

STUDY GUIDE

HOW

TO

Courageous Christianity  
and the Journey  
Toward Racial Justice

FIGHT

RACISM

JEMAR TISBY

# Chapter 1

## How to Fight Racism

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to fight racism?

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2. Provide a specific example of have you experienced racism in your own life or witnessed racism in the life of someone close to you.

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3. Consider Jemar's ARC of Racial Justice. How do you think we can increase our awareness of racial justice?

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4. How can we foster relationships in a way that promotes racial justice?

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### Pray

Ask God to open your hearts and minds and allow you to see the racism around you, maybe even within you. Ask God to give you hope and passion in your pursuit of racial justice.

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## Chapter 2

# How to Explain Race and the Image of God

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to explain race and the image of God?

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2. According to Jemar, what is the difference between race and ethnicity?

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3. Provide a specific example of have you experienced or witnessed the Black struggle for freedom?

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4. How does your faith inform your view of racial justice, and the practices you participate in regarding "liberty and justice for all"?

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### Pray

Ask God to show you how you've participated in the oppression or exploitation of others, especially people of color, because of your understanding of race. Ask God to help you see your brothers and sisters and fellow humans the way God does—as image-bearers.

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# Chapter 3

## How to Explore Your Racial Identity

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to explore your own racial identity?  

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2. Take an honest assessment. Locate the stage where you find yourself on the Racial Identity Development chart. How did you get to this stage? What keeps you here?  

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3. How do you engage with others who talk about "reverse" racism?  

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### Pray

Ask God to show you where you are currently in the area of racial identity development and where you need to grow.

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# Chapter 4

## How to Study the History of Race

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to study the history of race?

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2. According to Jemar, why is understanding history so important when it comes to fighting racial injustice?

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3. How has American history of race influenced our understanding and experience of racism today?

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4. Which of these suggested racial justices practices have you already participate in, and why?

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### Pray

Ask God to give you wisdom and perspective to see how important understanding history is to the journey toward racial justice.

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# Chapter 5

## How to Do Reconciliation Right

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to do reconciliation right?  

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2. According to Jemar, how has God set the relational framework for reconciliation throughout Scripture?  

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3. Do you actually think reconciliation is possible in today's world? Why or why not?  

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4. What positive experiences or healthy attempts at reconciliation have you witnessed lately? How have you recently participated in acts of reconciliation?  

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### Pray

Ask God to convict your church leaders and your community on where you need to confess, repent and take action towards racial reconciliation together.

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# Chapter 6

## How to Make Friends

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar’s chapter on how to make friends?

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2. Have you ever been at a place where you’ve given up or wanted to give up on relationships and friendships due to racial and ethnic tension? Briefly share the circumstance and the outcome.

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3. Consider what Jemar meant by the essential understanding, Humility, not Utility. Have you ever kept a friendship because it “looked good” for you to have someone who was of a different ethnicity as a friend? Would you still be friends with that person if the topic of race never came up?

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4. How have you felt racism?

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### Pray

Ask God to help you develop friendships beyond your homogenous bubble—friends who are different from you. And if you are a person of color searching for a community where your dignity and humanity is affirmed, ask God to show you where to find that community; or ask this community to be that safe space for you and pray about it together.

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# Chapter 7

## How to Build Diverse Communities

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to build diverse communities?

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2. How would you describe these terms after reading the chapter today: diversity, equity, and inclusion?

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3. Consider a scale from 1 to 10, 1 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest. How would you rate the organization(s) where you work or serve on their attempts at diversity, equity and inclusion? Why?

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4. How would your colleagues, coworkers and fellow volunteers of racial and ethnic minorities talk about their experience in your organization? If you're unsure, who will you ask about their personal and professional experience in your organization?

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### Pray

Ask God to show you how each one of you can be a force for change in the organizations and institutions where you work, serve and volunteer. If you work from home and care for your family, ask God to show you how this session relates to your current role at home.

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# Chapter 8

## How to Work for Racial Justice

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to work for racial justice?

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2. How have you experienced love as justice and justice as love?

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3. Read Mark 12:28-34. As Christians, how does the Greatest Commandment inform the way we love in public and propel us towards justice?

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4. What would you say to a fellow Christian or a church community who pushes the idea of love, and yet refuses to take a stand on justice? What are the implications of these kinds of actions—of pushing love without standing for justice?

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### Pray

Ask God to open your hearts and minds to the areas around you where love needs to penetrate the systems and structures of our society as justice so that all of us may have the opportunity to flourish. Invite God to show you when it looks like to love your neighbors well as individuals and as a faith community.

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# Chapter 9

## How to Fight Systemic Racism

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to love in public?

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2. How have you personally experienced or witnessed racism in the form of a system or policy?

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3. Why do you think it's so hard for predominantly white communities to see racism embedded in systems and policies, and not just the result or intention of individual behavior?

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4. Jemar gave us a hefty list of racial justice practices for how to fight racism and love in public. Why are some of these practices considered "controversial"?

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### Pray

Ask God to open your hearts and minds to the systemic racism around you, and ask God to show you specific ways you can practice your commitment to racial justice as you speak about these systemic issues and show love through justice in public.

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# Chapter 10

## How to Orient Your Life to Racial Justice

### Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to orient your life to racial justice?  

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2. How have you started to orient your life towards racial justice as a result of participating in this study over the past few weeks?  

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3. How do you plan to "keep the light switch on" in the fight against racism in your own life, and in the life of your community? How will you encourage others to do the same?  

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4. Which racial justice practice resonates with you in the core of your being? Most often this will be the practice we feel convicted by or motivated to start practicing right away.  

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### Pray

Ask God to show you how you can orient your life towards racial justice in a way that has the greatest effect on your own life and impact in your community.

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# Conclusion

**Today is the day to Fight Racism and join the journey towards Racial Justice.**

1. How have you experienced a greater sense of awareness and understanding of God as you've embarked on this journey of how to fight racism?  

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2. How have you experienced a greater sense of awareness and understanding the community of co-laborers around you on this journey?  

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3. How have you witnessed or experienced the "deep reservoirs of strength" in those around you? Share specific examples of individuals who come to mind.  

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4. What specific actions will you take to start or continue on the journey of Racial Justice this week as you fight racism? How can the people around you hold you accountable to these actions?  

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## Pray

Ask God to show you how this journey towards racial justice has changed you. Invite God into your journey of living as a courageous Christian who cares about moving toward racial justice in the world around you.

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