



RACE & GRACE MONDAYS

Prayer Points

There are a few ways to engage with these points. We invite you to either pray through the big theme of each block or pray into each point separately. One popular option is to pray through one block a week or just simply tailor your own rhythm to cover these themes.

As you pray, consider what God's will is concerning each idea & why, what society could look like when it aligns with God's will, what it does to those most negatively impacted when society doesn't align with God's heart, & what's needed to move our nation & us personally in the direction of "in America as it is in Heaven" regarding the issues of racism & the eradicating of it.

February

ONE BLOOD, MANY TRIBES

One Race

- we're kinfolk -

May we...

- Acknowledge kinship with one another.
- Love those racially different as we love ourselves & as Christ has loved us.
- Accept our equal value in God's eyes & reject ideas of ethnic superiority.

Not All The Same

- everyone is unique -

May we...

- Refuse to stereotype.
- Reject racial profiling.
- Reject negative overgeneralizations.
- Repent for race-based prejudgements.
- Confront or leave racist conversations.

Different Is Good

- no isolating & insulating -

May we...

- Learn how to be strengthened in diversity.
- Pursue diversity in our relational lives, churches, para-church orgs & movements.
- Integrate the voices & resources of POC in our secular & sacred learning arenas.
- Reject social norms that require POC to homogenize or hide their uniqueness in order to be accepted & excel.

Different Is Hard

- empathy over apathy -

- May the impact of racism on blacks no longer be ignored or met with denial, minimizing, combativeness & comparison.
- May blacks no longer be blamed for the problems of racism. "If only they would.."
- May empathy instead of apathy be the common first response regarding the unique hardships of BIPOC.
- Pray healing for the trauma of racism.

March

SKIN DEEP JUDGEMENTS

Blind Spots

- implicit -

- Reveal hidden bias in us that unintentionally cause racist behavior in sincerely non-racist people.
- Help us choose humility over defensiveness when our actions are questioned as potentially biased.
- Help us care about & learn about the all-too-common negative impact of bias on BIPOC & how to combat it in ourselves.
- Give us eyes to see how practicing favoritism toward those most like us can damage the work & witness of Christ.

Prejudice

- thoughts & attitudes -

- Empower us to value every ethnicity & every person equally & impartially.
- Help us weed out big & small prejudices & preconceived notions about POC that often go unchecked within us.
- Convict us when we view people of color in a less generous way than we view whites &/or ourselves.
- Teach us to be intentional in training our children how to be loving & respectful toward different ethnicities.

Discrimination

- actions & behaviors -

- Thwart the activity of racist organizations & groups that willfully plot harm to POC.
- May racist practices in institutions all across America be uncovered & orgs held accountable for their harmful actions.
- Bring the explicitly racist to repentance.
- Help us all understand & work to end microaggressions against POC.
- Teach the Church to embody inclusive, equitable, non-discriminatory behavior as a witness of Christ.

Savior Behavior

- anti-segregation nation -

- Inspire us to intentionally & lovingly build relationships across racial lines.
- Empower us to resist uniformity-based racial unity.
- Teach us to embrace & celebrate our ethnic & cultural differences & uniqueness.
- Give us hearts to listen to, learn from, elevate, & integrate the voices of POC.
- May we acknowledge & work to address ongoing unhealthy racial segregation in secular & sacred settings.

April

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Board Of Ed

- educational inequality -

- Help us address the impact of the systemic racism from our past still influencing our current educational system.
- Impart effective strategies that disrupt the school to prison pipeline.
- Move state officials to draw more ethical school district boundaries to address America's highly segregated school system.
- Grant solutions for the reality of unequal access to quality education, resources & funding between white & minority dominant schools.

Pray For Educators

- bias in the classroom-

- Empower teachers with wisdom to address achievement disparities among minority students.
- Resource them to teach accurate American history versus the standard white-washed version.
- Encourage teachers to regularly highlight the achievements of people of color & their positive impact on the nation.
- Provide teachers with curriculum from racially diverse sources.
- Require anti-bias & culture sensitivity training for educators to counteract common discriminatory practices toward students of color.

Pray For Students

- overcomers anonymous -

- Acknowledge & address repercussions segregated schools have on students.
- Overcome the racism, teacher bias, & microaggressions students of color face in the school environment.
- Increase quality afterschool programs.
- More tutors for learning assistance.
- Inspire churches to ally with underachieving schools - to pray, support teachers & students, donate resources, & volunteer as tutors & mentors.
- Exposure to more educators of color.

Contend

- suit up & pray bold -

- Pull down strongholds & structures of racism at work in our school system.
- May explicitly racist educators be revealed & held accountable for their harms.
- Pray for a significant shift in our one-size-fits-all approach to education that often leaves the underprivileged behind.
- Contend for the freedom of those educators & students bound by racist perspectives.
- Intercede for racial reconciliation & a culture of love & honor to emerge like a revival among students across America.

May

THE POLICING SYSTEM

Serve & Protect

- appreciation nation -

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, & thanksgiving be offered for all - for Kings & all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil & quiet lives in all godliness & dignity. 1 Tim 2:1.

- Thanksgiving for all those serving honorably in all levels of law enforcement throughout the nation.
- Grace for them to fulfill their roles in godly, honorable & ethical ways.
- Provide officers with all the essential mental health support needed for the demanding job they hold.
- Grant them wisdom to choose the right responses for each unique set of circumstances they encounter on duty.
- God bless police officers & their families.

Rebuilding Trust

- innocent until... -

God, help us:

- Develop a culture of respect & trust between law enforcement & communities of color.
- Pursue procedures, policies & actions which lead to racial reconciliation between the force & black residents.
- Provide culture training for officers serving in poorer black communities.
- Help police departments become more responsive to reports & grievances expressed by POC.
- Help officers hold one another accountable to the high standards expected of them & grant any officers witnessing police brutality, the courage to intervene, & also to quickly report such behavior to those in authority.
- Address community-wide repercussions POC experience as a result of abusive run-ins with law enforcement.

A Better System

- a more perfect union -

God, please help us:

- Address the lingering impact of a legacy of systemic racism in policing.
- End racial profiling.
- Recruit & hire more officers of color.
- Create a national policy of 'Lethal Force As Last Resort.
- Pass national 'Knock First' policy.
- Require nationwide training in de-escalation techniques.
- Require anti-bias & culture sensitivity training to counteract common discriminatory practices toward people & communities of color.
- Create laws & union contracts that don't insulate officers from appropriate accountability when they break the law.
- Create screening protocols that adequately evaluate applicant implicit biases during the hiring process.
- Be swift in firing those in law enforcement guilty of explicit racism & police brutality.
- Provide in-service training programs that adequately train police officers in how to effectively & impartially function in non-white communities.
- Establish a more diverse approach & protocol regarding who is sent to respond to police calls that are non-violent situations.

Contend

- pluck up & plant -

Pray for:

- The pulling down of any strongholds of racism at work in our policing systems.
- A force-wide willingness to address biases that produce behavior racist in its impact even when not racist in its intent.
- Contend for a shift in policing culture that leads to an end of unnecessary violence-escalating approaches between police & people of color.
- Interceded for the protection & safety of those risking their lives to enforce the laws of the land.

June

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Big Idea

- when justice is not just -

"This is what the Lord Almighty said:
'Administer true justice; show mercy and
compassion to one another.'" Zechariah 7:9

- May our criminal justice system reflect our obedience to God's heart & the good command: do justice, love mercy & walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)
- May truth & love reign through laws which value human dignity, equity & opportunity.
- Help us reexamine our beliefs & biases around law & order, policy & enforcement.
- May our criminal justice system be reformatting to execute justice in ways that are equitable & fair, especially in areas where it commonly unjustly impacts people of color more harshly.

Policies & Practices

- when justice is biased -

- Cleanse our nation of the racial oppression & ruin caused by ungodly laws & warped interpretation of laws.
- Stop all forms of abuse against black & brown bodies within the criminal justice system.
- Help us confront sentencing inequities & remove judges who consistently sentence people of color more harshly than whites.
- Bring sweeping change in the arena of drug law inequity which impacts people of color more harshly than whites.
- Bring transformation to the bail system which favors the well-to-do while exacting hardship on & punishing the poor.
- End mass incarceration & other systems of confinement that disproportionately impact blacks & perpetuate poverty.
- End dehumanizing practices such as capital punishment, indefinite solitary confinement.
- Let us reject punitive approaches like immigration detention which criminalizes migration or "zero-tolerance" in schools which neglects the health & safety of children.

Agencies

- a cry for right -

- Thank you, God, for those serving in law enforcement, courts & corrections.
- May public servants recommit to protecting & preserving whole communities.
- May our institutions reflect the diversity in our communities.
- Raise up the impartial & humble to positions of authority and dispel corruption.
- Grant godly wisdom to judges, courts & lawyers.
- May police and corrections officers rise up to address racial inequities inside their institutions.
- Build accountability & cooperation within and across agencies.
- Help activists, churches, & elected leaders develop solutions & sustainable practices, replacing correctional controls with community advocacy.

Restorative Systems

- a cry for help -

- Bring justice, healing and hope to all survivors of crime.
- Protect the jailed from despair and preserve their lives.
- Help us reverse wrongful convictions & restore those affected.
- Strengthen families and communities weakened by the absence of their members serving jail time.
- May we accept our responsibility to care for prisoners and may our prisons become sacred places for restoration.
- Decrease the number of jails and increase entities of rehabilitation and resourcing.
- Help us develop effective reintegration methods, removing legal barriers which keep those with criminal records from (re)building a full life.
- May we invest less in retributive justice & increasingly more in restorative justice.

July

HOUSING & LENDING

The Big Idea

- the truth shall set you free -

May God:

- Motivate the nation to create a housing & lending system that values fairness & equality & works to give everyone access to safe, & affordable rental & homeownership opportunities.
- Help our nation acknowledge historically how housing discrimination has negatively impacted generations of communities of color, & bring us to repentance over these practices.
- Give us a new way forward that corrects the harm that has been caused by discriminatory practices of redlining, blockbusting, & predatory lending.
- Forgive our nation for believing the lie that some communities are worthy of investment & others are not, & for creating policies & practices that kept people of color from flourishing.
- May we learn the ways of Jesus who loved all people especially those that had been marginalized. Let his love & justice compel us to create housing & lending policies that are fair & equitable.
- Thank you, God, for leaders & organizations who have been working faithfully for years in cities and neighborhoods across the USA to address systemic racism in the housing market & to fight for quality & affordable housing for their neighbors.

Policies & Practices

- a righteous nation -

God would you

- Bring unity amongst neighborhood residents in cities across the USA most impacted by housing discrimination, empowering them through your Holy Spirit to work collaboratively to "Undesign the Redline".
- Help remove barriers to homeownership for POC & provide quality & affordable homeownership opportunities. Put it on the heart of local, state, & federal government leaders & others to prioritize funding for homeownership programs.
- Encourage the formation of strategic partnerships with realtors, mortgage lenders, government leaders, faith & non-profit leaders that would give birth to innovative solutions to address every inequity created by redlining, blockbusting, & predatory lending.
- Inspire housing developers with creative neighborhood designs that consider the racial & economic makeup of our cities & neighborhoods that would create homeownership opportunities for everyone, especially for people of color.
- Provoke legislation & zoning laws that would advance fair housing & address racial equity in the housing market.
- Help us to see the benefits of creating a housing market that gives space for everyone to participate through fair & just lending & affordable pricing. Lead us to work toward this vision.
- Inspire your church to create affordable housing opportunities & to join these conversations in their cities.

Read & Reflect

- a new way -

"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The Apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus & God's great blessing was upon them all. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the Apostles to give to those in need." Acts 4:32-35

- Invite God to bring this same heart posture & practice of the early church to the Church in the USA, so that we will partner with our heavenly Father in helping to bring an end to the harm in our cities caused by the racist practices of redlining, blockbusting, & predatory lending.

Contend

- partnering with heaven -

- Intercede for pulling down the stronghold of long-held prejudice & discrimination within the housing & lending sectors.
- Pray for the spirit of conviction to come upon those who hold racist views toward POC, enabling them to have a change of heart & mind.
- Pray for the removal of the unrepentant who use their positions of impact in housing & lending fields to oppress & act unjustly toward POC.
- Ask God to flood this arena with a spirit of justice & righteousness that creates a nationwide culture of equality & fairness influencing policies & practices.

August

CROSSING THE ETHNIC DIVIDES

The Big Idea

- open eyes, hearts & lives-

Reflect in prayer on Revelation 7:9-12: "I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations & tribes, all races & languages. And they were standing, dressed in white robes & waving palm branches, standing before the Throne & the Lamb and heartily singing: "Salvation to our God on his Throne! Salvation to the Lamb!"

- Give us eyes to see the beauty of the diversity of people you have created and celebrate Your image in them all.
- Give us ears to hear the stories of those who have lived different lives than us and learn Your truth from them all.
- Burden upon us with a deep desire to elevate believer's voices within our spheres of influence who bring unique perspectives on who You are – may our stages and social media feeds be filled with people of all ethnicities who are speaking to who You are!
- Grant us the willingness to enter into spaces different than those we were raised in or have typically lived in that we might see You at work in the lives of Your diverse people – maybe that's joining in with a church or becoming a part of a neighborhood who's majority make-up is not my ethnicity.

Chasing Unity

- puzzle pieces brought together -

Reflect in prayer on Acts 4:32-33 "The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them."

- Give us one heart - as we all bring the diversity of our experiences & emotions, may we be united by Your desire for us to be the Church – keep us from worshipping only in generational, ethnocentric worship styles.
- Give us one mind - as we all bring the diversity of our perspectives & callings, may we be united by Your plan of salvation for the world – bridge the gaps of ethnocentric ways of evangelism & mission.
- Grant us the wisdom to know the specifics of how to pursue and achieve unity among Your people – whether that means starting new communities, restructuring old ones, or combining current ones – may we become the very display of Your love for all people, even if that means sacrificing the history of our mostly racially-divided local churches.

Read & Reflect

- leaning into John 17 -

Reflect in prayer on John 17:20-23: "I'm praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them & their witness about me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart & mind - just as you, Father, are in me & I in you, so they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they'll be as unified and together as we are - I in them & you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, & give the godless world evidence that you've sent me & loved them in the same way you've loved me."

- Mature Your people, individually & corporately, that we might become fully one as You, God, are 3-in-1.
- Rebirth a fresh vision for a united church in the hearts of all of Your leaders and people once again in our day that we might become the evidence this world needs of who You are!
- Impress upon us the need to bring together our resources, as a united Church in each city, in order to reach the entire city together for the sake of the Gospel.

Contend

- partnering with heaven -

Reflect in prayer on 1 John 5:14-15: "And how bold & free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours."

- We are united in faith that because You desire unity, we can see unity in our day like we read about in Acts – may it be so!
- Destroy racism in the hearts of any who claim Your name.
- Expose the idols of pride and power in the hearts of those who continue to sow discord among Your people.
- Call Your people to publicly repent and lament, together across all divisions, for capitulating to the racist divisions of the world around us – especially those churches & denominations who's history is enmeshed with the racist system of slavery within our country.
- If necessary, tear down and rebuild Your Temple (The Church) yet again, that we might become a mature expression of what You envisioned, prayed for, died & rose again for, and sent Your Holy Spirit to empower us to become.

September

EQUITY IN HEALTHCARE

The Big Idea

- created equal, treated equal -

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the Lord." Jeremiah 30:17

May God...

- Bless all those in the medical profession who are faithfully working to bring healing to all those who are sick & are studiously working to prevent infirmities in the well.
- Grant healthcare professionals the willingness & wisdom to combat racial disparities in the healthcare system
- Open the eyes of medical professionals to identify the role of implicit bias & structural racism in creating & perpetuating racial health disparities.
- Help medical institutions train health care workers to show up with compassion & excellence, & equitably treat all with respect & competency.
- Release unique solutions that serve to eradicate all forms of inequality in the healthcare system, especially those that have a disproportionately negative impact on people of color.

Solutions Please

- repair & mind renewal -

Heavenly Father...

- Provide solutions that help dismantle the discrimination & biases that lead many doctors to neglect, disbelieve, or actively discriminate against patients.
- Provide solutions that turn the tide on the reality that ethnic minorities are less likely to receive preventive health services.
- Provide solutions to the racial disparities in emergency care, so that anyone, regardless of their race, receives the best medical care in these settings.
- Provide solutions to address the statistical reality of blacks receiving lower-quality in-hospital care than whites.
- Instigate efforts to transform thinking among white medical students who believe Blacks have a higher pain tolerance than whites & therefore are not given the same prescriptions & procedures as whites.
- Raise up more Black doctors, nurses, midwives, technicians & administration who can care for & understand the unique needs of their community & be a comforting presence in the health care system.

Healing

- traumas & triggers -

God, we need you to...

- Help us acknowledge & lament the historic trauma of Black voices being ignored, treatment withheld, & Black bodies being used as experiments to further medicine for more privileged individuals to benefit from.
- Heal the trauma of past & current medical mistreatment that has caused distrust & hesitation to seek help when it becomes necessary.
- Inspire medical professionals to do what's necessary to rebuild the bridge of trust so that Black can access medical care without fear.
- Help us create safe healthcare spaces full of advocates, allies & peacemakers, so that blacks can unload from themselves the burden of having to prove their worthiness of receiving treatment & fight for safe, holistic & equitable care.
- Help the US enacting the kind of healthcare reform that provides everyone with quality health care that's not financially unattainable to acquire nor financially devastating when utilized.

Impact Issues

- the present connected to the past -

Father we ask you to...

- Release healing into communities historically & disproportionately hard-hit with various infirmities tied to the socio-economic, mental, & physical impact of generational racism & continued societal racial disparities.
- Lower life expectancy
- Highest pregnancy-related death rates
- Higher heart diseases rates
- Higher blood pressure rates
- Higher lung cancer rates
- Higher stroke rates
- Highest diabetes rates
- Higher liver disease rates
- Higher cancer death rates
- Higher asthma death rates
- Higher hypertension rates
- Higher chronic illness rates
- Higher alcoholism rate (Indigenous)
- Lower vaccination rates
- Lower access to quality healthcare.
- Blacks consistently experience a disproportionate amount of disability from mental health conditions compared to whites.
- May God intervene to break these generational patterns & convict us to make needed personal & societal shifts.

October

RACE & THE CHURCH

The Big Idea

- Equality -

May God...

- Inspire the Church to herald the dignity & equality of all humankind made in the image of God as an integral aspect of preaching the gospel.
- Help the Church humbly admit where it has historically been complicit in propagating racism through its doctrines, structures, cultures & communities.
- Help the Church acknowledge, honor & celebrate & pursue ethnic & cultural diversity in its communities.
- Give the Church a revelation of how we are strengthened by the integration of diversity & the wisdom to pursue it.
- Lovingly expose racial biases within churches that hinder diversity, inclusion, equality & belonging.
- Compel the Church to do the hard work required to walk in unity amidst racial & cultural diversity.

Receive Your Sight

- Response-able -

Heavenly Father...

- Help the Church refuse to turn a blind eye to the unique generational discriminatory mistreatments that have deeply impacted & shaped so many black lives in the US.
- Give the Church courage to not choose silence & inaction in the face of ongoing revelations of racial violence, oppression & discrimination.
- Heal the Church of the kind of colorblindness that serves as a pass for joining God in addressing these issues in secular & sacred contexts.
- Inspire the American church to share responsibility for pursuing racial justice, reconciliation, healing.
- Grant the Church a desire to learn what words & actions tend to uniquely harm minorities, & refrain from those practices as an expression of the call to love others as yourself.

From Other To Us

- Integration -

- May the Church's seminaries, bible schools, ministry & leadership training schools of all kinds intentionally integrate the theological works of people of color & pursue diversity in its boards, educators, & staff.
- May the American Church integrate theological works by people of color into the space called 'Theology' and no longer separate & label them by racial titles and place them as optional learning blocks.
- May churches elevate the voices of people of color in their equipping & disciple-making resources.
- May churches intentionally include works of people of color in all the spaces where they offer or sell 'recommended resources'.
- May churches, parachurch ministries, faith oriented organizations & movements pursue ethnic diversity in their leadership & ministry team & staff appointments.
- Help the members of the body of Christ pursue the inclusion of ethnic diversity in their close & personal relationships.

Impact Issues

- desegregation -

Father, we ask you to...

- Empower the Church to make more ardent strides in desegregating its faith communities.
- Provide solutions that help dismantle the discrimination & biases that lead to continued segregation in the Church.
- Help churches see where they are solely centered around white culture. Help us explore ways that celebrate & integrate the culture, perspectives, music, & approaches of people of color.
- Help churches aggressively reject cultural norms that unintentionally pressure POC to homogenize or hide their uniqueness in order to be fully accepted & flourish in Christian community.
- Encourage & equip churches to become sanctuaries for POC efforting the biblical values of racial equality & justice - where they can find, not combativeness, but support, prayer, understanding, & allies.

November

RACIAL RECONCILIATION

The Big Idea

- Acknowledge The Issue -

May God...

- Help the Church humbly admit where it has historically been complicit in enacting policies & practices that have been divisive along racial lines.
- Give the Church the will to understand the legacy, ramifications & current harmful impact of past policies & practices divisive along racial lines.
- Lovingly expose current racial biases, offenses & apathy within the Church that hinders the pursuit of empathy, lamentation, & reconciliation.
- Compel the Church to do the hard work required to walk in unity amidst racial & cultural diversity.
- Help the Church acknowledge, honor & celebrate & pursue ethnic & cultural diversity in its communities.
- Grant the Church a revelation that will change Sunday morning from being the most segregated hour in America to one of the most integrated.

Pursue Unity

- Get With The Program -

Reflect in prayer on Acts 4:32-33: "The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, & grace was on all of them."

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- Grant us the wisdom to know the specifics of how to pursue and achieve unity among Your people – whether that means starting new communities, restructuring old ones, or combining current ones – may we become the very display of Your love for all people, even if that means sacrificing the history of our mostly racially-divided local churches.

John 17 & The Church

- Answering Jesus' Prayer -

Reflect in prayer on John 17:20-23: "I'm praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them & their witness about me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart & mind - just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, so they might be one heart & mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they'll be as unified & together as we are - I in them & you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, & give the godless world evidence that you've sent me & loved them in the same way you've loved me."

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- Rebirth a fresh vision for a united church in the hearts of all of Your leaders and people once again in our day that we might become the evidence this world needs of who You are!
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Contend

- desegregation -

Reflect in prayer on 1 John 5:14-15 : "And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours."

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- Call Your people to publicly repent & lament, together across all divisions, for capitulating to the racist divisions of the world around us – especially those churches & denominations who's history is enmeshed with the racist system of slavery within our country.
- If necessary, tear down & rebuild Your Temple (The Church) yet again, that we might become a mature expression of what You envisioned, prayed for, died & rose again for, & sent Your Holy Spirit to empower us to become.