

Religion & Reproductive Justice

A SACReD Curriculum Preview



Over the next several months we'll be sharing short snippets inspired by the SACReD curriculum revision that our team is working on this fall. Consider these a teaser, a taste-test for the updated curriculum that we will release in early 2025. These would be great for a book club, Sunday school lesson, scripture study, lunch and learn, or any other group who might want to delve more deeply into Faith and Reproductive Freedom.

Religion and Reproductive Justice

November 2024

Reproductive Justice (RJ) offers a holistic, intersectional challenge to reproductive oppression. Beyond a narrow focus on abortion legality, RJ adds concern for bodily autonomy broadly, condemnation of [forced sterility](#) and [coerced infertility](#), and advocacy for access to the comprehensive reproductive healthcare, economic, and environmental conditions that support individual, family, and community flourishing. While reproductive rights is typically grounded in secular commitments to individual freedom, Reproductive Justice goes deeper to also ground morally in fundamental human rights principles, which reflect values across faiths.

At the core of the SACReD Journey is an invitation for people of faith to put their religious tradition and Reproductive Justice into conversation.

Here are some examples of the intersectional complexities of reproductive oppression, which extends beyond abortion bans. Watch these videos and

name the particular variables that lead to differences in health outcomes for different groups. Note how the legality of abortion is only one issue among several:

- [“The Women Racing to Stop America’s Maternal Mortality Crisis”](#)
Addresses systemic racism as a major factor in maternal mortality
- [“Maternal Mortality in America and the Crisis for Rural Women”](#)
Addresses birthing risks for low income and rural women
- [“Why It’s Expensive to be Poor in America”](#)
Addresses parenting and poverty

Overview of Reproductive Justice:

- [A Brief History of Reproductive Justice](#)
Explores the reasons RJ was developed by a group of Black women in the 1990s
- [“Loretta Ross, RJ and Human Rights Advocate”](#)
An overview of human rights framework and tenets of RJ, from one of the founders
- [RJ Vision of the Future](#)
SisterSong’s version of reproductive liberation as a social ideal and an agenda

Having engaged these materials, consider and discuss some key questions with your small group:

- What are the theological/philosophical and ethical similarities between your tradition, on the one hand, and, on the other, RJ’s ethics and vision of the common good? Put another way, how does your faith agree with RJ? (Consider the liberation dimensions of your tradition in particular.)
- Are there also conflicts, and, if so, what are they?
- Where there is disagreement, can the conflict be reconciled? How so?