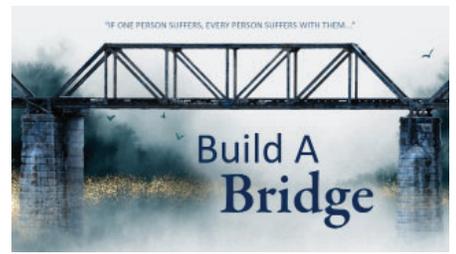


## NEXT STEPS



Week of March 7, 2021

**Build a Bridge: Where Healing Begins**

**Psalm 32:1-5**

### Next Steps for Racial Reconciliation

In recent months, many of us have felt a renewed call to work toward a more just, loving, equitable society: to act as God's hands and feet in our world. If you are ready to take some first steps... or some next steps... on the journey toward racial reconciliation, we invite you to join the POP for Justice community and walk side by side with one another. We know that each of us finds ourselves in our own, individual place on this journey of introspection, prayer, listening, learning, and thoughtful action.

The action items we suggest below are designed to be practical opportunities that you can try right away—this week—to learn about cultures and life experiences that are different from your own or to use your voice to amplify voices that are calling out for justice and peace. Some of these next steps will be interesting and maybe even fun, but some may make you a little uncomfortable... and that's okay. Discomfort isn't necessarily a bad thing; it can be a sign that we are growing. As we take our next steps, our discomfort reminds us to focus on our true goal, which is not maintaining our own comfort, but instead lifting up those who suffer injustice and joining our voices with their eloquent calls to action. We invite you to join us each week in prayerfully selecting next steps that both interest you and push you just a little.

#### Small Step:

If you're a parent or grandparent, there are many great books, podcasts, websites, and more to help you talk with your little ones about race. Check out the "Resources for Parents" section on our website at [popmn.org/racial-justice/](http://popmn.org/racial-justice/).

#### Medium Step:

Make sure the children and educators in your life have access to books, toys and movies that feature protagonists who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). This is important whether the children in the group are white or people of color, because all kids need to see that people of all races have important stories to tell.

#### Large Step:

Seek out a diverse group for you, your family, and your kids. Find a volunteering organization, sport, music ensemble, club, or other group to join where you will meet and work together with many people of color. Many organizations are currently meeting virtually, so you may not need to wait to get started.

**Visit [popmn.org/justice](http://popmn.org/justice) for more information.**