

How Can Asian Christians Respond to Racial Injustice Against Black Lives?

I compiled these resources to provide a touchstone for Asian American Christians who are on a journey to deepen their own ethnic identity journeys while being invited into allyship with other BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) who are victims of racism and oppression in our nation. I have also included a brief list of Latinx and indigenous voices, because it is important to consider the intersectionality of oppression.

An important note is that we should not put it on our black peers to educate us. Rather, we should make our own efforts to educate ourselves because there are plentiful resources out there and we can take the initiative to learn. This does not mean that we can not or should not ask questions. But the ownership should be on each person to do the work of learning within their existing communities rather than relying on others to do all the emotional and mental labor for us. Especially in the current climate, it is unfair for us to place extra burden on black brothers and sisters who are already experiencing so much pain and distress.

As you find yourself overwhelmed, confused, or distressed, remember that God is a bearer of our burdens. Self care is important. But, remember also that if you have the option to ignore, disengage, or pause, that this comes from a place of privilege. For others, this is a constant lived experience from which they cannot escape.

I am a second-generation, Chinese-American woman on my own journey. I am not perfect, I am still learning, and I have much to learn. But I know that the body of Christ is so much better when we intentionally seek racial righteousness, because it is a sign of God's coming kingdom. I know God better when I am in the company of people with different backgrounds because they reveal to me aspects of God that are not inherent to the cultural background and lens from which I approach God. My faith is richer, my spirituality is deeper, when I place myself at the feet of other Christians who are not like myself. I hope this is a helpful place for you to begin or continue your journey. Please reach out, should you desire to have someone to talk with further.

Grace Weng (PastorGraceWeng@gmail.com), Pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10)

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Suggestions For Engaging With These Resources

1) Prepare Your Heart. Before you engage, stop and pray, and ask God to be with you.

When Jesus shares the parable of the good shepherd in John 10:7-10, he says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

We know that the work of the enemy is to kill and destroy. At least one of the ways he does this is through division and conflict. And we as Christians are certainly not immune from this. The church itself has sadly operated with a lot of segregation. Yet this is not the work of God.

Later in this parable, Jesus says in verse 27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” As you engage with your own ethnic identity and with the racial injustice in our nation, it is important that you posture yourself before God so that you can hear God’s voice over and above your own voice or the voices of the enemy and of the world around us. Let God be your good shepherd. Ask God to open your eyes, your mind, your heart, and soul to what is being shared.

2) Engage. Read through one or two of the Asian sources to begin with. Go on to others as you see fit.

As you read what’s presented, pay attention to the following, without judging your responses:

- What am I feeling as I read? Are there visceral or unconscious responses that you are having? (tensing up, tightness in your stomach or your chest, clenching a fist)
- What do I agree or disagree with?
- What can I identify with? What do I not identify with?
- What was easy to accept? What was hard to engage with?
- If there are terms or references you don’t know, look them up.

3) Reflect. Consider what God is saying to you and what he wants you to remember.

- What questions do I have? What do I need to learn more about? How can I find answers?
- Who can I talk to and process with? Who can I pray with?
- What is God saying to me?
- Does anything I read, heard, or saw relate to what I know about God, the church, or faith?
- How can I respond? What is one small step I can do now? What is a bigger step I can work toward?
- Spiritual disciplines to aid reflection: centering prayer, listening prayer, praying in color, journaling.

4) Respond. Ask God how to respond.

Many of these posts provide you with opportunities to respond. Depending on where you are in your own journey, and depending on your current life circumstances, each person will have a different invitation from God to respond. Yet I also genuinely believe that God has a specific invitation for each person. We know that response in action is at the heart of our life with God. How is God inviting you into transformation out of the racism, oppression, and systemic injustice which are a reflection of our fallen world?

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Asian Pastors, Artists, Authors, and Other Voices

Not all of these are Christian sources, but many are.

The following hashtags are one place to start:

- #AsiansForBlackLives
- #AsiansForBlackLivesMatters
- #Asians4BlackLives
- #Asians4BlackLivesMatters



anti-racist anxiety

a call for those who feel afraid to engage

By: Bianca Mabute-Louie
@beyonkz

IG: [@beyonkz](https://www.instagram.com/beyonkz)

A bay area artist. Their most recent posts all engage their personal response to the black lives matter movement, and specifically the intersection between Asian and Black power movements.



@Lindss_tastic

Resistance is NOT a one lane highway. Maybe your lane is protesting, maybe your lane is organizing, maybe your lane is counseling, maybe your lane is art activism, maybe your lane is surviving the day.

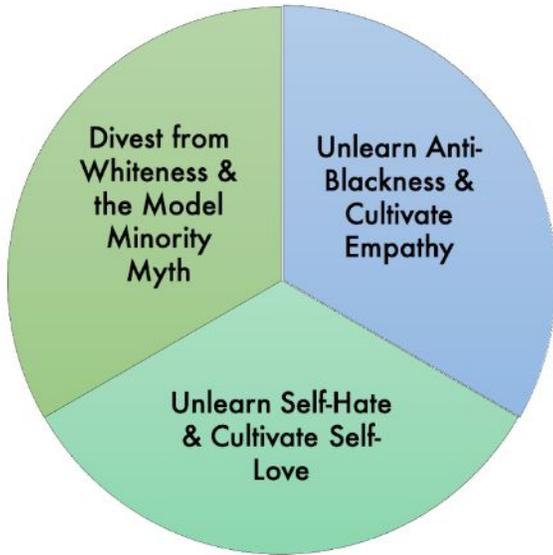
Do NOT feel guilty for not occupying every lane. We need all of them.

IG: [@ernakimhackett](https://www.instagram.com/ernakimhackett)

My friend Erna (former InterVarsity staff. She led worship for Urbana 2015) reposted this from someone else. But she would be a good person to follow in general.

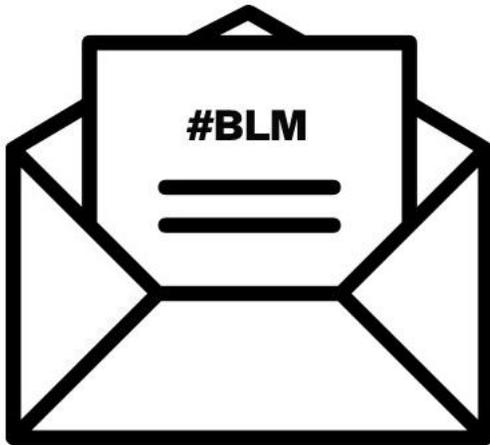
She also has a lot of great stuff on her blog:

[Liberated Together](#)



Google Doc: [Anti Racism for Asian Americans](#)

Super practical resources and conversation starters. I really encourage having conversations with others. Honest and vulnerable ones where you can both confront your sin and seek repentance and make accountable commitments toward change.



[Letters for Black Lives](#)

These are from 2014 when Tamir Rice (a 12 year old boy) was shot and killed by police, but it was a very encouraging way that I saw the Asian community organize back then and it is still relevant today.. They crowdsourced translations of letters to share with parents to begin conversations about race and racism.



Historian Blair Imani 
@BlairImani

Looting is what filled nearly every prestigious history museum in the Western world.

Are y'all anti-looting now?

Are y'all returning artifacts?



[18 Million Rising \(IG\)](#)

“Brings Asian American communities together online and offline to reimagine Asian American identity with nuance, specificity, and power. We are using this Asian American identity as the foundation to build a more just and creative world where our experiences are affirmed, our leadership is valued, and all of us have the opportunity to thrive.”

[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

Mapping Our Roles in A Social Change Ecosystem



Created by Deepa Iyer (Solidarity Is and Building Movement Project)
Available for individual and organizational use with attribution

IG: [Mapping our Roles](#)

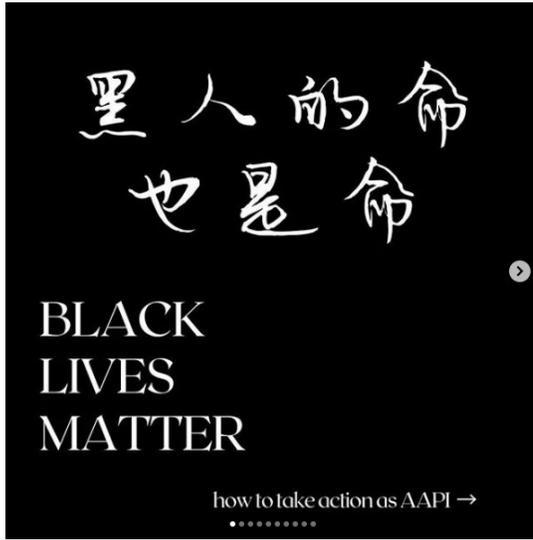
This was a helpful image in considering our response to the crisis. I'm still reflecting on it myself. We aren't all called to do everything all the time. But we are all called to respond in some way and we aren't exempt from change and participation. One helpful way to consider where to start, or what next step to take, is to discern what role God is calling you to, and it may be outside your comfort zone. If you have any folks interested in the enneagram, strengthsfinder, Myers Briggs etc. you could have a discussion on intersections, how their gifts and personalities line up with these and where

Deepa Iyer's website: [Solidarity Is](#)



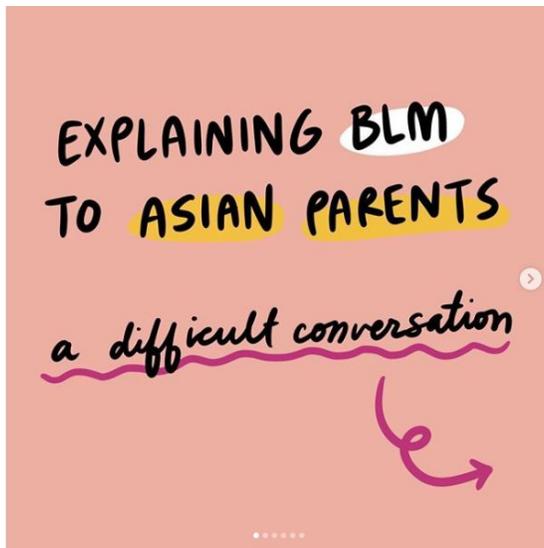
[Southeast Asians Anti-Racism Toolkit](#)

“Help us build a crowdsourced toolkit of resources and tips on how to talk about racism, protests, and police brutality with our Southeast Asian families. During this Edit-A-Thon, you'll hear from everyday people like yourself who care about these issues and learn about the toolkit. Then, we will break into community-specific working groups to edit our community's section to build this together 🙌🏻. No experience needed, just googling, an open mind and commitment to go deeper in unlearning racism.”



IG: [@hannah_chia](https://www.instagram.com/hannah_chia)

Vegan cook. Example of using the platform they have to elevate black voices.



IG: [@mtamdoesart](https://www.instagram.com/mtamdoesart)

A big opportunity we have is to engage in these conversations with our parents and older generations of Asians!

Other Posts / Blogs:

[20+ Allyship Actions for Asians to Show Up for the Black Community Right Now](#)
[Asians 4 Black Lives: Uplift Black Resistance, Help Build Black Power](#)
[South Asians for Black Lives](#)

Other Asian Folks to Follow:

[Kathy Khang](#) | Author & Speaker
[Gail Song Bantum](#) | Pastor of Quest Church
[Eugene Cho](#) | Pastor, future president of Bread for the World
[Soong-Chan Rah](#) | Professor, author
[Erina Kim Eubanks](#) | Pastor, writer
Grace Ji-Sun Kim
Nikki A. Toyama-Szeto
Sarah Shin
[Irene M. Cho](#)

Black Pastors, Authors, and Speakers

As you engage, it is also important to expand the circles you learn from in your spirituality. Much of American Christianity is based in white evangelicalism. But there is a thriving community of spiritual leaders, theologians, and authors from communities of color whose voices can and should influence our lives of faith, and who will invite us into new perspectives and understandings of God and His Kingdom.

[Dominique Gilliard](#) | Pastor, speaker, author

[Lisa Sharon Harper](#) | Pastor, speaker, writer, activist

[Brenda Salter McNeil](#) | Pastor, speaker, author

[Chaniqua Walker-Barnes](#) | Theologian, psychologist

[Jo Saxton](#) | Author, speaker, coach

[Efrem Smith](#) | Pastor, speaker

[Christena Cleveland](#) | Author, social psychologist

[John Perkins](#) | Pastor, activist, author

[Michael McBride](#) | Pastor & Activist

[Brandi Miller](#) | Campus minister, author

Black Theologians

James Cone

William James Jenning

Cain Hope Felder

Brian Bantum

Howard Thurman

Renita Weems

Black Activists

Unlike others in this document, this list is not specifically Christian, but felt important to include as a resource. This list, like the others, is not exhaustive. You can also follow both the national and local social media accounts for Black Lives Matter. I also encourage you to seek out black voices relating to your interests, whether it's related to cooking, photography, sports, parenting, or whatever it may be.

[Austin Channing](#)

[Layla F. Saad](#)

[Alishia McCullough](#)

[Brittany Cunningham](#)

[Blair Imani](#)

[Tamika Mallory](#)

Latinx Pastors, Theologians, and Leaders

Robert Chao Romero
Sandra Maria Van Opstal
Justo Gonzalez
Noel Castellanos
Noemi Chavez
Alexia Salvatierra

Indigenous Pastors, Theologians, and Leaders

Randy and Edith Woodley
Richard Twiss
Lenore Three Stars