

# WEST SEATTLE RESPONSE / RESOURCES FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hi families,

I wanted to reach out on this Monday for a few reasons. It has been a difficult and, truthfully, painful few weeks and months that we have been navigating together amidst Covid-19 and quarantine. But an even more unfathomable and difficult time for Black Identifying People of Color (BIPOC) in our neighborhoods, communities, and our nation is happening.

We as a Bethany staff will not be silent. We as your West Seattle Staff, that love your families, will not be silent. I will not be silent.

It is long overdue and past time to address the systemic racism in our country and we will be a part of calling for justice and hope. If you didn't know where we stand as a church, or where I stand as your Family Pastor, know now.

Black Lives Matter. People of Color Matter. Diversity Matters.

I humbly come to you as a white woman, broken and hurt, but still not being able to comprehend the pain that the black community is facing and has faced for a long time. But I commit to each of you, both personally and professionally, to continue in learning, to challenge the system, to read and research, and do my part in being an ally and an active anti-racist. As I have the privilege to be in a sacred space with your kids each week, know that I don't take that honor lightly. I commit to working towards using diverse materials and not shying away from hard conversations, as well as supporting you as you navigate big topics at home.

I also wanted to offer some encouragement for you as parents and leaders of the next generation who can continue the legacy of being chain breakers and can grow up actively knowing how to talk about race and calling out acts of racism in their own lives. We have an enormous part to play in our own homes and hearts as we continue to move forward together. I

have collected some resources for us all that are listed below. These have begun to teach and shape me and my family, and I hope that they would be of use to you and yours.

Know that we at Bethany West Seattle are doing our best to listen to stories and experiences and grow together as we stand up for justice.

As we pray, let us look to 2 Chronicles 7:14, "*if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*"

Feel free to also listen to A Special Message from Senior Pastor Richard Dahlstrom [here](#).

Do not hesitate to reach out if you want to have a conversation or need support in any way.

Ashley

Pastor of Family Ministry and Community Life

Bethany West Seattle

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## **Books and Resources for Adults**

So You Want to Talk About  
Race

A History of Racial Injustice

How to Be an Anti-racist by  
Ibram X Kendi

## **Articles Podcasts Workshops**

Resources on Talking to  
Kid's About Race

How to Raise Race-  
Conscious Children

Podcast on How to talk to  
your kids about race

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

Workshop: Internalized Sexism and White Privilege, for White women

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness

They're Not Too Young to Talk About Race

White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White

Children are not Colorblind: How Young Children Learn Race

**Books**  
**Toys**  
**Puzzles**

The Conscious Kid: Parenting and Education through a Critical Race Lens

41 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism, & Resistance

How to Analyze Children's Books

Diverse & Inclusive Board Books

Puzzles, Games, and More

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West Seattle Family Ministries

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