heard these words: "Daniel, you may be white, but don't let that lull you into thinking you have no culture. White culture is very real. In fact, when white culture comes in contact with other cultures, it almost always wins. So it would be a really good idea for you to learn about your culture." Confused and unsettled by this encounter, Hill began a journey of understanding his own white identity. Today, Hill is a pastor actively addressing and confronting racial and systemic injustices.

In this compelling book, which is part memoir and part non-fiction, Hill shows you the seven stages to expect on your own path to cultural awakening. It's crucial to understand both personal and social realities in the areas of race, culture, and identity. This book will give you a new perspective on being white and also empower you to be an agent of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.

***Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah**

You cannot discover lands already inhabited. Injustice has plagued American society for centuries. And we cannot move toward being a more just nation without understanding the root causes that have shaped our culture and institutions. In this prophetic blend of history, theology, and cultural commentary, Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah reveal the far-reaching, damaging effects of the "Doctrine of Discovery." In the fifteenth century, official church edicts gave Christian explorers the right to claim territories they "discovered." This was institutionalized as an implicit national framework that justifies American triumphalism, white supremacy, and ongoing injustices. The result is that the dominant culture idealizes a history of discovery, opportunity, expansion, and equality, while minority communities have been traumatized by colonization, slavery, segregation, and dehumanization. Healing begins when deeply entrenched beliefs are unsettled. Charles and Rah aim to recover a common memory and shared understanding of where we have been and where we are going. As other nations have instituted truth and reconciliation commissions, so do the authors call our nation and churches

to a truth-telling that will expose past injustices and open the door to conciliation and true community.

***Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* by Randy Woodley**

Materialism. Greed. Loneliness. A manic pace. Abuse of the natural world. Inequality. Injustice. War. The endemic problems facing America today are staggering. We need change and restoration. But where to begin? In *Shalom and the Community of Creation* Randy Woodley offers an answer: learn more about the Native American 'Harmony Way,' a concept that closely parallels biblical shalom. Doing so can bring reconciliation between Euro-Westerners and indigenous peoples, a new connectedness with the Creator and creation, an end to imperial warfare, the ability to live in the moment, justice, restoration—and a more biblically authentic spirituality. Rooted in redemptive correction, this book calls for true partnership through the co-creation of new theological systems that foster wholeness and peace.

***Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization.* Illustrated by Jonathan Dyck and edited by Steven Heinrichs.**

For generations, the Bible has been employed by settler colonial societies as a weapon to dispossess Indigenous and racialized peoples of their lands, cultures, and spiritualities. Given this devastating legacy, many of these people want nothing to do with it. But is it possible for the exploited and their allies to reclaim the Bible from the dominant powers? Can it serve as an instrument for justice in the cause of the oppressed, and even a nonviolent weapon toward decolonization?

In *Unsettling the Word*, over 60 Indigenous and Settler authors come together to wrestle with the Scriptures, rereading and re-imagining the ancient text for the sake of reparative futures. When read through these new lenses, the biblical texts come alive in new and surprising ways.

***Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: Conversations on Creation, Land Justice, and Life Together.* Edited by Steven Heinrichs.**

How can North Americans come to terms with the lamentable clash between indigenous and settler cultures, spiritualities, and attitudes toward creation? Showcasing a variety of voices both traditional and Christian, native and non-native "Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry" offers up alternative histories, radical theologies, and poetic, life-giving memories that can unsettle our souls and work toward reconciliation.

This book is intended for all who are interested in healing historical wounds of racism, stolen land, and cultural exploitation. Essays on land use, creation, history, and faith appear among

poems and reflections by people across ethnic and religious divides. The writers do not always agree in fact, some are bound to raise readers' defenses. But they represent the hard truths that we must hear before reconciliation can come.

Non-Fiction

***White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo**

Antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to “bad people” (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

***How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi**

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and re-energizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes listeners through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help listeners see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.

***The Skin We're In: A Year Of Black Resistance And Power* By Desmond Cole**

In his 2015 cover story for Toronto Life magazine, Desmond Cole exposed the racist actions of the Toronto police force, detailing the dozens of times he had been stopped and interrogated

under the controversial practice of carding. The story quickly came to national prominence, shaking the country to its core and catapulting its author into the public sphere. Cole used his newfound profile to draw insistent, unyielding attention to the injustices faced by Black Canadians on a daily basis.

Both Cole's activism and journalism find vibrant expression in his first book, *The Skin We're In*. Puncturing the bubble of Canadian smugness and naive assumptions of a post-racial nation, Cole chronicles just one year—2017—in the struggle against racism in this country. It was a year that saw calls for tighter borders when Black refugees braved frigid temperatures to cross into Manitoba from the States, Indigenous land and water protectors resisting the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, police across the country rallying around an officer accused of murder, and more.

***Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-Up Call* By Arthur Manuel**

Unsettling Canada is built on a unique collaboration between two First Nations leaders, Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ron Derrickson. Both men have served as chiefs of their bands in the B.C. interior and both have gone on to establish important national and international reputations. But the differences between them are in many ways even more interesting. Arthur Manuel is one of the most forceful advocates for Aboriginal title and rights in Canada and comes from the activist wing of the movement. Grand Chief Ron Derrickson is one of the most successful Indigenous businessmen in the country.

Together the Secwepemc activist intellectual and the Syilx (Okanagan) businessman bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to Canada's most glaring piece of unfinished business: the place of Indigenous peoples within the country's political and economic space. The story is told through Arthur's voice but he traces both of their individual struggles against the colonialist and often racist structures that have been erected to keep Indigenous peoples in their place in Canada.

In the final chapters and in the Grand Chief's afterword, they not only set out a plan for a new sustainable indigenous economy, but lay out a roadmap for getting there.

***Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King**

Neither a traditional nor all-encompassing history of First Nations people in North America, *The Inconvenient Indian* is a personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian." Thomas King explores the relationship between Natives and non-Natives since the fifteenth century and examines the way that popular culture has shaped our notion of Indigenous identity, while also reflecting on his own complicated relationship with activism.

***So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo**

Widespread reporting on aspects of white supremacy—from police brutality to the mass incarceration of Black Americans—has put a media spotlight on racism in our society. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. How do you tell your roommate her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law take umbrage when you asked to touch her hair—and how do you make it right? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?

In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

***Policing Black Lives: State Violence In Canada From Slavery To The Present* By Robyn Maynard**

Delving behind Canada's veneer of multiculturalism and tolerance, *Policing Black Lives* traces the violent realities of anti-blackness from the slave ships to prisons, classrooms, and beyond. Robyn Maynard provides listeners with the first comprehensive account of nearly 400 years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization, and punishment of black lives in Canada.

***Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada* by Chelsea Vowel**

In *Indigenous Writes*, Chelsea Vowel initiates myriad conversations about the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canada. An advocate for Indigenous worldviews, the author discusses the fundamental issues—the terminology of relationships, culture and identity, myth-busting, state violence, and land, learning, law and treaties—along with wider social beliefs about these issues. She answers the questions that many people have on these topics to spark further conversations at home, in the classroom, and in the larger community.

***Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad**

Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too. The book goes beyond the original workbook by adding more historical and cultural

contexts, sharing moving stories and anecdotes, and includes expanded definitions, examples, and further resources. See also curriculum.

***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Braiding Sweetgrass is about the world of botany as described and explored through Indigenous traditions. Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, shares stories about her own experiences working with plants and learning to become reunited with her own people's cultural traditions. She also gives a background on history in relation to plants and also discusses botany through a scientific perspective.

***Native* by Kaitlin Curtice**

Native is about identity, soul-searching, and being on the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a member of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin Curtice offers a unique perspective on these topics. In this book, she shows how reconnecting with her Native American roots both informs and challenges her Christian faith.

Drawing on the narrative of her personal journey and the poetry, imagery, and stories of the Potawatomi people, Curtice addresses themes at the forefront of today's discussions of faith and culture in a positive and constructive way. She encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future for the church. Each of our stories matters for the church to be truly whole. As Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage, she reveals that a vibrant spirituality has its origins in identity, belonging, and a sense of place.

Canadian Fiction

***Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese**

Saul Indian Horse has hit bottom. His last binge almost killed him, and now he's a reluctant resident in a treatment centre for alcoholics, surrounded by people he's sure will never understand him. But Saul wants peace, and he grudgingly comes to see that he'll find it only through telling his story. With him, readers embark on a journey back through the life he's led as a northern Ojibway, with all its joys and sorrows. With compassion and insight, author Richard Wagamese traces through his fictional characters the decline of a culture and a cultural way. For Saul, taken forcibly from the land and his family when he's sent to residential school, salvation comes for a while through his incredible gifts as a hockey player. But in the harsh realities of 1960s Canada, he battles obdurate racism and the spirit-destroying effects of cultural alienation

and displacement. *Indian Horse* unfolds against the bleak loveliness of northern Ontario, all rock, marsh, bog and cedar. Wagamese writes with a spare beauty, penetrating the heart of a remarkable Ojibway man.

***Obasan* by Joy Kogawa**

Set in BC, *Obasan* chronicles Canada's internment and persecution of its citizens of Japanese descent during the Second World War from the perspective of a young child. In 2005, it was the One Book, One Vancouver selection. Themes depicted in the novel include memory and forgetting, prejudice and tolerance, identity, and justice versus injustice.

***Diamond Grill* by Fred Wah**

Part memoir, part fiction, *Diamond Grill* describes Wah's experiences of his father's restaurant in Nelson, BC and of the impact of growing up as a child of mixed heritage in the 1950s. Part poetry and part prose, *Diamond Grill* explores themes such as place, food, family and racial identity.

***Disappearing Moon Cafe* by Sky Lee**

Disappearing Moon Cafe was a stunning debut novel that has become a Canadian literary classic. An unflinchingly honest portrait of a Chinese Canadian family that pulses with life and moral tensions, this family saga takes the reader from the wilderness in nineteenth-century British Columbia to late twentieth-century Hong Kong, to Vancouver's Chinatown.

Intricate and lyrical, suspenseful and emotionally rich, it is a riveting story of four generations of women whose lives are haunted by the secrets and lies of their ancestors but also by the racial divides and discrimination that shaped the lives of the first generation of Chinese immigrants to Canada.

Each character, intimately drawn through Lee's richness of imagery and language, must navigate a world that remains inexorably "double": Chinese and Canadian. About buried bones and secrets, unrequited desires and misbegotten love, murder and scandal, failure and success, the plot reveals a compelling microcosm of the history of race and gender relations in this country.

***Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill**

"I used *The Book of Negroes* as the title for my novel, in Canada, because it derives from a historical document of the same name kept by British naval officers at the tail end of the

American Revolutionary War. It documents the 3,000 blacks who had served the King in the war and were fleeing Manhattan for Canada in 1783. Unless you were in The Book of Negroes, you couldn't escape to Canada. My character, an African woman named Aminata Diallo whose story is based on this history, has to get into the book before she gets out."

***A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry**

The book exposes the changes in Indian society from independence in 1947 to the Emergency called by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The characters, from diverse backgrounds, are brought together by economic forces changing India.

***Do Not Say We Have Nothing* by Madeleine Thien**

The novel begins with a girl named Marie living with her mother in Vancouver, Canada. The year is 1991, and the addition to their household of a Chinese refugee fleeing the post-Tiananmen Square crackdown, Ai-Ming, is the catalyst that sets the rest of the plot into motion. The novel quickly fractures into a number of different subplots, introduced by Ai-Ming, which span generations of both Marie and Ai-Ming's families, who are later revealed to be intrinsically connected. These sub-plots are set during a tumultuous period in China's history, from the beginning of Mao Zedong's reign in the late 1940s to the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. Winner of 2016 Giller Prize and Governor General's Award.

***Ru* by Kim Thuy**

The novel tells the tale of a woman, An Tinh Nguyen, born in Saigon in 1968 during the Tet Offensive who immigrates to Canada with her family as a child.

The book switches between her childhood in Vietnam where she was born into a large and wealthy family, her time as a boat person when she left her country for a refugee camp in Malaysia, and her life as an early immigrant in Granby, Quebec. The story is told by a first-person narrative.

Other Fiction

***Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (YA)**

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche**

***Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

***Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche**

Poetry

***All Along You Were Blooming* by Morgan Harper Nichols**

***Storyteller* by Morgan Harper Nichols**

***Salt* by Nayyirah Waheed**

***Njema* by Nayyirah Waheed**

Resources for Children and Families

Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners (Awards List)

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/coretta-scott-king-book-award-winners>

Raising White Kids by Jennifer Harvey (Book)

Raising White Kids is a book for families, churches, educators and communities with white children, who want to be active and able to participate in a society that is becoming one of the most racially diverse in the world while remaining full of racial tensions. This book takes a look at how we talk about race honestly without making our children feel bad about being white, in age-appropriate ways.

Raising Race Conscious Children (Blog)

Raising Race Conscious Children is a resource to support adults who are trying to talk about race with young children. The goals of these conversations are to dismantle the color-blind framework and prepare young people to work toward racial justice. Many of the blog's posts are geared toward White people but a community of guest bloggers represent diverse backgrounds and the strategies discussed may be helpful for all.

<http://www.raceconscious.org/>

Racially Diverse Kids Books

Anti-racism for Kids 101: Starting to Talk About Race. Book collections, Family Action Toolkits and a number of other anti-racism resources for parents and caregivers.

<https://booksforlittles.com/racial-diversity/>

Instagram Follows

Follow @theconsciouskid on Instagram. This account offers parenting and education through a critical race lens. There are numerous resource lists offered here as well as tools to engage children of all ages.

Follow @firstname.basis on Instagram and listen to Firstname.basis Podcast. Gives parents the tools they need to teach their children about race, religion, and culture. Hosted by a mother, this podcast graciously gives helpful ways to connect and communicate with children about these important topics.

Follow @ohhappydani on Instagram. Danielle Coke offers “art and words on loving God and neighbor well”. In particular, her recent 3-part series called “Turning Awareness Into Action” is really helpful when navigating talking to children about race.

Thoughtful Questions to Have a Conversation about Recent Events with your Children and Teens (courtesy of Sissy Goff)

For Children

Tell me what you understand about all that’s been happening lately in our country [and others] about race.

Why do you think it’s been happening?

Who do you think might be hurting?

Who do you think might be afraid?

Why do you think some people hurt others?

How do you feel?

How do you think Jesus feels about it?

What do you want to do to help?

For Teens

Tell me about what you’ve heard about all of the protests around race in the past while.

What do you think about it?

Why do you think it’s happening?

What does white privilege mean to you?

What do you think it means to be race conscious?

Have you ever felt afraid of who you are?

What do you want to do to help?

Articles

[For Our White Friends Desiring to Be Allies by Courtney Ariel](#) (Summary: ask when you don't know—but do the work first.)

['This conversation should not be about blame': Anti-racism educator responds to comments about race](#) (Summary: Michael Cappello answers tough comments from CBC Saskatchewan phone-in show)

[Racism In Canada Is Ever-Present. But We Have A Long History Of Denial: It's tempting for Canadians to fall back on the idea that we're not as racist as Americans By Maija Kappler](#)

[5 Black Women Talk About Their Lives In Canada—Past, Present And Future: From history to healthcare, it's frustratingly rare for Black women's issues to get mainstream attention by Eternity Martis](#)

[The KKK has a history in Canada. And it can return: Canada is not immune to hate, and a look at the history of the Ku Klux Klan's expansion efforts proves it By Christine Sismondo](#)

[Fractured Atlas](#) (Resources for White people to learn and talk about race and racism. Manuals, articles, essays and more for individual, interpersonal and organizational learning.)

Online Resources: Short Videos, Podcasts, and Other

The Bible, Race, and White Supremacy with Drew G. I. Hart

This podcast by Pete Enns covers the difficult and painful topic of white supremacy and the Christian faith. Pete's Guest Drew G.I. Hart is assistant professor of theology at Messiah College, activist, and author of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*.

<https://peteenns.com/b4np-podcast-episode-26-bible-race-white-supremacy-drew-g-hart/>

Reclaiming My Theology with Brandi Miller

Reclaiming My Theology is a podcast and community taking their theology back from ideas and systems that oppress. Brandi Miller, a campus ministry with InterVarsity, has been exploring, unlearning, and reimagining faith outside of systemic oppression. Each season of the podcast is a deep dive into a form of systemic oppression that asks how the values of oppressive ideas shape our hearts, minds, politics, and lived experiences. There are so many things to reclaim our theology from: white supremacy, patriarchy and misogyny, capitalism, homophobia, ableism and more. This podcast is an excellent entry point for anyone looking to detangle harmful forms of oppression from their theology.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/reclaiming-my-theology/id1516576461>

The Next Question

A series of video interviews (40-60 minutes each) hosted by Austin Channing Brown (author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*) and a couple of her friends.

https://vimeo.com/tnqshow?fbclid=IwAR3MfGGootXzqFsKY3SdY9rwChQo7mopKsY3vH28h4u1xwMuhcq_sT7-fl

Can White People be Saved: Reflections on the Relationship of Missions and Whiteness by Dr. Willie James Jennings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wRvaG9j53g>

The Danger of a Single Story by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice—and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lhs241zeg>

Why do Indigenous topics cause such emotional discomfort? By Pam Palmater

In her university-level classes, Pam Palmater often sees students cry, get angry, or surprised at the realities of racism in Canada. In this web series called "First Things First," Palmater explains how to handle emotions in difficult conversations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtaqRVI-JAk&fbclid=IwAR2PjotTv_z0ljsG2miH85tUQ82YvvOZSttKkYNbV40ERhv1xENP_DQ7Rgl

What non-Indigenous Canadians Need to Know

Eddy Robinson is an educator on Indigenous issues. In this web series called "First Things First," Robinson explains why asking "How Can I Help?" is not the right question.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1E-3Hb1-WA&fbclid=IwAR1cend7xINIVogCJ8HWO2PUZy-Ref0lypOuJRMg89cgPzwtBkY_93zsrE

“We the People”: The Three Most Misunderstood Words in US History by Mark Charles

The son of an American woman of Dutch heritage and a Navajo man, Mark Charles offers a unique perspective on three of the most misinterpreted words in American History. Written in the Papal Bulls of the 15th Century, embedded in our founding documents in the 18th Century, codified as legal precedent in the 19th Century and referenced by the Supreme Court in the 20th and 21st Centuries, the Doctrine of Discovery has been used throughout the history of the United States to keep "We the People" from including *all the people*. Mark Charles is a dynamic and thought-provoking public speaker, writer, and consultant. The son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man, he speaks with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture, and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOKtqY5wY4A>

Residential Schools Podcast Series

Residential Schools is a three-part podcast series created by Historica Canada and hosted by Shaneen Robinson-Desjarlais. It aims to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools, and honour the stories of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Survivors, their families, and communities. The series is part of a larger awareness campaign created by Historica Canada and funded by the Government of Canada. Along with the podcast, Historica also offers a video series, an education guide, and several new entries on The Canadian Encyclopedia about the history and legacy of residential schools.

<https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools-podcast-series?fbclid=IwAR2KmPynOTPoQImfN58rLiWkiLDa-uSY-0nSEBLIKE8XRcMdAkj4mOC0NT8>

Unmasking COVID racism: Asian Canadians Describe Hostility Faced During Pandemic (8 minute video from CBC Vancouver, Jun 4, 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjHW5WDIsul&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2g-ETI4ZJYdTioHbDLvhOf5bc-lp5QHnNZhQDqEgk2Jmk6MxVv8P1P3u8>

Dr. Robin DiAngelo Discusses “White Fragility”

University of Washington professor Dr. Robin DiAngelo reads from her book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, explains the phenomenon, and discusses how white people can develop their capacity to engage more constructively across race.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU&t=824s>

Deconstructing White Privilege (22 Min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwlx3KQer54>

Unravelling Racism By Kate Henderson, Lee Kosa, and Natasha Tunncliffe

This 4-part sermon series was delivered at Cedar Park in 2017. The series includes study guides for individuals and small groups. Topics include, racism, white supremacy, denial, guilt, shame, meritocracy, intent vs. impact, positionality, repentance, colourblindness, privilege, humble listening, cross-racial relationships and anti-racist action.

<https://cedarparkchurch.org/sermons/unravelling-racism/>

FILM/TV

***The Skin We're In* on CBC-TV on GEM (Free)**

Urgent, controversial, and undeniably honest, *The Skin We're In* is a wake-up call to complacent Canadians. Racism is here. It is everywhere. It is us and we are it. Following celebrated journalist Desmond Cole as he researches his hotly anticipated book, this documentary from acclaimed director Charles Officer pulls back the curtain on racism in Canada.

This film marks a distinctly Canadian contribution to the “Black Lives Matter” movement which originated in the US, but which describes a set of systemic injustices and disadvantages faced by all black people living in white-dominated societies. Cole asserts that anti-black racism is so all-encompassing in Canada that black people and their allies, far from congratulating themselves that they do not live in America, should be following the American example and dismantling the structures that continue to hold them back.

https://www.cbc.ca/firsthand/m_episodes/the-skin-were-in

First Contact on APTN

Canadians' opinions about the Indigenous people of this country are formed without any knowledge of the culture's true history or firsthand experience of the present-day communities. This may explain the prevalence of racist, unsympathetic and generally prejudicial attitudes that are often directed towards Indigenous peoples.

First Contact takes six Canadians on a 28-day journey intended to challenge these attitudes and shed a light on the true Indigenous experience. The travelers, all with ignorant views about Indigenous People, have been invited to leave their everyday lives behind and embark on a unique journey, travelling deep into the Indigenous communities throughout Canada including the nation's capital, Algonquin Anishanabek Territory, Labrador, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. It is a journey that will challenge their perceptions and confront their prejudices about a world they never imagined they would see. This exploration of the true Indigenous experience in Canada will change the participants' lives forever.

<http://www.firstcontactcanada.ca/>

Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance

In July 1990, a dispute over a proposed golf course to be built on Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) lands in Oka, Quebec, set the stage for a historic confrontation that would grab international headlines and sear itself into the Canadian consciousness. Director Alanis Obomsawin—at times with a small crew, at times alone—spent 78 days behind Kanien'kéhaka lines filming the armed standoff between protestors, the Quebec police and the Canadian army. Released in 1993, this landmark documentary has been seen around the world, winning over a dozen international awards and making history at the Toronto International Film Festival, where it became the first documentary ever to win the Best Canadian Feature award. Jesse Wente, Director of Canada's Indigenous Screen Office, has called it a "watershed film in the history of First Peoples cinema."

Reserve 107

In 2006, 130 years after the signing of Treaty 6, Mennonites, Lutherans and the Young Chippewyan First Nation gathered on the sacred hill of Stoney Knoll/Opwashemoe Chakatinaw located in Laird, Saskatchewan. With goodwill and shared goals, they signed a memorandum of understanding. With this document, the three groups recommitted to honouring a violated and long-neglected treaty relationship. Shortly after the original treaty was signed in 1876, the Young Chippewyans faced tremendous hardship: dwindling buffalo populations, devastating epidemics, and encroaching settlement. They had no choice but to temporarily leave their reserve land in order to survive. Seeing the reserve land unoccupied, Crown officials deemed the land "surrendered" and redistributed it to Mennonite and Lutheran settlers. When descendants of Chief Chippewyan returned, they found the land fully settled, its new occupants largely unaware of its prior history. This is a story of pain and determination, but it is also a story of trust and hope. It's what can happen when dispossessed people and innocent beneficiaries build a relationship and endeavour to make past wrongs right.

Watch the half hour film here: <https://www.reserve107thefilm.com/>

There is an study guide that comes with activities and discussion questions for small groups downloadable [here](#).

***Thirteenth* by Ava DuVernay (Netflix)**

Thirteenth is a 2016 American documentary film by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished

slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime.

DuVernay contends that slavery has been perpetuated since the end of the American Civil War through: criminalizing behavior and enabling police to arrest poor freedmen and force them to work for the state under convict leasing; suppression of African Americans by disenfranchisement, lynchings, and Jim Crow; politicians declaring a war on drugs that weighs more heavily on minority communities; late 20th century mass incarceration of people of color in the United States. She examines the prison-industrial complex and the emerging detention-industrial complex, discussing how much money is being made by corporations from such incarcerations.

Thirteenth was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 89th Academy Awards, and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Special at the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Curriculum

***Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad**

Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too. The book goes beyond the original workbook by adding more historical and cultural contexts, sharing moving stories and anecdotes, and includes expanded definitions, examples, and further resources. See also Books: Non-Fiction.

Be the Bridge

This discipleship organization's vision is that people and organizations are aware and responding to the racial brokenness and systemic injustice in our world. They strive to see that people are no longer conditioned by a racialized society but are grounded in truth and all are equipped to flourish. Be the Bridge is doing incredible work in churches and communities towards racial healing and reconciliation. Latasha Morrison is a phenomenal leader and her organization has developed excellent resources for youth, groups, and organizations. If you're not sure about white supremacy, a place to start is their four-lesson whiteness intensive plan to understand the basic tenets in order to better engage with good conversations.

<https://bethebridge.com/>

Doctrine of Discovery, Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts

The documentary "Doctrine of Discovery, Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts," was recently created by the Anglican Church of Canada's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation, and Justice. The film gives an understanding to the current state of Indigenous affairs on Turtle Island or North America. Understanding the Doctrine of Discovery and its manifestations are important as we strive for reconciliation. The film makes the case for Indigenous land rights and explores various Christian responses to injustice. You can view the film on YouTube and access study questions which are ideal for small groups. The entire documentary is 1 hour long and is broken into 12 six minute sections (each with discussion questions) which makes this a great resource from small groups.

<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery/>

TRC Trilogy

This trilogy is edited by the Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations for Mennonite Church of Canada. The three titles listed below holistically attempt to address the TRC Calls to Action—specifically their implications for the Canadian Church.

You may wish to read this trilogy alongside the [TRC Calls to Action and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Resource for Churches](#) booklet, available separately.

1. *Wrongs to Rights: How Churches can Engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* ed. by Steve Heinrichs

Honouring the call of Indigenous peoples from around the world, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has specifically summoned, not only the State, but all churches to embrace the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. But what is the Declaration? And how might it gift and reorient Christian faith and practice?

In *Wrongs to Rights*, over 40 authors from diverse backgrounds—Indigenous and Settler, Christian and Traditional—wrestle with the meaning of the Declaration for the Church. With a firm hold on past and present colonialism, the authors tackle key questions that the Declaration and the TRC's call to "adopt and comply" raises: What are its potential implications? How does it connect to Scripture? Can it facilitate genuine decolonization, or is "rights talk" another form of imperialism? And what about real life relationships? Can the Declaration be lived out—collectively and personally—on the ground?

Short articles combined with poetry and visual arts provide a rich, engaging and accessible resource for individual and group conversation in 164 pages. A study guide is included.

2. *Yours, Mine, Ours: Unravelling the Doctrine of Discovery* ed. Cheryl Woelk and Steve Heinrichs

Honouring the call of Indigenous peoples from around the world, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has specifically summoned all religious denominations and faith groups ... to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius (Call to Action #49). But what are these concepts of dispossession? And in what ways are they connected to our contemporary communities?

In *Yours, Mine, Ours*, over 40 authors from diverse backgrounds—Indigenous and Settler, Christian and Traditional—wrestle with this call to repudiation, what it might mean to Christians across North America, and what it entails for relationships with host peoples and host lands. With a firm hold on past and present colonialism, the authors tackle key questions that the TRC's call raises: What role did the Church play in the creation of the Doctrine of Discovery?

How was Christian faith and practice used to aid and abet centuries of Indigenous dispossession? In what ways do these old concepts still live, move, and have their being? What are the present-day responsibilities of Settler Christians? What does repudiation really mean? And what are the ways forward ... beyond repudiation? Includes a study guide by Tim Runtz.

***Quest for Respect: The Church and Indigenous Spirituality* ed. Jeff Friesen and Steve Heinrichs**

Attentive to the concerns of Indigenous peoples from across these lands, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has specifically summoned all churches and faith groups. . . in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right . . . (Call to Action #60).

In *Quest for Respect*, over 40 authors from diverse backgrounds – Indigenous and Settler, Christian and Traditional – take up this call to respect Indigenous spirituality, exploring what it might mean to Christians across North America and what it entails for relationships with host peoples and host lands.

With a firm hold on past and present colonialism, the contributors tackle key questions that the TRC's call raises: What is Indigenous spirituality, and why is it critical for Settler Christians to learn about it? What is the history of Indigenous–Christian encounter? How does spiritual abuse and violence continue today? How might we repair the damage done? And what does genuine respect really look like? Includes a study guide by Tim Runtz.