

Children's Ministry

I know from experience that it can be daunting to have a conversation with your 3 and 5-year-old about race and racism. However, I urge you to do so. Why? Because if the power of the cross has transformed our lives, then it will also transform how we view our relationships with others. If the love of Jesus has changed our hearts, then it should also change how we love and how we treat our neighbors. We need to be like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), to see the hurt of others and then act to help. God has created each of us – cocoa, tan, olive, peach, in his own image and therefore we all have beauty, worth, and dignity (Gen. 1:26-27).

As parents, we have been given the privilege and the challenge of pointing our children to the cross of Christ, letting it direct us to fight against racism, prejudice, injustice, and hate. How do we do this? We are intentional in the books we read, the conversations we have, the friends we make, and the way we act. Children soak everything up and the way that we approach and speak about people who may not look like us, will shape their little minds far earlier than we might realize. I have often found it easiest to begin these conversations by reading together. Attached is a list of books and articles that can help us navigate these conversations.

Resources

Below is a list of books that can help us as we have conversations about race with our children. Note: even though we might not be discussing racism with our infants, it is never too early to introduce babies to the beautiful diversity of children made in the image of God.

0-2 years

[Global Babies](#), by The Global Fund for Children

[Baby Dance](#), by Ann Taylor

[The Skin You Live In](#), by Michael Tyler

[Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes](#), by Mem Fox

[Everywhere Babies](#), by Susan Meyers

8-12 years

[The Good Samaritan](#), by Zondervan

[The Story of Harriet Tubman: A Biography Book for New Readers \(The Story Of: A Biography Series for New Readers\)](#), by Christine Platt

[30 Stories for Girls with God-Sized Dreams](#), by DaySpring

[30 Stories for Boys with God-Sized Dreams](#), by DaySpring

[Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition](#), by Margot Lee Shetterly

[Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

Want to see more? Be sure to check out Common Sense Media's list of ["Books About Racism and Social Justice"](#)

3-8 years

[When God Made You](#), by Matthew Paul Turner

[God Made Me And You: Celebrating God's Design for Ethnic Diversity](#) by Shai Linne

[I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness](#), by Kerascoët

[Last Stop on Market Street](#), by Matt de la Peña

[Rosa Parks](#) (Little People, Big Dreams), by Lisbeth Kaiser

[Martin Luther King Jr. \(Little People, Big Dreams\)](#), by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

[Mahatma Gandhi \(Little People, Big Dreams\)](#), by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

[Harriet Tubman \(Little People, Big Dreams\)](#), by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

[Mae Among the Stars](#), by Roda Ahmed

[Not Quite Snow White](#), by Ashley Franklin

Articles

[Christianity Today: "How to Talk About Race with Your Kids"](#) by Michelle Reyes

[The NYTimes: "Talking To Kids About Racism"](#) by Marie Tae McDermott

[NPR: "How White Parents Can Talk to Their Children About Race"](#) by Michel Martin

[Time: "Why White Parents Need to Do More Than Talk to Their Kids About Racism"](#) by Margaret A. Hagerman