

PART 5

JESUS FOLLOWERS AND RACIAL OPPRESSION THE FORGE

Understanding Racial Oppression

- Oppression is the unjust use of power at other people's expense. It involves protecting one's power, comfort, security, and privilege at the expense of those who have less of it than you.
- "Race-The Power of an Illusion," www.PBS.org.

Notes:

God's Heart for the Oppressed

(Deuteronomy 10:17-19, Psalm 82:3, Proverbs 31:8-9, Ezekiel 22:20, Zaccariah 7:9:10, Isaiah 1:17, Matthew 5:1-12 , Matthew 25:41-46, Luke 4:18-19, Luke 10:25-37)

Notes:

Discussion Questions:

- 1.What is God's heart towards the oppressed?
- 2.How has God called us to respond to oppression?
- 3.Did you have any oppressive belief systems towards race growing up? If so, what were they?
- 4.What does being "neighborly" and/or "now go and do the same" look like when it comes to Jesus Followers reconciling racial oppression?

Personal Reflection

Many of us have very limited exposure or opportunity to be in relationships with people of color. In addition, many of us feel ill-equipped to know where to start in regards to racial reconciliation. Take time to reflect on the following:

- Is there anyone of color in my neighborhood or community that I can get to know?
- What can I do to learn more about racial oppression so I am better equipped to engage as a Jesus follower?
- If oppression is a byproduct of sinful human nature- what fruit of the Spirit characteristic do I need more of in order to counter oppressive tendencies? (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control)

Prayer

"Jesus, I desire to seek justice for the oppressed. Give me more of your Fruit so that I may wage battle against my human nature to oppress others. Give me the courage to listen more, learn more, and be in relationship more with people of color. Use me to bring freedom to the oppressed as I follow closely to you. Amen."

