

JUST LIKE JESUS - 2021

January

Making a start In your own time watch the BBC programme [Sitting in Limbo](#). Then with someone else or in a small group, ask these questions:
What emotions did you experience as you watched the film, and why was that?
What struck you as odd, now, unfair and even outright racist?
Suggest changes we should make at the personal and societal levels.



Seeing a change Start a *Just like Jesus* journal. Write, draw, scribble your thoughts, feelings and questions as you take this journey with Jesus and as you follow the suggestions. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you through Scripture and through life. When you read Bible passages that are about justice write them in your journal. Make a note of your own experiences and how they differ from others. Write about your resistance, your prayers and your encounters with others.



February

Making a start Watch the BUGB *Listening to God* video with [Christine Hudson-Roberts](#), and then use the *I can't breathe* prayer exercise by Jane Day.

Seeing a change Book a [JustAware!](#) session for your deacons, house group leaders or whole church for a date in 2021.

Racial Justice Sunday 14th February

March

Making a start In October 2020 Baptist Union Council called for a day of prayer focused on justice issues in which lament plays a significant role. Plan your own day of lament on Good Friday (2nd April 2021). You will find some resources [here](#).

Seeing a change As a church, review your programmes and rotas and plan to have a wider range of people leading, preaching and leading prayer and worship in your services and other meetings. Try to have someone different involved, whether from your own church or invited from outside, at least once every 3 weeks.

Resource: [Church service marks anniversary of George Floyd killing](#)

April

Making a start Spend time looking together at pictures of Jesus that show him from a different race or culture from the UK majority. Here are some sources: [Jesus Mafa](#), [The Christ we Share](#)

With someone else or in a small group, ask these questions: What do we feel when we see Jesus looking like us/not like us? How does this matter when we are sharing worship or telling people about Jesus? What do we need to change so more people can see Jesus?

Seeing a change Look at these statistics from the [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) and in this [2020 article](#). Find out more about discrimination and inequality issues in your local area and consider how your church can pray and work with others to change things. Ask God to open your eyes and ears in fresh ways to the struggles of others around you.

Resource: [Response to Sewell Report](#).

May

Making a start Read this blog by [Jon Kuhrt](#) on the importance of church being the least segregated place in a community.

Seeing a change Hold a listening meeting ([download a guide](#)) so everyone can find out the experiences of those in and connected to your church. Sit in a circle and invite each person to speak on their own experiences (or the experiences of someone close to them) of justice or injustice. Listen to each person carefully and try to understand and feel their experiences more deeply. Think about how life is very different when you don't have to worry about being discriminated against.

June

Making a start Find out more about the history of your church and about your area, its landmarks and its famous people. In particular, look out for a history of involvement in the slave trade or colonialism. Find out as well if there is a history of support for the Abolitionist movement, links with the US civil rights movement or the anti-apartheid movement.

Seeing a change Get to know someone who is different from you in race, background, culture, education, religion... or someone you've just not spoken to before. Be excited that this is someone uniquely and beautifully formed by God and precious to Jesus. Who they are is going to reveal more of Jesus to you. Practice good listening as you get to know them and try to imagine life from their point of view.

[Refugee Week 14th – 20th June](#)



July

Making a start Organise a justice book club using these suggestions:

Ben Lindsay, *We need to talk about Race*;

Layla F Saad, *Me and White Supremacy*;

David Olosuga, *Black and British: a forgotten history*;

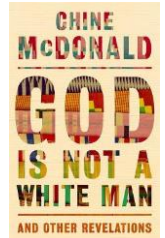
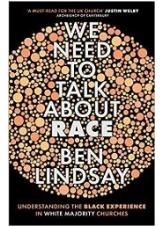
Margot Lee Shetterly, *Hidden Figures*;

Caroline Criado-Perez, *Invisible Women*;

Kupling, Lucas and Brabiner, *Pilgrims in the Dark Pt 1*;

Alex Renton, *Blood Legacy: Reckoning with a Family's Story of Slavery*

Chine McDonald, *God is not a White Man*. [Play the discussion on youtube.](#)



Seeing a change Plan to use the BUGB visions of colour material in your church and add it to your programme for Autumn 2021/Spring 2022.

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/310747/Racial_Justice_Training.aspx Should be available from June 2021.

September

Making a start Look out for adverts for the Sam Sharpe Lecture and book yourself a place.

[The Sam Sharpe Project.](#)

[Watch the 2020 Sam Sharpe Lecture – click here.](#)



Seeing a change Do an audit of your church or organisation – look at your leadership, look at your worship, look at the materials you use for learning, think about the stories you tell and ask the question – how can we be more diverse and more inclusive in our church community? What are the barriers? What can we change?

October

Making a start Explore the [Through the roof](#) website. Their vision is Transforming lives through Jesus with disabled people. What do we lose in our church by making it difficult for people with disabilities to contribute?



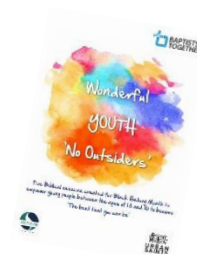
Seeing a change Pray together about the ministry and leadership roles in your church and who God is calling for the future. Plan how you can release resources for training, coaching or work experience so that no-one is excluded from these opportunities. Write this into your budget plans for 2022.

Black History Month

November

Making a start Write to someone you know who speaks out against injustice. This could be issues such as gender-based violence, racism, sexism, parity of stipend, disability or some other topic. It will be a person who may have campaigned, written books or challenged institutions. This person will model a life of speaking out. Be totally honest in the letter about some of your own struggles and difficulties (if you have any) with regard to speaking out against issues of injustice. Ask them for their words of wisdom towards you and any recommendations. Once you have received a reply to your letter take up their advice and put it into practice. If you can have a coffee and talk with them - all the better.

Seeing a change Review the material your church's children's and young people's work. Look at the BUGB [Wonderful Youth](#) Resources and plan to use them.



December

Making a start Look out for Advent reflections that focus on justice or make justice the theme of your own Advent ideas. Who will you share Christmas with as a result of this journey towards justice?

Seeing a change [Creating Sanctuary](#) helps churches look at being safe places for everyone. It allows you to consider stories from LGBTQ people from a pastoral perspective. Plan to use this resource and explore how your church can be a place of welcome and safety for all.

