

Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World Curriculum Designed by Interfaith America & CCCU

Module 3 – Interfaith Cooperation and Civil Rights *Activity 1 – Interfaith and Racial Justice from a Christian Perspective*

Overview

This activity introduces Module 3 by exploring the intersection of interfaith work and racial justice work from Christian perspectives.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this activity can explain:

- o how interfaith work and racial justice work can be effectively linked together.
- o how interfaith skills can also be important in pursuing racial justice work.

External Materials

- [“Interfaith and Racial Justice,”](#) podcast episode from Diversity & Inclusion for All (DIFA) podcast hosted by Calvin University.

Activity Content

This activity is intended to be a springboard for Christians in particular to embark on Module 3 Interfaith Cooperation and Civil Rights. As Christians, we seek to love our neighbor even when they see the world differently than we do. We also are called to pursue justice. Exploring the intersection of interfaith work and racial justice work ties together these two different callings.

This activity 3.1 is centered on a podcast where three Christian women talk about the intersection of interfaith work and racial justice work. The three women are all from Calvin University:

- Mary Hulst, campus pastor
- Michelle Loyd-Paige, executive associate to the president for diversity & inclusion
- Pennylyn Dykstra-Pruim, associate dean for diversity & inclusion

You will begin with a brainstorming activity to look at the goals and the skills for both interfaith work and racial justice work. This is followed by listening to the podcast and answering questions to target the learning goals. Finally, you are encouraged to draw your own conclusions about how and why Christians should embrace interfaith racial justice work.

Student Assignment

1. Brainstorm Goals and Skills for Interfaith Work and Racial Justice Work

Before listening to the podcast episode linked above from Calvin University’s Diversity and Inclusion for All podcast, please fill in the table below.

- What are some top priorities or goals of interfaith work? What are some top priorities or goals for racial justice work?

- What are some of the most important skills for interfaith work? What are the most important skills for racial justice work?

	Interfaith Work	Racial Justice Work
Priorities & Goals		
Important Skills		

2. Listen to Podcast Episode and Reflect

Listen to the podcast episode, “Christian perspectives on the intersection of interfaith work and racial justice work.” The podcast features three Christian women discussing how they got involved in both interfaith work and racial justice work, how they see these two callings as connected, and how we can use interfaith skills to also pursue racial justice.

After listening to the podcast, answer the following questions:

- How can interfaith work and racial justice work intersect or effectively link together? Do you agree with how the podcast guests answered this question? Why or why not?
- How can interfaith skills also be helpful in pursuing racial justice work? Which skills were specifically mentioned in the podcast?
- Which specific interfaith skills do you think are most useful for racial justice work and why?
- Review the table you created above. After listening to the podcast episode, what sticks out to you about the goals and priorities you listed? Would you add anything?

3. Closing Reflections

Consider this definition of **Interfaith Racial Justice** pulled from Interfaith America’s [“Defining our Terms”](#) activity.

Interfaith racial justice is the idea of leveraging the skills of interfaith leadership, and the assets in religiously diverse communities, to work toward racial justice in our communities and our nation. There are lots of ways to act on this idea – relationship building, organizing, dialogue, protest, education – but at its core, interfaith racial justice is the idea that working across lines of religious difference is an important way to build toward a more racially just society.

- How can we embrace the work of interfaith racial justice?
- How does interfaith racial justice align with Christian callings to engage in society and in our world?

Going Deeper

Continue to dive deeper into Interfaith Cooperation & Civil Rights by exploring additional learning activities in Module 3, which is Interfaith America's "We Are Each Other's" curriculum hosted on the LNRG platform. The curriculum is divided into three "playlists": [Reflect](#), [Connect](#), and [Act](#). Each playlist contains between 5-8 separate activities. You may find the following activities to be particularly relevant:

- [Introduction to the Selma Voting Rights Campaign](#)
- [Religious Visions For and Against Civil Rights](#)
- [Sacred Writings on the Shared Value of Racial Justice](#)
- [Asset Mapping for Social Change](#)