

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Looking for additional resources to end your Black History Month observance – or to continue the conversation through the year?*

*We may be at the end of February, but there's still time to celebrate Black History Month. Scientific contributions, literature and the arts, social justice informed by faith--the contributions of African Americans to the U.S. have been central and significant. Black History Month is not a novelty where historical facts are read, and pictures of black celebrities are temporarily displayed. It is a recognition of the struggles, achievements and the ongoing contributions of African Americans to American life and culture. We are challenged to continue overcoming the barriers and injustices that persists; and through a deep and abiding faith in God, to pursue a society where love of Christ is manifest and liberty and justice for all prevails.*

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*Sankofa: to go back to the past and bring forward that which is useful*

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## GENERAL

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH: EVENTS

This list provides a variety of ways to celebrate Black History month in February and beyond!  
<https://interculturalministriescentral.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/02/Black-History-Events-2020.pdf>

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH ORIGINS

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian, and Jesse E. Morland, a minister, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The organization, headed by these two individuals, established the second week of February as Black History Week. It would be a time to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Eventually, the week evolved to become Black History Month. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

### THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

Did you know that there is a Black National Anthem? Read about *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. It is a song that will 'rouse, unite, celebrate and call to action.'  
<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/16/638324920/american-anthem-lift-every-voice-and-sing-black-national-anthem>

## ∞ SMALL GROUP STUDIES

### THE MULTI-ETHNIC CHRISTIAN LIFE PRIMER: AN EIGHT WEEK GUIDE TO WALKING, WORKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD TOGETHER AS ONE – MARK DEYMAZ AND ONEYA FENNEL OKUWOB

The Multi-ethnic Christian Life Primer is the first personal devotional and small group study on multi-ethnic life and church designed for people in the pews. Through this eight-week experience you will grow in your understanding of the biblical mandate for the multi-ethnic church and gain practical insight for doing life together with diverse others beyond the distinctions of this world that so often and otherwise divide. Eight chapters (weeks) provide seven daily readings to stimulate personal and missionary formation, focused on Theology, History, Considerations, Relationships, Communication, Competence, and Biblical Reflection. Chapters include: Why Multi-ethnic? Why Now?; Obstacles to Date; Systemic Issues; What God is Doing ; How Should I Respond?; How Should the Church Respond?; and Living a Multi-ethnic Christian Life.

<https://interculturalministriescentral.org/primer-multi-ethnic-christian-life/>

### SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE, CULTURE & RECONCILIATION

This 10-session discussion guide, for small groups, creates a safe space and invites candid and conversations about race and culture. Multicultural Ministries Department, Central Territory.

View the document here: <https://interculturalministriescentral.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2016/10/SACRED-CONVERSATIONS.pdf>

### CULTURE 101: EMBRACING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES – English & Spanish

This video, available in English and Spanish, is for those who want to develop cultural competence for intercultural and multiethnic ministries. The video can be used in a variety of program settings. Approximately 30 minutes long. Small group discussion questions and activities includes. Viewing guide available.

Spanish Version: <https://vimeo.com/185958717>

English Version: <https://vimeo.com/174858793>

## ∞ VIDEO (General)

### (Then) Lt. AJ ZIMERMAN ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*"I know that I stand on the shoulders of the people who came before me."*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttFVOpjD\\_G0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttFVOpjD_G0)

## ∞ VIDEOS (from RighNowMedia)

### AFRICA AND THE BIBLE; THE EARLIEST ROOTS OF THE FAITH – Wintley Phipps

Although the central message of the Bible is God's love for the whole world, a distorted interpretation of an isolated passage in its pages has been used for centuries to exploit an entire race of people. In *Africa and the Bible*, Wintley Phipps takes you on a journey of discovery to . . .

- Uncover and explore the early and deep roots of Christianity on the African continent.
- Gain insights into the spiritual heritage and identity of people of African descent.
- Trace the story of God's hand on the people of this land throughout biblical and church history.

This 6-lesson interactive Bible study is a perfect resource for individual and small groups to increase their awareness of God's love for all people

### THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS with Jo Saxton

The life Jesus invites us into when we follow him is one of sacrifice. But does sacrificial living mean the Christian life should be riddled with sorrow? Paul answers that question in his letter to the Philippians with a resounding no. Paul, and the Philippians with him, lived joyfully in the midst of persecution, prison, and poverty.

In this eight-session series, Jo Saxton takes us through Philippians to encourage us to follow Jesus no matter what life throws at us. Through Paul's words and example, learn how joy and sacrifice can go hand-in-hand. With Study Guide - <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/368582>

### BLOODLINES: Race, Cross, and the Christian – John Piper

A documentary featuring Pastor John Piper as he walks through his personal story of growing up in the segregated South. His personal story boldly champions the transforming power of the gospel and the beauty of racial diversity and harmony in Christ.

Trailer: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/641?episode=Trailer>

### MLK50: GOSPEL REFLECTIONS FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP – Matt Chandler

Racial unity is a gospel issue and all the more urgent 50 years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death. Join the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and The Gospel Coalition at a special event, "MLK50: Gospel Reflections from the Mountaintop," which took place April 3-4, 2018 in Memphis, TN. Key speakers included Matt Chandler, Jackie Hill Perry, Eric Mason, Russell Moore, John Piper, Benjamin Watson, and many others.

The 50th anniversary of King's tragic death marks an opportunity for Christians to reflect on the state of racial unity in the church and the culture. It creates the occasion to reflect on where Christians have been and look ahead to where we must go as we pursue racial unity in the midst of tremendous tension.

Trailer: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/295755?episode=Trailer>

## ARTICLES

### MABEL BROOME- A GIDEON OF THE CHICAGO SLUMS

In the early 1900s, Mabel Vivian Broome was a "Gideon" of her day in The Salvation Army. She was drawn to the Army by the fervor of its preachers and its relentless social outreach.

<https://interculturalministriescentral.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/02/GIDEON-OF-CHICAGO-SLUMS.pdf>

### THE RADICAL CHRISTIAN FAITH OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

From the Jan/Feb 2019 issue of Christianity Today--*The Radical Christian Faith of Frederick Douglass*: The great abolitionist spoke words of rebuke—and hope—to a slaveholding society.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/january-february/frederick-douglass-at-200-remembering-his-radical-christian.html>

## RESEARCHED-BASED RESOURCES

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: HOW U.S. CHRISTIANS FEEL ABOUT RACISM—AND WHAT THEY BELIEVE IT WILL TAKE TO MOVE FORWARD

Half of Practicing Christians Say the History of Slavery Still Impacts the U.S.

August 2019 marks 400 years since European colonists purchased and enslaved Africans in Jamestown, Virginia. In the span of those four centuries, the United States' history of injustice toward black Americans has been tumultuous. Discussions about both the problems behind and solutions to racism tend to produce their own divides—but, Barna data shows, many believe the Church has a meaningful role to play in reconciliation. This study asks pastors and practicing Christians, “Where do we go from here?”

Produced in partnership with The Reimagine Group, this special report assesses the nation's reputation of racism, past and present. Through articles, infographics and commentary, Barna offers:

- New data revealing pastors' and Christians' opinions about what—if anything—the Church should do about racial divisions
- Analysis about how views diverge by race, age, political ideology and denomination
- Insights from a panel of scholars and faith leaders, including: Claude Alexander, Andy Crouch, Heather Thompson Day, Craig Garriott, Maria Garriott, Stan Long, Bryan Loritts, Eric Mason, Nicola A. Menzie, Russell Moore, Alexia Salvatierra, Mark E. Strong, Nikki Toyama-Szeto, Michael Wear and Randy Woodley

This resource can be purchased at <https://shop.barna.com/products/where-do-we-go-from-here>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES - BOOKS

### GRACISM: THE ART OF INCLUSION – David A. Anderson

When people deal with color, class or culture in a negative way, that's racism. But the answer is not to ignore differences as if they don't matter. Instead, we can focus on diversity in a positive way, as an opportunity, to show God's favor to others. That's *gracism* ...

### PREACHING ABOUT RACISM: A GUIDE FOR FAITH LEADERS – Carolyn B. Helsel

Of all the activities that come with being a minister, sermon preparation can loom largest—especially when racism is the subject. You've got to address racism with your white congregation from the pulpit. But, truthfully, you can't wrap your head around how to preach about this topic thoughtfully and sensitively.

### THE THIRD OPTION: HOPE FOR A RACIALLY DIVIDED NATION – Miles McPherson

Miles McPherson, founder of The Rock Church in San Diego, speaks out about the pervasive racial divisions in today's culture and argues that we must learn to see people not by the color of their skin, but as God sees them—humans created in the image of God.