

LISTEN + LEARN

A SERIES ON SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE

Week 4: Education

This week we engaged the topic of education, as the fourth and final evening of a four-part Listen + Learn series focused on Systemic Injustice. Students of color disproportionately experience challenges in education. Daily stressors such as poverty, discrimination, and language barriers, as well as institutional challenges such as poorly funded and under resourced schools, overcrowding, and teacher shortages, have led to an achievement gap in education and poorer economic outcomes for students of color.

This week we discussed the need for holistic care, community partnerships, implicit bias training, and policy changes in order to build an education system that is accessible and equitable for all.

Speakers

Pastor Marion Mason had a conversation this week with Bryan Daniels and Dr. Lynette Henry. Bryan is the principal at Children's Guild Charter School in Washington, DC. Dr. Henry is a school counselor at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, VA.

Reflection Questions

What resonated with you from the conversation? Why?

Dr. Henry and Bryan shared about their educational experience and how that shaped their life calling. How have your educational experiences shaped your life's journey?

Have you experienced or observed racial stereotypes perpetuated within the education system? Share and/or journal through one of your earliest memories.

Research some of the various opportunity and achievement gaps that exist in our world. What sticks out to you? What trends do you see? The data is telling a story. How does the story resonate with your personal experiences?

Where can you be intentional in supporting and caring for the next generation within your local community?

Bryan shared, "The way to get kids to understand and buy into the belief we have in them is to show them unconditional love." What might this look like for you and your interactions with kids around you?

Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:

a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;

a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;

a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;

a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Author Unknown

Action Steps

- Join with Pastor Joshua Symonette to connect with [Blu Print](#), an organization that seeks to disrupt the school to prison pipeline in Baltimore City through education, experiences, and excellence.
- Mentor a student in your community. There are numerous ways to get involved in mentoring through organizations such as the [DC Dream Center](#), [Casa Chirilagua](#) or [CAREing Mentors at Hayfield Secondary School](#) in Alexandria, VA, or [MentorWorks](#) in Fairfax County, VA.
- COVID-19 Response: Check [A1:8 Commons](#) or reach out to your local school to see if they have a need for tutors and/or technology for students.

Additional Resources

- [Anti-Racist Reflection Guide to System Injustices in Education](#)
Dr. Lynette M. Henry
- [Increasing Equity for All Students](#)
Sarah Yost, Article
- [What Will It Take to Dismantle Racism and Achieve Equity in America's Public Schools?](#)
Webinar
- [Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#)
by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Book
- [Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools](#)
by Jonathan Kozol, Book
- [A Hope in the Unseen](#)
by Ron Suskind, Book
- [Implicit Association Test](#)