



## SUMMER 2020: SUMMER OF COMPASSION BLACK LIVES MATTER READING LIST

**The Christian Education Board at North Hills Community Baptist Church hopes that this summer will be a SUMMER OF COMPASSION for all members of our congregation.** We plan to provide resources, reading lists, and videos in place of Summer Sunday school for adults and hope that everyone will engage to grow in love and compassion.

The senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubery, and others have broken hearts and opened eyes to the racism that continues to plague our country. As Christians, we stand against racism in all forms and pledge to honor the Image of God in all people, treating others with compassion and the Love of Jesus. We speak out in support of our siblings of color and stand in solidarity proclaiming that Black Lives Matter. We pledge to continue to work towards anti-racism in our homes, communities, and here in our church. As a first step, we are hoping to educate ourselves and our church community to issues of racism we continue to face today. There are many books, articles, and resources that have been shared by other groups and communities, and certainly this is not an exhaustive list. The few listed below have been chosen because they specifically address the intersection of faith and antiracism. We hope to continue the conversation in the coming weeks and months as we come back together. If you have specific resources or ideas, please join the conversations and share in our Google Classrooms!

**Join us in our virtual Google Classrooms** where we have been posting resources for children and adults. These classrooms are one way for our NHCBC family to connect and share.

You will need a Google Account to join. If you don't have a Google Account, you can create one for free at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).

Once you are logged in to your Google account, go to:  
<http://classroom.google.com> .

Click the + icon and "join a class". Enter the following codes to join:

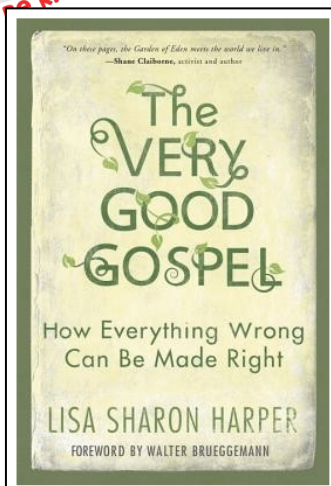
NHCBC Adult Christian Education Class: ckgfnbx

NHCBC Children and Families Ministry: v6xsk3h



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For all adults: We especially recommend books written by authors of Color, denoted with an \*



## \*The Very Good Gospel, by Lisa Sharon Harper

Through careful exploration of the biblical text, particularly the first three chapters of Genesis, Lisa Sharon Harper shows us what “very good” can look like today—in real time.

Shalom is what God declared. Shalom is what the Kingdom of God looks like. Shalom is when all people are treated equitably and have enough. It’s when families are healed. It’s when churches, schools, and public policies protect human dignity.

*Shalom* is when the image of God is recognized, protected, and cultivated in every single human. It is the vision God set forth in the Garden and the restoration God desires for every broken relationship. *Shalom* is the “very good” in the gospel.

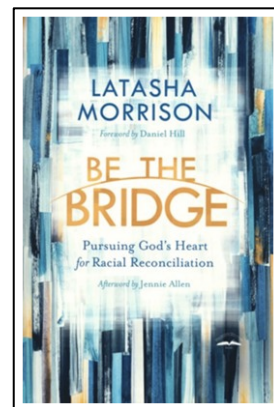
Because despite our anxious minds, despite divisions, and despite threats of violence, God’s vision remains: wholeness for a fragmented world. Peace for a hurting soul. *Shalom*.

## \*Strength to Love, Martin Luther King Jr.

In these short meditative and sermonic pieces, some of them composed in jails and all of them crafted during the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights struggle, Dr. King articulated and espoused in a deeply personal compelling way his commitment to justice and to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual conversion that makes his work as much a blueprint today for Christian discipleship as it was then.

## \*Be the Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation by Latasha Morrison

In this perspective-shifting book, founder Latasha Morrison shows how you can participate in this incredible work and replicate it in your own community. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of racism. She expertly applies biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness, to lay the framework for restoration.



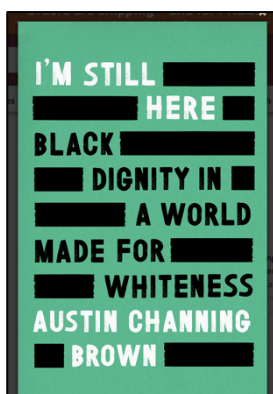
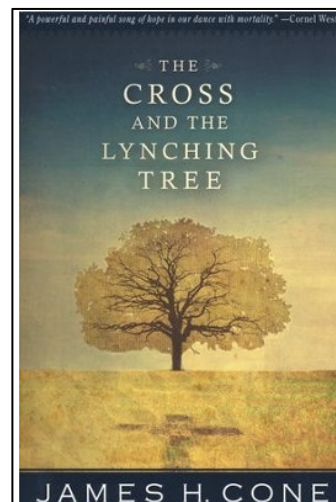
Race and Prayer: Collected Voices, Many Dreams is a book with beautiful prayers (Laments, confessions, hopes) written from many different perspectives around the topic of race.



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### \*The Cross and the Lynching Tree, James H. Cone

The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful new work, theologian James H. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk. Both the cross and the lynching tree represent the worst in human beings and at the same time a thirst for life that refuses to let the worst determine our final meaning. While the lynching tree symbolized white power and black death, the cross symbolizes divine power and black life God overcoming the power of sin and death. For African Americans, the image of Jesus, hung on a tree to die, powerfully grounded their faith that God was with them, even in the suffering of the lynching era.

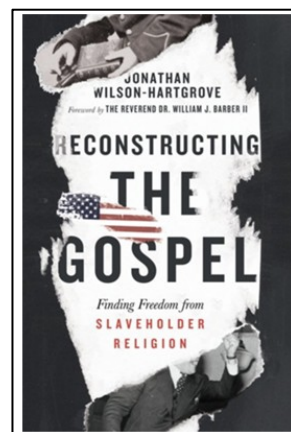


### \*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness, Austin Channing Brown

From a leading voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals.

### Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Grappling seriously with troubling history and theology, Wilson-Hartgrove recovers the subversiveness of the gospel that sustained the church through centuries of slavery and oppression, from the civil rights era to the Black Lives Matter movement and beyond. When the gospel is reconstructed, freedom rings for both individuals and society as a whole. Discover how Jesus continues to save us from ourselves and each other, to repair the breach and heal our land.



### \*Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US, by Lenny Duncan

Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.



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**Going Deeper...Even more to check out to build antiracism:**

“So You Want to Talk About Race” By Ijeoma Oluo

“Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates

“How to be Anti-Racist” and “Stamped From the Beginning” by Ibrim X. Kendi

“White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to be White” by Daniel Hill

“White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism” by Robin DiAngelo

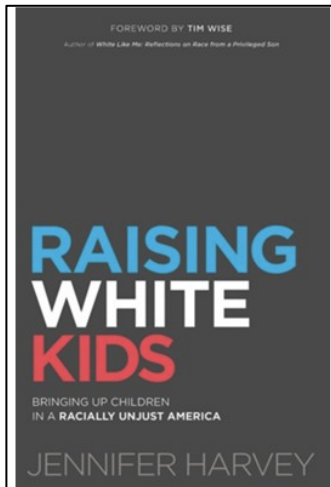
“Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America” by Michael Eric Dyson

“I Bring the Voices of my People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation” by Chanequa Walker Barnes

“Letter From Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Me and White Supremacy” by Layla F. Saad

### **Parenting Resources:**



#### Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America by Jennifer Harvey

*Raising White Kids* offers age-appropriate insights for teaching children how to address racism when they encounter it and tackles tough questions about how to help white kids be mindful of racial relations while understanding their own identity and the role they can play for justice. This is a book for families, churches, educators, and communities who want to equip their children to be active and able allies in a society that is becoming one of the most racially diverse in the world while remaining full of racial tensions.

More parenting links and articles available in our Google Classroom! Check it out!





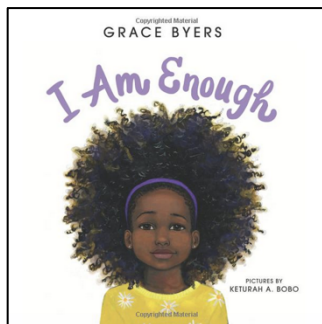
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## Children's Materials:

Hi Parents and Caregivers...we applaud you and your efforts to raise your children to be antiracist! We know raising little (and bigger) ones isn't easy, and these conversations can be tricky. Thanks for acting and living out the Love of Jesus with the kids in your life. Just a reminder, a key for kids' books is that parents make it normal for books with non-white characters to be in their homes. When all white Americans are exposed to is white culture, that implicitly tells kids that white culture is better and superior because it is everyday life. Having diverse books, music, art, toys and tv all the time is what truly tells kids that people of different races are equal, because it makes diversity the norm. So here are some resources to get started (or continue the excellent work taking place in your home!) and we encourage you to read, watch, listen, and learn from a variety of people and cultures.

### The Day You Begin and The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson

The Day You Begin is a poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. In The Other Side, Clover always wondered why there was a fence that separated the black side of town from the white side. When a young white girl from the other side starts to sit on the fence, Clover's curiosity, and friendship, develops.



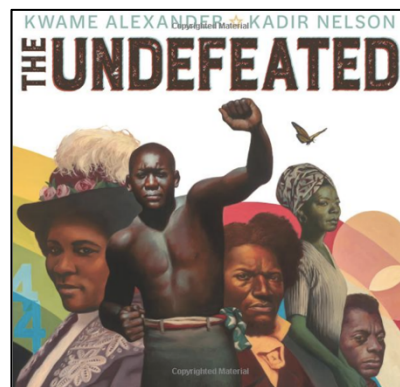
### I am Enough, by Grace Byers

This gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another comes from *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo.

### The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson

Originally performed for ESPN's

The Undefeated, this poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. The text is also peppered with references to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and others, offering deeper insights into the accomplishments of the past, while bringing stark attention to the endurance and spirit of those surviving and thriving in the present. Robust back matter at the end provides valuable historical context and additional detail for those wishing to learn more.



### Colorfull: Celebrating the Colors that God Gave Us by Doreena Williamson

Imani and Kayla are the best of friends who are learning to celebrate their different skin colors. As they look around them at the amazing colors in nature, they can see that their skin is another example of God's creativity! This joyful story takes a new approach to discussing race: instead of being colorblind, we can choose to celebrate each color God gave us and be colorFULL instead.



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## One Big Heart: A Celebration of Being More Alike than Different by Linsey Davis

From skin, hair, and eyes in a multitude of colors to different personalities and interests, God gave us all special traits and characteristics that make us uniquely ourselves. And we all have things in common too: like sharing fun and laughter on the playground, a sense of curiosity, big feelings, and so many other things that show how we are all more alike than we are different.



## Memphis, Marvin, and the Mountaintop by Alice Faye Duncan

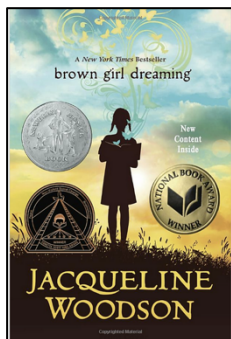
This historical fiction picture book presents the story of nine-year-old Lorraine Jackson, who in 1968 witnessed the Memphis sanitation strike--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final stand for justice before his assassination--when her father, a sanitation worker, participated in the protest.

## Freedom We Sing by Amyra Leon

As powerful as it is beautiful, Freedom, We Sing is a lyrical picture book designed to inspire and give hope to readers around the world. It's the perfect book for parents who want a way to gently start the conversation with their kids about finding hope in these very tense times we are living in.

## God Made Me and You by Shai Linne

This beautifully illustrated children's book invites kids to explore God's design for ethnic diversity and challenges readers both parents and children to learn and live out counter-cultural, biblical views, fostering a lifelong celebration of diversity for the glory of God.



## **Chapter Books:**

### Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world.

**Young Adult:** (but excellent for older adults who enjoy novels, also!)

### The Hate you Give, by Angie Thomas

### On the Come Up, by Angie Thomas



Join us in our Google Classrooms to share in discussion about what we are reading and learning this summer!