TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT
THE NEW POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN
JUBILEE JUSTICE

https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/

As Adults Take Action - Kids Have Questions... and Responses!

Our Ministries Across Generations Affirmation:
While some kids don’t like “BIG WORDS” we believe that kids can, nevertheless come up with “BIG IDEAS” and “BIG CHANGE” with simple gifts which inspire and transform hearts and minds in the ways of justice and peace.

Family and faith leaders are invited to look through this "menu" of starting points around the model of the PPC Jubilee Principles. Use this tool to intergenerationally engage your younger people in this social justice movement.
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ADDITIONAL BOOK LIST FOR YOUNG READERS

ABOUT US...

This resource was created by the Ministries Across Generations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada and friends... in consultation with Rev. Robin Tanner and Dr. Adam Barnes, PPC Prophetic Council and Faith Partner Coordinators


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The Story of the New Poor People’s Campaign

Fighting for What We Believe In. Together.

Talking to Kids –

In 2018, a 56-year-old Black Disciples minister, Rev. Dr. William Barber II - who founded the community-organizing group called Repairers of the Breach— joined efforts with White Presbyterian minister Rev. Liz Theoharis of the Kairos Center at Union Theological Seminary to launch the New Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival aimed at addressing divisions in the United States, from racism to economic and gender inequality.

Although this campaign is using somewhat different tactics than the original 1968 Poor People’s Campaign multi-racial campaign of poor people who advocated for racial and economic justice for all Americans through lobbying and direct action protest, the new campaign's vision remains basically the same as that of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (https://www.britannica.com/topic/Southern-Christian-Leadership-Conference)

Today’s campaign operates on the principle of what Rev. Dr. Barber calls “moral fusion,” which fosters a holistic view of the relationship among injustices, from ecological devastation to systemic racism and the simple faith-based affirmation that solutions must come from listening to and following the lead the 140 million poor or low-income persons in the United States. “Their stories need to be heard, their faces need to be seen. They have the answers.” (Time, Feb. 20, 2020 article)

Following a bus tour to listen to the stories and needs of poor people around the United States, Rev. Barber and Rev. Theoharis launched PPC Campaign
Committees throughout the United States. To find a PPC Committee near you please go to the map at https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/take-action/.

After launching its well attended July 20, 2020 “March on Washington” movement rally online (due to the pandemic), the Campaign is planning a number of state and national ongoing actions (both in person and virtual). Check their Facebook page for announcements.

Talking to Kids – A bit of History

Download Free Teaching Material for kids and teens on “The Poor People’s Campaign Then and Now” from the Morningside Center For Teaching Social Responsibility at https://www.morningsidecenter.org/teachable-moment/lessons/poor-peoples-campaign-then-now

**But God has already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women.**

*It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor. -Micah 6:8*
WHAT IS “JUBILEE” JUSTICE ALL ABOUT?
https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/jubilee-platform/

"Jubilee" is a movement of faith rooted in the Bible. Today, the PPC Jubilee calls for radical faith-based reform and reparation for our nation’s horrific history of (big word) systemic racism, inequality and violence in which more than half of our nation’s children (38.5 million) do not know if they will have a place to sleep, nutritious meals, or safe communities.

So, while the Jubilee Justice Platform itself is complicated, the five Faith-Based Principles on which it is based are NOT.

We Believe that these 5 Principles Can Guide the Understanding and Action of Young and Old Alike.

The Poor People's Campaign’s Jubilee Justice Platform...

abides by the deepest moral and Constitutional commitments to justice. Where harm has been done, it must be acknowledged and undone. With God’s help, our families working together in civic engagement and direct action can bring about a moral revolution of values to heal the brokenness in our land.

https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/jubilee-platform/
**WHY?**

*Want to Raise A Generation of Children Who are Faithful, Informed and Brave About Facing the Crisis of Race and Poverty in America Today?*

Faith-based response-ability taking to bring about a moral revival of values in our nation is something which young and old alike can understand and act on NOW! The five foundational principles of the new Jubilee Justice Platform put forth by today’s Poor People’s Campaign can guide our way.

Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Co-Chairs of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, understand that at the core of the ministry of Jesus (who was himself rejected and poor) was and is justice and compassion for those whom society’s systems of power reject and a movement for wholeness in a broken world. We are called to follow in his footsteps in whatever everyday, simple steps we can take.

**We invite you to Explore Each Principle through:**
- Scripture resources and questions for discussion.
- A YouTube video to watch and discuss
- Ideas for both at-home and community action which help families support the Moral Jubilee Justice Platform each in their own way.

*Note: While the majority of these resources are appropriate for elementary and middle school age and activist kinship caregivers who seek to support of the Poor People’s Campaign, these resources can also be adapted to a progressive, broadly-graded faith formation setting as well.*
FAMILY GUIDE

"Jubilee" is a movement of faith rooted in the Bible which basically calls for an entire year of celebration of freedom and justice. Jesus connected his ministry with this concept of Jubilee when he read the scroll from Isaiah in the Temple. (Isaiah 61:2 and Luke 4:14-30)

Basics for Adults: the Souls of Poor Folk Moral Audit

Every family is different and will have different starting points based on age and experiences. These resources were put together to create multiple entry points for your family unit to engage in the discussion, action, and education alongside the Poor People’s Campaign. Adults are often empowered to take action but are not always sure how to take action in their own homes in ways that are age appropriate, faithful, engaging, challenging, and inspiring for younger people.

There are many resources on this list that will begin to lead you to other resources. We encourage you to work what works for your family as you find ways for all your family to engage with the Poor People’s Campaign at all ages and stages. Here are some helpful resources to facilitate what may or may not be age appropriate.

PARENTING: DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Talking Race With Young Children, NPR
https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510342/life-kit-parenting-difficult

'Raising White Kids' - On How White Parents Can Talk About Race, NPR
https://www.npr.org/2020/05/31/866426170/raising-white-kids-author-on-how-white-parents-can-talk-about-race

Parenting for Liberation: https://parentingforliberation.org/

Sesame Street and Racism (Younger Kids)

Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup
https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4
"Jubilee" is a movement of faith rooted in the Bible which basically calls for an entire year of celebration of freedom and justice. Jesus connected his ministry with this concept of Jubilee when he read the scroll from Isaiah in the Temple. (Isaiah 61:2 and Luke 4:14-30)

Basics for Adults: the Souls of Poor Folk Moral Audit

Every church is different (just like every family) and will have different starting points based on age and experiences. These resources were put together to create multiple entry points for your churches and families to engage in the discussion, action, and education alongside the Poor People’s Campaign.

There are many resources that will begin to lead you to other resources. We encourage you to work what works for your ministry as you find ways for all your families to engage with the Poor People’s Campaign at all ages and stages. These can be used both in and outside of church buildings.

Youth Curriculum
Welcome to “Bringing Justice,” a learning experience for 6th to 12th graders. The accompanying lesson plans have been created by the Kairos Center.
https://kairoscenter.org/bringing-justice-youth-curriculum/
FIVE PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY FOR A MORAL REVOLUTION

Principle 1: OUR COMMUNITIES ARE BROKEN

Adult Version: We need a moral revolution of values to repair the breach in our society. This platform abides by our deepest Constitutional and moral commitments to justice.

Where harm has been done, it must be acknowledged and undone.

Principle 2: EVERYBODY IN NOBODY OUT

Adult Version: Too many people are hurting and we can’t be silent anymore. Everybody is deserving of our nation’s abundance.

Principle 3: WHEN YOU LIFT FROM THE BOTTOM, EVERYBODY RISES

Adult Version: Instead of “trickle-down,” we start with the bottom up.

Principle 4: THOSE BEING BULLIED AND HURT SHOULD LEAD

Adult Version: Prioritize the leadership of the poor, low-income and most impacted. Those who are on the frontlines of these crises must also be in the lead in identifying their solutions.

Principle 5: THERE IS ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE

Adult Version: Debts that cannot be paid must be relieved. We demand freedom from servicing the debts we cannot pay.
PRINCIPLE 1: OUR COMMUNITIES AND NATION ARE BROKEN

Adult Version: We need a moral revolution of values to repair the breach in our society. This platform abides by our deepest Constitutional and moral commitments to justice. Where harm has been done, it must be acknowledged and undone.

Biblical Foundation - Psalm 118:17-29
"The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

Coloring Page: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mBCZYOHXKejVYnd23cHUMnxX3Koupmx9/view

Questions
- I wonder if there is a word in this scripture that you really needed to hear?
- I wonder if you were building a community, how you would want people to act towards one another?
- I wonder what would the “gates of justice” look like?

Learning Tools
“Prophets believe that what they proclaim on any day can be transformed into real action.” — William J. Barber II, Forward Together: A Moral Message for the Nation


(Older Kids) Video Episode 1 - Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man - “Basic Background on systemic racism and white privilege in simple terms (with Emmanuel Acho) https://uncomfortableconvos.com/episode/episode-1
(Elementary ages) “Separate Is Never Equal – Sylvia Mendex and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation” Duncan Tonatiuh (book)
https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/material/separate-never-equal-read-aloud-video

(Adults and teens) Listen to: Rev. Dr. William Barber II on “Breakfast Club” (2020) On the Poor People's Campaign, Public Mourning, Changing Policies For Justice + More (good summary talk 49 minutes long)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Nlmp8xy3YY

Facts/Actions
"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." -Nelson Mandela

Study PCC Fact Sheets (downloadable PDFs): Health and Healthy Environment; Housing; Who is Left Out of the COVID-19 Legislation; Costs of Poverty; Status of Children and Youth; and various State Fact Sheet:
https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/factsheets/

Activity:
Me and We: We Are All Similar and Different, Teaching Tolerance. https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/me-and-we-we-are-all-similar-and-different

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QlhizB8wsU

Family Racial and Economic Equity Awareness Activity: For one week keep a record of the various types, races and socio-economic classes of families you see portrayed in TV commercials and serials, and popular movies. What values do these images promote? Who and what is missing? Do they reflect the economic, racial, gender identities and affectional preferences of the community in which you live?
- If they DON’T, then have some fun creating a short “commercial” which DOES reflect your community! Make a skit of it and perform it for your family.
- If they DO reflect your community, then talk about how they or don’t align with your family’s sense of justice and equity.

**Community Activity:**
Explore and discuss what organizations in your community (including your church) work for worker justice, the alleviation of poverty, and the enrichment of egalitarian family life for all types of families. What can you and your family learn from them? How and where can you support their work?
PRINCIPLE 2: EVERYBODY IN, NOBODY OUT

Adult Version: Everybody in, nobody out. Too many people are hurting and we can’t be silent anymore. Everybody is deserving of our nation’s abundance.

Biblical Foundation - Deuteronomy 6:1-9
"Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."

Bible Verses for KIDS! on "God's Love" by Jack & Scarlett, Listener Kids
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31E7upBmKYY

Questions
• I wonder what are the best ways to love others?
• I wonder what are the best ways to love God?
• I wonder if you have ever felt left our of God's love?

Learning Tools
"We must break through the lie that some lives are more precious than others, that it’s impossible to unite and organize for change, or that the rich and powerful are coming to save us." - Liz Theoris

(Families) 100 Voices are videos hearing directly from people all across the country who make up the millions who are impacted by the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdUpGm0fo4J5QemgmtnkpA0TIAdZsFecC
(Older Kids) Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness, Higginbotham, A.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV sqrKpAizY

(All Ages) How To Change The World (a work in progress) | Kid President, SoulPancake  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z7gDsSKUmu

(Teens) Non-Violent, Justice Seeking Fantasy Books by Rivera Sun  
www.riverasun.org
Rivera Sun also edits a weekly e-newsletter called Nonviolence News in which she collects up to date inspiring stories about non-violence at work around the world at

Facts/Actions
"The soul is healed by being with children." - Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Civil Rights Movement: Civil Rights for Kids, Duckster  
https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_rights/

Learn How to be a “Peacemaker Family” by attending a FREE Family Centered Online Course in Non-Violence offered by the Metta Center for Non-Violence drawing on Gandhi Searches for Truth: A Practical Biography for Children by Stephanie Van Hook  
https://learn.mettacenter.org/p/peacemaker-family  
https://mettacenter.org/
PRINCIPLE 3: WHEN YOU LIFT FROM THE BOTTOM, EVERYBODY RISES

Adult Version: Instead of “trickle-down,” we start with the bottom up.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor."

(Older Kids) **How to Read the Bible: The Prophets**, Bible Project
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edcqUu_BtN0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edcqUu_BtN0)

**Questions**
- I wonder if you know any prophets (people who listen and speak for God)?
- I wonder how you could be a prophet?
- I wonder how your family can be "prophetic" together?

**Learning Tools**
"We know that when you lift from the bottom, everybody rises. There are concrete solutions to this immediate crisis and the longer term illnesses we have been battling for months, years and decades before. We will continue to organize and build power until you meet these demands. Many millions of us have been hurting for far too long. We will not be silent anymore." -Theoris and Barber

(All Ages - Inspiration) **The Skate Kid on Black Lives Matter Plaza** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxYv8ybU_Rg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxYv8ybU_Rg)

**Justseeds** "operates both as a unified collaboration of similarly minded printmakers and as a loose collection of creative individuals with unique viewpoints and working methods." Use the images to engage visually. Create and share your own.
(Older Kids) “Seeing Color” - Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man (Emmanuel Joanna and Chip Gaines and children)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfo1XJDJKS

**Facts/Actions**

"Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world is done by children." - Oliver Wendell Holmes  
(Older Kids) Video: ‘When we lift from the bottom, everybody rises’  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=44&v=yCR3OnIt6C4&feature=emb_logo

(All Ages) Flash Cards with Basic Definitions, Grassroots Organizing/Community Organizing  
https://quizlet.com/3646472/community-organizing-flash-cards/
PRINCIPLE 4: THOSE BEING BULLIED AND HURT SHOULD LEAD

Adult Version: Prioritize the leadership of the poor, low-income and most impacted. Those who are on the frontlines of these crises must be able to have their stories heard and be given the lead in identifying solutions.

Biblical Foundations - Matthew 25:31-46
"Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’"

Questions
• I wonder where there may be people in my community who need food? Where in our country do people need clean water and other basic necessities?
• I wonder if you ever act like a goat?
• I wonder if you could think of ways to help love God's people so no one is bullied and put down?
• I wonder if you make excuses to not help God's people?
• I wonder if you make a difference for people who are bullied and put down?
• I wonder what Jesus thinks about the word "poor"?

Learning Tools
“Nothing is worse than being loud and wrong.” — William J. Barber II

(Older Elementary/Youth): What is Poverty
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5qig9HIJ7k
(Adults for Kids): **9 Activities To Build Grit and Resilience in Children**  
(BigLifeJournal)  

Kid Videos: Watch these videos to learn how KB, Josh, Milton, and their friends deal with kids who bully. stopbullying.gov.  
[https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/kids/kid-videos](https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/kids/kid-videos)

These six stories about kids helping others will melt your heart  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY)

(Teenagers) ReThink is a call-to-action, a push to end online hate and raise responsible digital citizens.  

**Facts/Actions**  
"*If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."* – Gandhi

(Younger Kids) Separate Is Never Equal - Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW6jzzIwAQo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW6jzzIwAQo)

(Older Kids) Principles of Nonviolent resistance: MLK Jr.  
[https://rcnv.org/resources/principles-nonviolence-martin-luther-king-jr/](https://rcnv.org/resources/principles-nonviolence-martin-luther-king-jr/)

(For older Kids and Adults) Interview with Non-Violent Activist and Fantasy Writer Rivera Sun on June 12, 2020: The Story of Our Times - Hacking the Narrative in a Culture of Growing Violence  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWCTXyVWmrk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWCTXyVWmrk)(Teens and Adults) **Did They Really Just Say That? Being An Active Bystander**  
[http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/active-bystander-training/](http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/active-bystander-training/)
Being an active bystander is someone who not only witnesses a situation but speaks up or takes non-violent steps to step in and help keep a situation from escalating or to disrupt a problematic situation or run and get help from a friend or someone in authority to stop or prevent someone from being hurt, bullied or discriminated against in some way.

(Adults and Kids) Teaching Kids to be Upstanders pointers from Dr. Michele Borba https://micheleborba.com/mobilizing-bystanders-to-stand-up-to-bullies/
PRINCIPLE 5: THERE IS ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE

Adult Version: Debts that cannot be paid must be relieved. We demand freedom from servicing the debts we cannot pay.

**Biblical Foundations** – Leviticus 25:8-13
"This 50th year is sacred—it is a time of freedom and of celebration when everyone will receive back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families."

Younger Kids) **Jubilee** Song by Bryan Sirchio
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPCrb86OU6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPCrb86OU6I)

(Older Kids/Teenagers) **THE YEAR OF JUBILEE** by SpokenWord
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cGhz1gkE3I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cGhz1gkE3I)

Questions
- I wonder how God provides all of the people and creatures on the Earth enough?
- I wonder what it would be like to rest for an entire year? (No school, no work, just hanging out)
- I wonder if everyone was able to have a nice home how that would change the world?
- I wonder if all the people who were poor were forgiven all their debts, how everyone would feel?

**Learning Tools**
We hold up a moral agenda that demands health care, and jobs that pay a living wage, and a guaranteed adequate income, immigrant rights, women’s rights, and an end to police and policy violence. - Rev. Liz Theoharis

(Younger Kids) **Jubilee** Song by Bryan Sirchio
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPCrb86OU6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPCrb86OU6I)
(Older Kids) 8 Videos That Help Kids Understand Poverty
https://www.rebekahgienapp.com/videos-about-poverty/

(All Kids) Child Poverty: In their own Words
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLrTZ5IG_Eg

(Teenagers) How America's public schools keep kids in poverty | Kandice Sumner: TEDtalk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O7BMa9XGXE

**Facts/Actions**
"*Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.*" - Maria Montessori

(Elementary and Older) America Will Be - Episode 3: The Spirit of Struggle
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRmM3zSwZk4&list=PL7tSau3X0i09H99ZsuK6LAAqx50UmIve1

Children’s Defense Fund: Child Poverty:
https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/child-poverty/
Stuff UNICEF Cares About (Kid Videos)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzfcpxK7Y8rSU1M8w8a2AiA_D2DhN_ICj

(All Ages Inspiration)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G4D8bdkqE0

Additional Book List for Young Readers

**Something Happened In Our Town** Celano, Collins, and Hazzard

**A is for Activist** Innosanto Nagora - Alphabet book describing aspects of social justice

**A Sweet Smell of Roses** Angela Johnson - March for justice through a child’s eyes

**Emmanuel’s Dream** Laurie Ann Thompson - True story of a young boy’s work for equal rights regardless of disability

**The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist** Cynthia Levinson - One girl’s story of the Birmingham Children’s Civil Rights march

**We March** Shane Evans - One family’s experience of the March on Washington

**If A Bus Could Talk** - Faith Ringgold - The story of Rosa Parks


**I Have a Dream** Illustrated edition of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech

**White Socks Only** Evelyn Coleman - Child’s view of segregation

**The Colors of Us** Karen Katz - A positive look at skin color, from an artist’s perspective

**Let’s Talk About Race** Julius Lester - Introduction to the topic of race celebrating differences and unique features of each race
The Other Side  Jacqueline Woodson - Children bond over a fence separating the white side of town from the black side of town

All the Colors We Are  Katie Kissinger - Discussion starter about skin color and where it comes from

Layla’s Head Scarf  Miriam Cohen - Story of a new girl in school who wears a head scarf and the reactions and acceptance of the other children

A Shelter in Our Car  Monica Gunning - A story of homelessness

Ron’s Big Mission  Rose Blue - Story of astronaut Ron McNair who worked to desegregate his local library as a child

Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box  Eric Stein and Michael S. Bandy - The struggle for voting rights in the south during the Civil Rights era

Freedom Summer  Deborah Wiles - Set in 1964, this story explores the aftermath of the passage of the Civil Rights Act

Steamboat School: Inspired by a True Story  Deborah Hopkinson - The main character’s notion of bravery is called into question by his mom... “I always thought being brave was for grown-up heroes doing big, daring deeds. But Mama says that sometimes courage is just an ordinary boy like me doing a small thing, as small as picking up a pencil.”