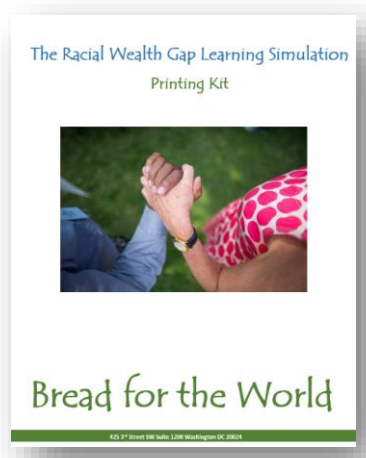# Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation

What is the Simulation?

The simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth. It outlines 13 federal policies and their use of racial discrimination in creating the wealth, income and hunger gaps we see today. Each policy card provides the quantitative economic impact of racial inequity, causing participants to lose or gain a series of money, land, and opportunity lost cards.

At the end, participants have the amount of money cards equal to that of the actual racial wealth divide in U.S. dollars today. Following, there are small and large group discussions, allowing participants to walk away understanding the role of racial inequality at the structural level as well as ways they can start to undo some of these practices with their personal choices, policies they advocate for, and ways they engage at work and in their community. We provide participants a detailed policy packet on each of the 13 policies featured in the simulation. In addition, we provide a biblical activity sheet that churches are invited to use to reflect on different biblical principles guiding our commitment to achieve racial equity.

The simulation can be a helpful companion tool for churches, organizations, agencies, schools, and communities that have been working on race and want to learn more about the role that *public policy* has had, over time, in creating structural divides based on race.

What is Unique about the Simulation?

The simulation is unique in the sense that it can be used for a variety of audiences to deepen their understanding of what it is important to end racism and inequality in the U.S. It is a good first step for people unaware of structural inequality and racism and a good support tool for those who want a deeper understanding of structural inequality and racism. It is also a source of information for racial equity experts who want to know the quantifiable economic impact of each policy that has widened today's racial hunger, income, and wealth divides.

In the simulation, participants learn how federal policies created structural inequalities--property ownership and education are just two among many areas affected—and how these policies increase hunger and poverty in communities of color. The simulation guides participants to an understanding of why racial equity is so important to ending hunger and poverty in the United States. Our hope is that participants, in becoming more aware of structural inequality, can support policies that undo and/or reduce disparities.

How Does the Simulation Break Down Barriers?

There are many ways of talking or thinking about race. Feeling uncomfortable with the topic can be a barrier to engaging in conversation. Yet these conversations are essential, especially if we are going to end hate and discrimination in our country, and eradicate hunger and poverty. This is one reason the simulation calls for participants to randomly select cards that assign them a racial identity that may be different from their own. This helps break down some of the barriers, and participants have felt more comfortable engaging in difficult conversation around racial discrimination, privilege and bias.

What is the Impact of the Simulation?

Bread has seen that the simulation can change people's hearts and minds and inspire them to become committed to applying a racial equity lens to their work and personal life—contributing to ending hate and discrimination in our country.

At the same time, Bread has seen this simulation be an effective tool in empowering young people of color to continue the struggle to organize for racial equity and inclusion, and advocate for policies that end hunger among communities of color.

This simulation has been presented across the country, to many audiences—all with varied understandings of racial inequity—including service providers, faith leaders, policy-makers, community activists and private partners. Participants are encouraged to use this tool to help their organization, non-profit, school, community, or church understand racial inequity and how it was formed. In doing this, we can see a shift in non-profits, service providers and policy makers deciding to implement racial equity in the policies they inform/support and the practices they engage in moving forward.

How did the Simulation Come to Be?

The Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation was a joint effort from Bread for the World and NETWORK. The concept and design of the simulation was originated by Marlysa D. Gamblin, a policy expert on the racial hunger, income, and wealth divide with Bread for the World Institute. She worked closely with Emma Tacke and Catherine Guerrier with NETWORK to pilot it for the first time at Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) in April 2017. Afterward, Bread dedicated a full year to piloting the simulation in the field and making adjustments as necessary to ensure that this tool is helpful to a wide variety of communities in different settings.

Bread has seen that the simulation can change people's hearts and minds and inspire them to become committed to applying a racial equity lens to their work, both inside and outside the anti-hunger and anti-poverty communities. This tool can be used at home, Bible study, churches, larger gatherings, and schools, and among staff at nonprofits, advocacy organizations, service providers, government agencies, and private entities.