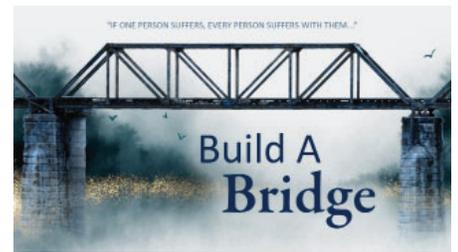


NEXT STEPS



Week of March 21, 2021

Build A Bridge: Doing Justice

Micah 6:3-8, James 2:14-17

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:

Commit to speaking up when you hear or see something harmful. When we hear a racist comment and say nothing, we are unintentionally affirming that those views are welcome around us. Take a calm breath and find a way to let the speaker know that this type of comment makes you uncomfortable. For example: "I know that was meant to be a joke, but I just don't think it's funny. Let's not use jokes to put others down." For plenty of examples to help this conversation go well, check out these [Six Steps to Speak Up](#), which also has special sections with tips specific to talking with family, friends, classmates, coworkers, and strangers.

Six Steps to Speak Up:

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/speak-up/six-steps-to-speak-up>

Medium Step:

If you haven't already, connect with POP for Justice through our Facebook page and Build a Bridge small groups to keep the conversation going and find ways to get involved.

Large Step:

Connect with a racial justice organization (or another one, if you already have) that is led by people of color. Learn how they are working locally to effect positive change and see how you can be a part of their successful efforts. Check out this list for some great options.

List of local social justice organizations:

<https://www.minnesotamonthly.com/lifestyle/how-minnesotans-can-fight-for-racial-justice/>

Visit popmn.org/justice for more information.