

Session 4: Roadmap to Resistance

Key Themes: Spiritual resistance, the ARC of Racial Justice (Awareness, Relationships, Commitment), and faith-based activism

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is resisting the dismantling of democracy a spiritual battle? How does thinking of it in these terms shift your understanding of how to face this moment?
2. What spiritual gifts has God given you to engage in justice work?
3. How can churches cultivate partnerships and solidarity across racial, ethnic, and cultural divides?
4. What tangible actions can churches take to provide a counter-narrative to white Christian nationalism?
5. How can churches go beyond awareness to sustained commitment to shift policies and systems?
6. How your faith community use the ARC of Racial Justice to provide a practical framework for engagement?
7. What next step of faith can you take this week to move from discussion to action?

Bible Reflections:

- Ephesians 6:12 – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
 - o When we see the architects of ruin, how do we resist villainizing individuals while still holding them accountable?
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 – Spiritual gifts are given for the common good.
 - o Which spiritual gifts are present in our group? How can they be used synergistically to pursue the common good and resist the dismantling of democracy?

Books:

Caste, Isabel Wilkinson

The Sum of Us, Heather McGhee

Hidden Roots of White Supremacy, Robert P Jones

The Church Cracked Open, Stephanie Spellers

Jesus and John Wayne, Kristin Kobes Du Mez

On Tyranny, Timothy Snyder

Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson

The Power Worshipers, Katherine Stewart

Money, Lies and God, Katherine Stewart

The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

The Flag and the Cross, Philip Gorski and Samuel Perry

Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States, Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry

One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This, Omar El Akkad

The Violent Take It by Force: The Christian Movement That Is Threatening Our Democracy, Matthew D. Taylor

The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism Is Un-American, Andrew L. Seidel

Documentaries:

Bad Faith

God and Country

1619 project series

Movies and series:

The Handmaid's Tale series

Just Mercy

Podcasts:

The Convocation

Straight White American Jesus

The Tim & April Podcast

The New Evangelicals

Timothy Snyder, <https://snyder.substack.com>

Websites:

EJI, Equal Justice Initiative

Public Religion Research Institute

Newsletters:

Into the Gray, Benjamin R. Cramer

The Preamble, Sharon McMahon

Find your personal/spiritual gift given for the common good

1. Journal
2. What are you good at?
3. Try everything

Framework for practical action steps:

ARC of justice

A=awareness, head; understanding, Episodes 1,2,3

R=Relationships, heart; reaching cross culturally, cross ethnicity, cross politically; dignifying humanity in others; communities with organizations

C=Commitment, hands; more than talk

Suggestions, ideas:

Awareness: books, documentaries, conferences, podcasts, Tisby's books, increase knowledge of policy and legislation; define success as it pertains to racial justice and democracy

Relationships: Building bridges with non christian minorities and groups, local, center marginalized voices, invite speakers who have different stories than ours, care for activists and advocates, create spaces that ensure safety

Commitment: Bail fund, financial cushion, pastors must preach about the attack on democracy, thus we need a new pastor that will continue Harry's preaching, advocate anti-racist and prodemocracy policies, attend local meetings, ongoing not just with elections

The Church brought this regime into power and must restore democracy