Conversation Café

RACISM

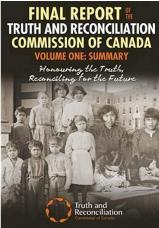
<u>Racism</u> is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized. It is the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.

Racial prejudice is pre-formed personal opinions about individuals on the basis of their race. Racial discrimination is differences in treatment of people on the basis of characteristics which may be classified as racial, including skin color, cultural heritage, and religion. (e.g. John refuses to hire Mary because she is of race X.)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Have you ever experienced racism? What happened? How did you feel after your experience? Did you do anything to resolve the situation with the person who was expressing racism?
- 2. Is there racism in your home country? How is it expressed?

 Are there some ethnic groups which are considered less desirable?
- 3. What are some generalizations that people say about your first culture? Do you think these things are accurate? Why or why not?
- 4. If you had to explain your first culture to someone who knew very little about it, what are some things you would tell that person? What makes your first culture special?
- 5. What are some things you think about other cultures which are different from your own? Is this racism?
- 6. Is it considered okay, in your first culture, for people to marry someone from another race? What are some of the reasons behind these beliefs?
- 7. What are some ways societies can help their citizens become free of their racism?
- 8. If you had a friend who made a racist comment, how would you react to your friend?
- 9. What are some terrible things that happened in the world history because of racism?
- 10. Do you know of anyone who has fought racism someone famous, or just someone known to you? What did this person do?



In Jesus day there was racism.

There was hatred between the Jews and their neighbours of mixed race, the "half-breed" Samaritans.

Jews and Samaritans would not even talk to each other.

Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman

From the Gospel of John, Chapter 4



He had to go through Samaria on the way..... and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." Just then his disciples came back.

They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?"

- What did Jesus do in this story to stop racism? Jesus taught his followers that they should actively show love to all, even their enemies. 'Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.' (Jesus Gospel of Luke 6:27)
- Do you know what this means? Do you agree or disagree?
 Who can obey this teaching of Jesus?

IDIOMS:



Politically correct - avoiding language or statements that could be offensive to women, people of other races, or people who are disabled. "The most politically correct and widely used term for a person in a wheelchair is 'disabled.'"

Stereotype – to give a fixed, unvarying form to something or someone. "He stereotyped all teenagers as being rebellious."



