

# Now WHAT?

June 6 & 7



## WORSHIP

Begin by reading Psalm 62 aloud. Take a moment of silence to reflect on God's Word and center in Him.

## FELLOWSHIP

Ask what this week has been like for your group.

- What has broken their hearts? What has brought them hope?
- How have they turned toward God this week, or away from Him?
- Did anyone participate in the blood drive, drive-thru Communion, or a prayer gathering?

## DISCUSSION

Watch this **sermon overview** to refresh your group on this week's message. Then discuss the questions below.

If you're studying a book, RightNow Media series, etc., transition to discussion and try to include questions that address head, heart, and hands (i.e., how will your group live out what they've learned this week?)

1. Read Romans 12:9-13.

- What does sincere love look like to you?
- How does the encouragement to "honor one another above yourselves" compare with societal messages and our fallen nature?

2. Which of Paul's exhortations do you most need to grow in?

- How might Jesus be your example and the Spirit help you do so?
- Which exhortation have you seen a specific group member (or your group as a whole) live out?

3. Which of Pastor Mike's assumptions do you need to think more about (racism is evil, the problems are systemic and bigger than you think, we have no choice but to reform, violence is wrong, and the Church needs to step up)?

4. Read Matthew 5:3-12. What do you notice about the values of the Kingdom of God?

-How faithfully do you live these out? Consider your speech, thoughts, actions, and relationships, as well as how you spend your time and money.

-Is there something you need to do or change this week to better align with the Kingdom of God, with the Spirit's help?

5. How will you commit to promoting equal justice under the law and to PLEA (Pray, Listen, Engage, and Acknowledge)? What step will you take this week? If you need ideas, read Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and join for Friday's Night of Worship & Prayer.

## PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests; try to remember any needs that came up during the fellowship or discussion time. Does anyone have a practical need that another group member may be able to help with?

Pray for group, church, and community needs. Consider praying this prayer of repentance and commitment together, written by Mark Young, President of Denver Seminary:

*Have mercy on me, O Lord.*

I have blinded my eyes. In spite of the clear evidence of deeply embedded racism all around me, I have looked the other way. Too many have died. Too many have suffered. Too many have been locked out and cast aside. Too many indignities. Too many injustices. And still I looked the other way.

*Have mercy on me, O Lord.*

I have hardened my heart. Believing the lie that blacks have the same opportunities as whites, I could not allow myself to admit that my life was shaped as much by racism as theirs—mine to benefit and theirs to harm. But it was and it is and it will continue to be. I have cared too little. I have grieved too little.

*Have mercy on me, O Lord.*

I have silenced my tongue. My voice has not been raised in prophetic rebuke and anger. My feet have not stepped out for justice alongside those who have more courage than I. And in my silence I am an accomplice to bigotry.

*Forgive me, O Lord.*

I have sinned against you and against those who suffer the evil of racism. Indifference has smothered my soul and snuffed out fleeting impulses for reconciliation. I ask for your forgiveness and I will appropriately seek their forgiveness.

*Empower me, O Lord.*

I need your strength to step beyond blindness, indifference and fear; to step toward those whom I have sinned against. I make no grandiose promises or plans today for I know how easily these can be made and forgotten. But this I know. I cannot be the same. And I will not. Amen!<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mark Young, "Racism: A Reflection and a Prayer," <https://denverseminary.edu/racism-a-reflection-and-a-prayer/>.