

Resources for Congregational Engagement:

Mass Incarceration

Video: *We Need to Talk About an Injustice* with Bryan Stevenson (24 min)

Summary: Bryan Stevenson shares some hard truths about America's justice system, starting with the massive imbalance along racial lines: a third of the country's black male population has been incarcerated at some point in their lives. This reality, which he says is wrapped up in America's unexamined history, is rarely talked about with this level of candor, insight and persuasiveness. Listen as Stevenson shares why he believes that "we have a system of justice in this country that treats you much better if you're rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent."

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2tOp7OxyQ8>
- Discussion Guide:
<http://ssw.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Stevenson-Bible-Study-We-Need-To-Talk-About-Injustice.pdf>

Book: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

Summary: Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

- Book: Available online and in book stores
- Discussion Guide:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/PDFsGeneral/JUST_MERCY_Study_Guide_122115.pdf

Movie: 13th

Summary: In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom.

- Movie: Available on Netflix, to order online or through local public libraries
- Discussion Guide:
<http://influencefilmclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/13th-Discussion-Guide.pdf>

Is your congregation responding to the Every Congregation challenge and planning a conversation on mass incarceration? Let the Anti-Racism Committee know by filling out this simple form: <https://forms.gle/Vc6aKHfSeZ3VUE6o8>