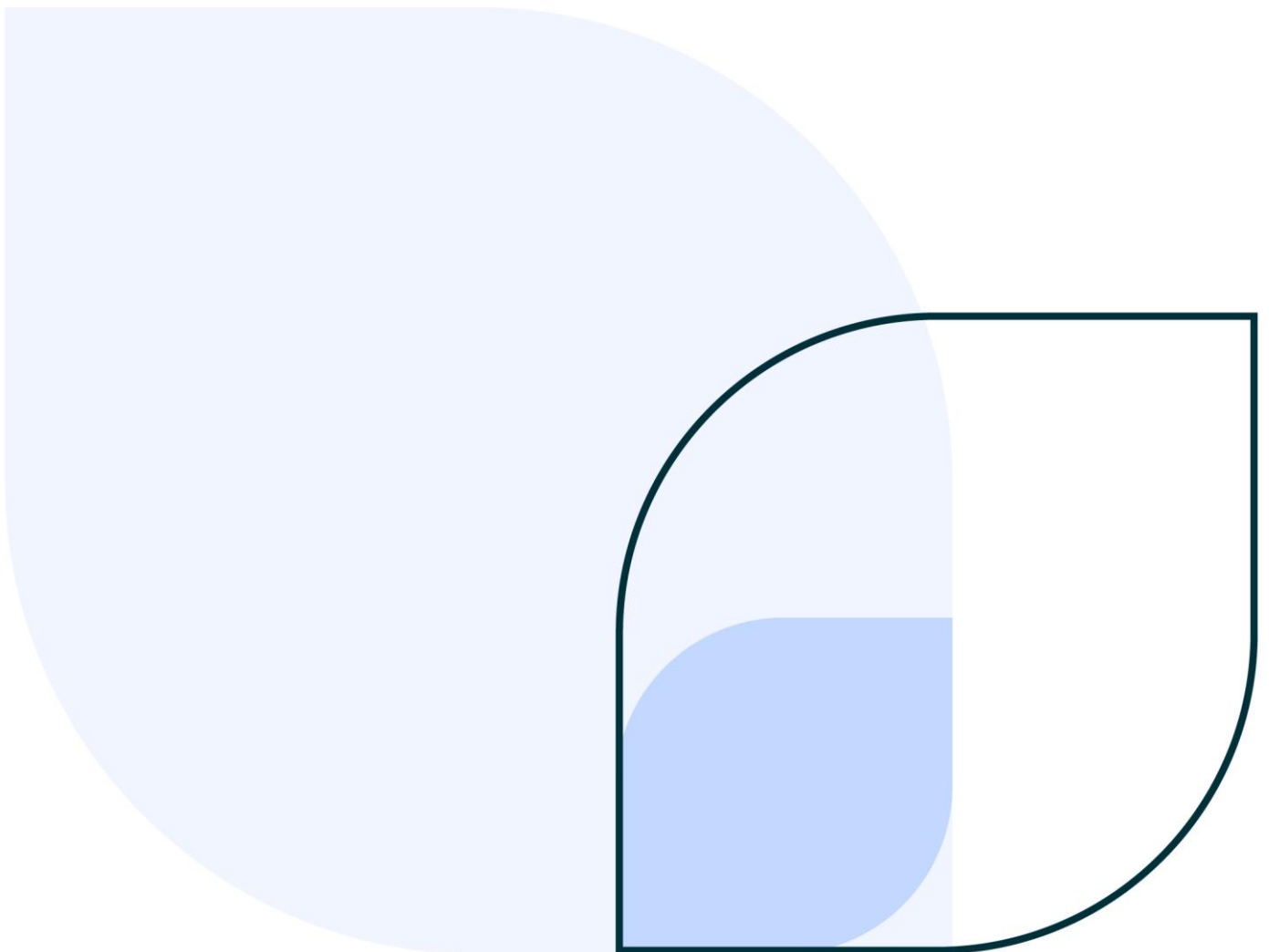


Collective Worship

Secondary resources

Reflecting God's Love: Embracing Race Equality in Our Community





Key Concept / Message

Slide 1

Today, we gather to reflect on Race Equality Week, a time dedicated to raising awareness of racial inequality and celebrating the value of diversity in our world. Race equality is not just about fairness; it's about creating a society where every person is treated with dignity, respect, and justice, regardless of their background or ethnicity.

Race Equality Week is an opportunity to go beyond mere tolerance. It challenges us to actively engage in understanding and embracing the richness of different cultures, experiences, and perspectives. In a world where racial prejudice and discrimination continue to affect many lives, the need for equality and inclusion is more urgent than ever. This week encourages us to reflect on the progress we've made, while also acknowledging the work still to be done.

The week was established to create a platform for open dialogue, reflection, and action. It provides an opportunity for individuals, schools, and communities to come together and consider how we can identify and break down the barriers of racial injustice and inequality. By focusing on race equality, we commit to fostering environments where people from all backgrounds are welcomed, valued, and given the same opportunities to thrive.

Race Equality Week is a reminder that equality is not just a legal or political issue—it is a moral one. We are all called to challenge prejudice, speak out against racism, and work together to build a more just society. As we reflect on the importance of race equality this week, let us consider our role in making the world a better place for everyone, regardless of the colour of their skin, their culture, or their identity.

Gathering

Begin with your usual greeting to gather everyone together. As children enter worship, use a reflective piece of music (for example [Pavane, Gabriel Fauré](#)) to set the tone.

You may like to start with an opening prayer, such as this one:

Slide 2

Almighty God,

We thank You for creating every person in Your image and for the beautiful diversity you have woven into our world.

As we come together this week to reflect on race equality, help us to see Your likeness in every face we meet.



Grant us the courage to stand against injustice, and the humility to listen, learn, and grow.
May we recognise the dignity of all people and treat each other with the respect and love You show us.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to love one another as You have loved us.
Amen.

Slide 3

Consider putting the following quotes on the board for students to reflect on:

Stormzy - "No matter who you are, where you come from, or the colour of your skin, we are all equal."

Akala - "We need to build a society where race doesn't limit your opportunities and doesn't define your worth."

Zadie Smith - "It's a failure of imagination to think that people are defined by the colour of their skin, when we are all living complex lives, with complex histories."

Slide 4

Consider asking students to reflect on **one** of the following questions:

1. What can we learn from the experiences and wisdom of those who have fought for racial equality before us?
2. What actions can we take as individuals to promote racial equality and respect within our school community?
3. How can we learn from the stories and experiences of others to create a more inclusive and understanding environment at school?
4. How can we support one another in celebrating our racial and cultural differences while also finding common ground?
5. In what ways can small acts of kindness and solidarity help create a ripple effect of racial equality and unity in our community?



Bible Passage

Slide 5

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV):

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

In this passage, Christians are reminded that all people—regardless of their ethnicity, race, or gender—are made in the image of God. This is not a privilege given to some and denied to others, but rather the belief that every individual, regardless of their skin colour or background, has inherent dignity and worth in God’s eyes.

This belief is revolutionary because it challenges the divisions and prejudices that exist in our world. If all people are made in God’s image, then all humans are equal in His sight. There is no room for discrimination or exclusion. Therefore, for Christians, each person they encounter—whether in school, at work, or in our communities—reflects the image of God and, therefore, deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, and love.

In our world today, racial injustice and inequality are still pervasive. We see systemic racism in many areas of life, from education and employment to healthcare and the justice system. Many individuals and communities continue to face prejudice, discrimination, and exclusion based on their race or ethnicity. These realities for Christians stand in stark contrast to scripture—that every person is made in the image of God and, therefore, deserves equal treatment and respect. During Race Equality Week, many Christians reflect on how they can stand against racism and prejudice, whether in their own hearts, in their schools, or in society at large, embracing the belief of *Imago Dei*, to work on building communities that reflect God’s justice, love, and equality.

Engagement

Slide 6

Embracing Racial Equality: Building a More Inclusive Community

In times of division and misunderstanding, it’s essential to remember the power of empathy and acceptance. Recent racial tensions within our society have highlighted the urgent need for greater understanding, respect, and equality towards racial and ethnic groups. As we navigate these challenging moments, we may encounter feelings of frustration, anger, and fear—emotions that often arise from prejudice, stereotyping, and a lack of understanding. However, it is crucial to remember that while these emotions are natural, responding with hostility or discrimination only perpetuates division and harm.

As we gather during Race Equality Week, let us take a moment to reflect on the importance of compassion and empathy in our interactions with one another, especially when addressing racial inequalities.

As we reflect on the importance of racial equality, we can draw inspiration from key biblical principles that promote love, respect, and understanding for all people, regardless of race.



1. **Listening:** The Bible teaches people to be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19). Active listening allows us to understand the experiences and perspectives of those from different racial backgrounds, fostering an environment where everyone feels heard, valued, and respected. Listening helps break down racial barriers and build a more inclusive community.
2. **Patience:** In a world filled with racial divisions and differing opinions, patience is essential. Proverbs 15:18 reminds people that “a hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.” Exercising patience in our interactions with others, especially when discussing sensitive racial issues, allows space for understanding and reconciliation.
3. **Empathy:** Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) exemplifies the importance of showing compassion and love to those who may be different from us. This story challenges us to extend our love and care to those of different races and backgrounds, understanding that our responsibility is to show kindness and dignity to everyone, regardless of their ethnicity.

Encourage students to reflect and answer the following questions:

- How can we actively listen and understand the experiences of those from different racial backgrounds?
- How can we reach out to those who may feel marginalized or excluded because of their race?
- In what ways can we practise empathy to better understand and support our peers from different racial and ethnic communities?
- How can we show kindness and solidarity with someone who has experienced racial injustice or discrimination?

Response

Slide 7

One Community, Many Stories: Championing Racial Equality

Invite students to think about ways they can foster inclusivity, ensuring that individuals from diverse backgrounds can live together harmoniously.

Encourage students to reflect on one of the following prompts, which they can complete as a written task during the lesson:

- I can contribute to a more racially equal community by...
- To better understand others, especially those from different racial backgrounds, I could...
- To help create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all races, I could...
- I can make a positive impact on racial equality, even when situations feel challenging, by...
- To foster racial equality and understanding, even when faced with prejudice or discrimination, I could...



Slide 8

Prayer:

Loving God,

As we conclude our time of reflection, we ask for Your guidance in building a world where equality, justice, and love abound.

Open our eyes to see the beauty in every person, and help us to recognise Your image in all who we meet. Teach us to stand firm against division, prejudice, and injustice, and empower us to be agents of reconciliation and peace.

May Your love inspire us to treat each person with kindness, respect, and compassion, both in our school and in the wider world. Strengthen our resolve to create a community where everyone is valued, cherished, and given the opportunity to thrive.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Spiritual Development

[Practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home and school together](#)

Use the EXAMEN prayer to pray for a more inclusive society.

It has five steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. Lord, help me see Your image in all, embracing differences with love and respect.
2. Grant me the humility to recognize the times when I have not thought as well of another as I could have.
3. May I promote equality, justice, and peace in my community.
4. Let Your love guide all my actions and words, so that I demonstrate fairness and justice to all.
5. Through Your grace, may I reflect Your light. Amen.

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

1. Race Equality Tree

Activity: Each student writes one way they can actively promote race equality on a leaf-shaped piece of paper. The leaves are then added to a large paper tree, growing as more contributions are made. This symbolizes the collective effort towards racial equality within the community.

How Teachers Can Use It:

Introduction

Begin by discussing what race equality means and why it is essential for creating a fair and just community. Talk



about the significance of respect, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all, regardless of race or ethnicity. Encourage students to share their personal thoughts or experiences related to racial equality, such as actions they have witnessed or participated in that have made a difference in promoting respect and fairness.

Guided Reflection:

Ask students to reflect on their own actions and identify one specific thing they can do to support racial equality in their school or community. This could include standing up against racial discrimination, learning about different cultures, or being an ally to those affected by racial injustice. Have students write their commitment on a leaf-shaped piece of paper.

Assembling the Tree:

Create a large paper tree on the classroom wall or in a communal space. As students write their actions on the leaves, they attach them to the branches of the tree. The tree will gradually "grow" as more leaves are added, symbolizing the collective commitment of the class to promoting racial equality. Encourage students to place their leaves in a way that symbolizes unity and growth.

Follow-Up:

Ongoing Reflection:

Teachers can revisit the Race Equality Tree regularly throughout the year. Ask students to reflect on the commitments they made. Prompt them with questions like, "How have you contributed to racial equality since adding your leaf? What positive changes have you seen in your school or community?" This can help students track their progress and encourage them to take further action.

2. Discussion on Quotes

Activity: Use powerful quotes on **race equality** from influential figures (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr., Stormzy, Akala, Zadie Smith) to guide reflection and discussion. Students will interpret and apply these quotes to their lives, school, and community.

How Teachers Can Use It:

Introduction

Begin by discussing **race equality** and its role in creating a just, fair, and inclusive community. Talk about how the fight for racial equality has shaped societies and continues to inspire positive change today. Introduce quotes from notable figures such as **Martin Luther King Jr., Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde**, and others who have been instrumental in advancing race equality. Encourage students to reflect on why these quotes matter and what lessons we can learn from them in terms of equality, justice, and inclusion. Invite students to share their thoughts or experiences on how race equality is important in their own lives, school, and society.

Guided Reflection:

Ask students to reflect on their assigned quote and think about its relevance in today's world. Have students consider how the quote challenges them personally and how it can inspire positive actions toward racial equality. Provide reflective prompts:

- "What does this quote teach us about race equality?"
- "How can we live out this message in our school community?"
- "In what ways can this quote inspire you to take action towards racial equality?"



Group Presentations:

After reflecting on their quote, each group creates a presentation or visual representation (e.g., a poster) that explains the quote's meaning and its relevance to **race equality**. Encourage students to include practical ideas for how they can apply the message in their own lives and school, such as supporting classmates from different racial backgrounds, standing against racism, or educating others about racial issues. Each group presents their visual representation to the class, explaining their interpretation and how they plan to put the message into action.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Personal Reflection:

In what ways can I celebrate the differences in others around me, rather than viewing them as barriers?

In what areas of my life can I be more inclusive or welcoming to others who may feel marginalized?

What actions, no matter how small, can I take to ensure that everyone around me feels valued?

How does the concept of Imago Dei (being made in the image of God) influence my view on race equality?

How can I use my skills or passions to contribute to a more just and inclusive world?

Community and Society:

What practices or traditions in my community help promote racial equality, and how can they be expanded?

How can my community ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, has an equal opportunity to thrive?

How do we ensure that diverse voices are heard and respected in the decisions that affect our school?

How can we celebrate racial and cultural diversity in a way that fosters mutual respect and understanding?

How do I personally contribute to making my school a more inclusive place?

Global Perspective:

How does globalization impact our interactions with people from different races and cultures?

How can technology be used to bridge cultural divides and encourage empathy and respect among people from diverse backgrounds?

What role do global media and social platforms play in shaping public perceptions of race and promoting racial tolerance?

How can we address and challenge racial stereotypes that persist globally in different forms of media and communication?

In what ways can the digital age help us challenge intolerance and promote messages of equality on a global scale?



Collective Worship – Our approach

Invitational

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

Inclusive

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is ‘what Christians believe’, saying things like:

‘I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?’

‘The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...’

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

Inspiring

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?