



# YOUTH STUDY

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## PARTICIPANT HANDOUT

# Responding to Racism

### Racial Identities Matter

Our racial identities affect our experiences with education, employment, and many other areas of our lives—including our relationships with each other. The prophet Micah tells us that God requires of us justice and kindness. Learning to recognize the ways unjust social structures affect our lives and the lives of others can help all of us to begin or to further develop concrete strategies to work against racism.

### Prayer

Our hearts and minds  
long for a world where justice is real.  
May each of us,  
with our different experiences,  
our unique identities,  
learn to take strong steps  
of courage and compassion  
to bring such a world into being.  
Amen.

### Definitions Matter

*Prejudice* includes stereotypes and negative assumptions that any of us might hold about another racial group based on incomplete or false information. Prejudice is interpersonal. Prejudice is

not the same thing as racism. A person of any racial group might hold prejudice against another group.

*Racism* is a system of advantage and disadvantage based on race. It's structural. There are relationships between prejudice and racism, but they are distinct phenomenon. For racism to happen a group must suffer systematic disadvantage.

### Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?



## Reflection Questions

- Where do you see examples of prejudice and examples of racism playing out at school? What can you imagine doing to make sure that you are being an ally against both prejudice and racism?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What makes challenging prejudice or racism hard? What resources could you draw on to give you support in doing this?

## Get Involved

The Black Youth Project provides ongoing commentary about prejudice and racism in the lives of youth, and they host a forum where people committed to challenging structural racism can weigh in. Check out their Web site: <http://www.blackyouthproject.com>.