

# Hope in Action

## WEEK 1 – RESPONDING TO RACISM

### **BIG IDEA:**

Racism is a difficult topic to talk about; it's a struggle to find the right voice, but not speaking isn't the answer. This topic may make you a little uncomfortable, but that's ok. Growth comes through our discomfort. Our prayer is that we can respond with hope in action. Experts of the law asked Jesus- "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asks – What's written in the law? Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself. Then Jesus is asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus doesn't answer by saying who, but instead says how.

### **KEY VERSE:**

Luke 10:30-34, "In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How should you love your neighbor? What does that look like?
2. How should we respond to racism?

#### **Key Point #1: Recognize any prejudices**

3. Have you ever been on the receiving end of prejudice? Can you share your experiences with the group? What prejudices do you know you have? What prejudices might you have that you may not be aware of?

#### **Key Point #2: Seek to understand others**

4. What choices can you make to intentionally widen and diversify your community?

#### **Key Point #3: Love those different from you**

6. What practical decision can you make this week to show kindness to someone you don't know?
7. How easy is it for you to connect with people you don't already know? Why do you think that is? Is it ok to say, "That's just the way I am"? What does God call us to do?

### **MOVING FORWARD:**

If we can learn to love like the Good Samaritan, then we can truly be the hope that this world needs. Hope in action always chooses to cross the street and be hope. Be love. The Good Samaritan is a reminder of who Jesus is and what he did for each of us. We all needed a Samaritan to stop and see us for who we are; who was willing to cross the street and mend our brokenness. That's the gospel of Jesus. The gospel that saved you knows no prejudices. As a group, share with whom you could (have a meal, get coffee) connect with who is different from you? When could you set this up?