

# **RACISM: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES AND QUESTIONS**

## **Small Group Activity (5 minutes)**

Divide teens into groups and have them answer anonymously on 3 x 5 cards the following questions. What race do you think is smarter or better than any other and why? What causes someone to be racist? What is it about a certain race or culture that you specifically don't like? Then collect all cards and read some of the answers, even if they are shocking. Ask the students to have an open mind as they watch the video.

## **SHOW THE VIDEO (18 minutes)**

## **Small Group Questions (10 minutes-5 per group, assign 3 or 4 questions)**

1. What at school (friends, teachers, etc.) influence you to have racist feelings?
2. How do we determine what is acceptable in our own culture?
3. How do you determine if one culture is any better than another?
4. Are others racist towards you? Why or why not?
5. Why are other cultures and skin colors threatening to people?
6. Can't we all "just get along?" Why or why not?
7. How can you overcome your prejudice feelings towards another culture or race?
8. Write down the name of someone you dislike who happens to be of another race or culture. Make a plan to do something with that person to get to know them.
9. What negative response might you get if you try to get to know someone of a different race or culture, and how can you plan to make it a positive experience?
10. As a group, what activities can you plan with groups of other races and cultures that will help you to get to know and understand them?

## **Group Activity (5 Minutes)**

Compare answers of #2. What we think is normal is different according to how we are raised and who we hang out with. Discuss #5, and explain that racism and prejudice is a two-way street: someone hates you, you hate them back. Groups (like gangs) stick together and hate others as a way of being strong and united (even though it is wrong and misdirected). Finally, share answers found for #10.

# RACISM: WRAP-UP

## **RACISM HURTS YOU, NO MATTER WHAT!**

- If you hate people based on their race or culture, you are missing out on a lot of good friends!
- Time spent on hate only eats you alive inside with negative feelings.
- If you are hated because of your color or culture, you will not only feel rejected and hated, but you will likely hate back in defense.

## **WE WERE ALL CREATED EQUAL, REGARDLESS OF OUR CULTURE OR SKIN COLOR.**

- Just because someone was brought up differently than you does not make them any less than you. They've just had different experiences.
- Different skin color means nothing. We all have the same desires and abilities to love or hate each other.

## **YOU ARE PROGRAMMED BY YOUR ENVIRONMENT TO LIKE OR HATE CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE.**

- Your friends make good or bad comments about people and you either accept or reject those comments. Most of us tend to go along with our friends, and our attitudes are shaped in part by them.
- Our parents have taught us how they feel about other people and cultures and we have certain ideas about people because of what we learned growing up.

## **GET TO KNOW SOMEONE OF ANOTHER RACE OR CULTURE AND OVERCOME BAD FEELINGS!**

- Remember the story of Matt in the video. He got to know the “black guy” and now they’re great friends!
- Assume the best of people and they will give you the best. They want to know you as much as you want to know them.

# **HOMEWORK: RACISM**

## **HOMEWORK Project: Sports Superstars**

**Pick a sport: basketball, football, baseball, soccer, or any pro sport you like. Go through a sports magazine and cut out pictures of the best players in that sport, and glue them in a collage or on separate pieces of paper. List their name by their picture, and answer the following questions:**

1. Who are the top players (in your opinion)? List their race or color.
2. Which players do you like who are of a different color than you?
3. Which qualities make you admire these players?
4. What is the approximate racial mix of this sport?
5. How do the players seem to get along with each other?
6. How is your perception of people of another race different than it is for pro athletes of that race? Are you judging with two different standards?
7. Where do you think these players all started out?
8. Why do you think these players can get along when they are of different races?

**Analyze what teamwork does to unite people of different backgrounds. How does this apply to your school or society? How can teamwork improve racial problems in your area? Describe a community project you can get involved in that will help you understand other people better.**

## **HOMEWORK Project: Attitudes at School and Home**

**Design a questionnaire about racism that you can use for parents, teachers, and students. Put your name at the top of it. Ask people to fill it out honestly and anonymously. Have them hand it in to your school's office to be put in your teacher's box. Hand out at least 100. Include at least the following:**

1. What race or culture are you?
2. Are you: \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Other
3. Are you: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female?
4. Which races or cultures other than your own do you dislike and why?
5. How many friends do you have of those cultures or races?
6. Which races or cultures other than your own do you like and why?
7. How many friends do you have of those cultures or races?
8. What would it take for you to get along with those cultures that you don't like?
9. Would you be open to some sort of a project or a gathering where you could get to know people of other cultures and races?

**Based on your findings, write a report on racism in your school and community. Recommend a project or gathering that would help bring people of different races and cultures together. Suggestion: Projects where people volunteer their time to help others is one great way to unite people! Get your school involved!**