

"I HAD NO IDEA HOW URGENT IT WOULD BECOME..."

Two years ago, I (Alex, one of our staff) went to a national **Impact Movement** (our partner black campus ministry) training on understanding systemic racism to reach students of color for the gospel. I wanted to be an ally to our Impact chapter in Madison. Our relationship with Impact felt strained, as we had fallen short in loving them well. After this training, I began a journey of reading and listening to anything I could get my hands on that would teach me about systemic racial injustice and the black historical narrative.



This past spring semester, with coaching from Impact staff, I began a discussion group with a few Cru students. Our hope was for them to engage with race, justice and the gospel and in the future, collaborate in ministry with Impact. I had no idea how urgent these topics would become, especially considering what has transpired in our country in the last few weeks.

My hope is that the key students from this group would lead the charge in challenging our whole movement to grow in cultural intelligence and passion for justice. We desire to work united with Impact to reach EVERY student on our campuses.

IN STUDENTS OWN WORDS...

IN OUR GROUP, WHAT HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?

"Talking about these topics (lament, privilege, power, justice) in biblical context and how they are central to the gospel we preach."

WHAT CHANGED IN YOUR PERSPECTIVE REGARDING: RACE, JUSTICE, AND OUR CHRISTIAN WITNESS?

"I always thought of it much more as a problem of the past, but now I understand racial justice is still being fought for today. Christians should advocate for justice because that's what Jesus did."

"A lot. I've realized the responsibility we have in Christ to fight for justice. I've learned we must lament. I've learned that there are still so many things I do not see. I've learned greater humility and understanding of my own brokenness. I've learned that others do not experience the world as I do. And I still have SO much to learn."

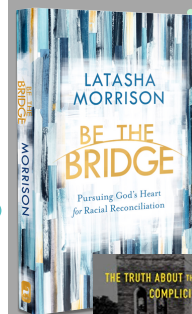
PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for our students:

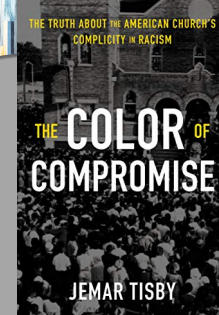
- Our students of color who are tired and exhausted by their cries for equality and by the injustices they've experienced, especially recently.
- Our white students who are engaging with these ideas of systemic racism and white privilege for the first time. It's a challenging topic for many of us who are white people to understand.
- Pray for us to know how to support and shepherd students through their journeys of discovering their own biases and how Jesus might be asking them to change.
- Pray for our own hearts we engage with these heavy topics. Pray we would be stirred to action.

resources

a few of our staff have found these helpful



books



podcasts

