



## Engaging Matthew 25 as a Congregation

### Resources for Weaving Matthew 25 through Children's, Youth, Intergenerational, and Faith at Home Ministries

As you work toward building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty as a congregation, use the resources below as a jumping off point to adapt to your own particular context and community. For further ideas on how to use some of the specific resources below, see the [Weaving Matthew 25 through Children's, Youth, Intergenerational, and Faith at Home Ministries Quicksheet](#).

#### CURRICULUM

PCUSA's [Follow Me curriculum](#) studies (available in print or download for children, youth, adults, and congregational life):

- Cross Borders
  - Reaching out to those who are different from us, building bridges of understanding and justice (4 sessions)
- Love God, Neighbor, Enemy
  - God's call to love is extravagant (6 sessions)
- Do Justice
  - Liberating justice (4 sessions)
- Welcome All
  - The practice of Christian hospitality, affirming the worth of all of God's people (4 sessions)
- Honor God's Diversity
  - Honoring the diversity in the world that God has created (4 sessions)

[Seeing Jesus: Social Justice Activities for Today based on Matthew 25](#) by Phyllis Wezeman includes 60 ideas to help people see Jesus by meeting the needs of those around them. To see how the activities in this book connect directly with PCUSA's Matthew 25 initiative, explore [this document](#).

[Through the Lens: Focusing on Matthew 25](#) by Anna L. Liechty and Phyllis Vos Wezeman includes "lessons and activities that challenge our eyes to open our hearts." (downloadable)

[Young Justice Builders Curriculum: Intro to Poverty](#). This children's curriculum by Sarah Pantazes explores concepts of poverty, justice/injustice, empathy, and the difference between charity and justice. (4 sessions, downloadable)

[Is There Enough?](#) (PCUSA) Bible-based curriculum for children on issues of hunger (5 sessions, downloadable, free)

[Deep Blue Life: Faith and Culture - Anti-Racism](#) (Cokesbury) A free children's curriculum with sessions on prejudice and stereotypes, empathy and curiosity, and colors and cultures. (3 sessions, downloadable, free)

[Jerry Can curriculum](#) (PCUSA) - This children's curriculum focuses on disaster response and the importance of access to clean water. (1 and 5 session options, downloadable, free)

[Journey of Justice](#) (Youth Mission Co)

A youth study on mission, poverty, and race that is justice-oriented and biblically-based.

This study covers colonial vs. post-colonial mission, charity vs. justice, generational poverty, race as a social construct, privilege, implicit bias, and the history of racism in our systems and structures. It also includes a process to evaluate your congregation's justice and mission work and empower youth to recommend changes needed based on their studies on mission, poverty, and justice. (12 sessions)

[This and Faith](#) (Youth Mission Co)

This series touches on a variety of topics to invigorate a discussion on justice and faith. It would be an excellent study for older youth and young adults. (9 sessions)

[Changing the World: Confirmation for the Missional Church](#) by Mark Hinds (Presbyterian Outlook)

A confirmation curriculum focused on helping teens claim their missional identities and vocation.

[Beautiful Rebellion: Joining the Movement to Change the World](#) (Youth Cartel) encourages teens to use their whole selves to change the world. With short chapters, this would make a great youth book study.

[Dialogues On: Race](#) and [Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis](#) (Sparkhouse)

Adult studies that could be adapted to include older youth, these resources will expand your understanding of race and the ongoing refugee crisis and help you explore actionable steps for your community. (Each resource is 7 sessions)

[Gradients: Faith & Action](#) - Thoughtful Youth Bible Study Curriculum (Passport Media)

This youth resource offers a biblical foundation for why Christians should be engaged in mission and social justice issues, highlighting that pursuing justice should be the core of our faith. (8 sessions, downloadable)

[Do Missions Differently](#) (Passport Media) - Explore the role and sustainability of missions with youth. (6 sessions, downloadable)

[Just Eating: Practicing Our Faith at the Table](#) - (PCUSA) Free download on the relationship between our faith and food. Adult and high schoolers (7 sessions) and middle school (5 sessions) versions are available.

[Seeking Justice Together](#) (Shine curriculum) - Available as a whole church bundle (which includes preschool, elementary, youth, adult, intergenerational, and worship resources) or in age-specific options, this curriculum explores biblical justice and wholeness for humanity and all of creation.

A Matthew 25 curriculum for both children and youth that incorporates many of the ideas from [Weaving Matthew 25 through Children's, Youth, Intergenerational, and Faith at Home Ministries Quicksheet](#) is available from [Jenna Campbell](#). Also available from Jenna Campbell is an intergenerational VBS which is inspired by Mister Rogers and incorporates themes of Matthew 25 and being a good neighbor.

## **DIGITAL MEDIA**

The Bible Project's [Justice video](#) - explore the theme of justice throughout the Bible with this accessible video (bonus: access study notes found at the same link).

[Freerice.com](#) - A trivia game in which players earn grains of rice for correct trivia answers. Through sponsors, this rice is then donated to the UN World Food Programme. Customize by trivia topic and level of difficulty.

[Enviroscape demonstration video](#) - view this video or contact your local water resources office for an in-person Enviroscape demonstration to consider how our actions impact water quality.

[Syrian Journey: Choose Your Own Escape Route](#) - Online Refugee Simulation. Put yourself in the shoes of a Syrian migrant and consider what difficult decisions you would have to make in that situation.

[Who is my Neighbor: Refugees in America](#) (DVD - Sparkhouse)) - an in-depth exploration of what it means to be a refugee in America and how churches can support their needs.

Spent simulation: [www.playspent.org](http://www.playspent.org). Spent is an interactive, online simulation on poverty that helps participants understand the daily struggles of poverty and the hard decisions those living in poverty must make.

[Flourish OKC's digital event](#) on Restorative Justice (video and curriculum) - explore what restorative justice is and be inspired by how the principles of restorative justice are lived out in one city.

[Toolkit for Action: Modern Day Slavery](#) - this resource from PCUSA's Compassion, Peace, and Justice ministry includes a one lesson study on Human Trafficking, a quiz to test your knowledge, guides on U.S. and international law, guides to bring awareness to the issue, a training in increase awareness, and bulletin inserts.

## RESOURCES FOR CHURCH LEADERS AND PARENTS

[Talking About Race with Teenagers](#) - (Fuller Youth Institute)

A handbook for any leader who needs a starting point to talk about race, culture, immigration, and power with today's young people. (downloadable)

[And Social Justice For All: Empowering Families, Churches, and Schools to Make a Difference in God's World](#) by Lisa Van Engen

This book breaks down each social justice issue with a discussion of the issue. Each chapter includes practical tips, questions, and spiritual reflection around how you might discuss and address it with different ages.

[PC\(USA\) Matthew 25 Resources](#) - A wealth of resources centered on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Includes Bible studies, worship resources, bulletin inserts, guides, and more.

[21-Day Equity Challenge](#) - an invitation to increase understanding and move toward justice with opportunities to read, watch, listen and notice during this 21 day challenge created by Eddie Moore, Jr. with resources compiled by Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

[Children and Anti-Racism Toolkit](#) (PCUSA)

A wealth of resources for engaging children in the work of being anti-racist. Conversation tips, book recommendations, resource roadmap, ideas for families, and more.

[Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation](#) - [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

A powerful intergenerational opportunity for youth and adults, this simulation helps participants explore the connections between racial equity and hunger, poverty, and wealth. The simulation highlights the structural inequity in our nation and the impact of policies on today's hunger, income, and wealth divides. (free)

[Advocacy as Discipleship: A People Called to Witness](#) (PCUSA devotional) - a free 4-week devotional to help consider how God is calling us to action and reflection.

[PC\(USA\) Mission Co-Workers](#) - learn about the work and support the ministry of our PCUSA Mission Co-Workers.

Check out these two playlists on anti-racism, particularly for families:

[Anti-Racism with Children](#) (Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church)

[Anti-Racism Resources for Families](#) (First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK). Resources to read, listen to, and watch for parents, children, and youth.

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

[Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice](#) by Britney Winn Lee. A book of prayers for communal spaces centered on justice.

The [PCUSA Matthew 25 site](#) includes several worship and music resources around the Matthew 25 theme, including specific services on each of the three Matthew 25 initiative foci and a beautiful hymn by David Gambrell, "Jesus, Be With Us." And [Beyond Worship: Music Resources for the Matthew 25 Congregation](#).

Our friends from the Christian Reformed Church in North America have curated an excellent set of [worship planning resources](#) around immigration, refugees, poverty, hunger, and the persecuted church.

[The Many](#) - a diverse collective making music focused on peace, justice, and belonging.

[The Porter's Gate](#) - an ecumenical arts collective that seeks to reimagine worship that welcomes and reflects and impacts the community and the church. One of the many beautiful songs with a Matthew 25 reference is [He is Among Us \(the Least of These\)](#).

[Whatever You Do](#) - A hymn by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette at [carolynshymns.com](#). Children can easily sing this one! Explore her site for many other justice-oriented hymns set to traditional tunes.

## PICTURE BOOKS

Sometimes it's a simple story that can get right to the heart of a justice issue. Consider using picture books with all ages to enhance learning and invite discussion.

Note: Flyaway Books offers [discussion and activity guides](#) for several books, including *The Coat*, *Crocodile's Crossing*, and *For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World*.

[God's Holy Darkness](#) by Sharei Green (author), Beckah Selnick (author), and Nikki Faison (illustrator). This beautiful book celebrates blackness, darkness, and night as important elements of the life of faith.

[Brian the Brave](#) by Paul Stewart (author) and Jane Porter (illustrator) - explores bias based on race or language and the bravery of coming together to speak out. (Flyaway Books)

[For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World](#) by Michael Waters (author) and Keisha Morris (illustrator) - explores one family's response to gun violence and racism. (Flyaway Books)

[Sarah Rising](#) by Ty Chapman (author) and DeAnn Wiley (illustrator). Inspired by the events that happened after the police killing of George Floyd, this story provides an entry point into a conversation about why people protest racial injustice. (Beaming Books)

[Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey](#) by Margriet Ruurs (author) and Nizar Ali Badr (artist). Told in dual language (both English and Arabic), this story of a family's experience of the Syrian refugee crisis is brought to life with stone art by Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr.

[Four Feet, Two Sandals](#) by Karen Lynn Williams (author), Khadra Mohammed (author), and Doug Chayka (illustrator) - an inspiring story of two girls in a refugee camp.

[The Coat](#) by Séverine Vidal (author) and Louis Thomas (illustrator) - portrays the realities of those experiencing homelessness while inspiring the reader to respond with compassion and respect. (Flyaway Books)

[Crocodile's Crossing: A Search for Home](#) by Yoeri Slegers - journey with Crocodile through this story that portrays the complex topic of immigration. (Flyaway Books)

[All Are Welcome](#) by Alexandra Penfold (author) and Suzanne Kaufman (illustrator). In this book, children see how welcoming a school community can be with examples of diversity and inclusion that inspire them to welcome others. Also check out the same author's book [All Are Neighbors](#) with similar themes in a neighborhood.

[Mimi's Village and How Basic Healthcare Transformed It](#) by Katie Smith Milway (author) and Eugenie Fernandes (illustrator). This story, written by a former aid worker in Africa, helps the reader consider the basic healthcare needs of people everywhere.

[One Small Thing](#) by Marsha Diane Arnold (author) and Laura Watkins (illustrator) - a heartwarming story of how small actions can make a big impact. (Beaming Books)

*You can learn more about the PCUSA Matthew 25 Initiative [here](#). And additional resources on themes related to Matthew 25 can be found in [this](#) resource list from the Office of Christian Formation.*

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