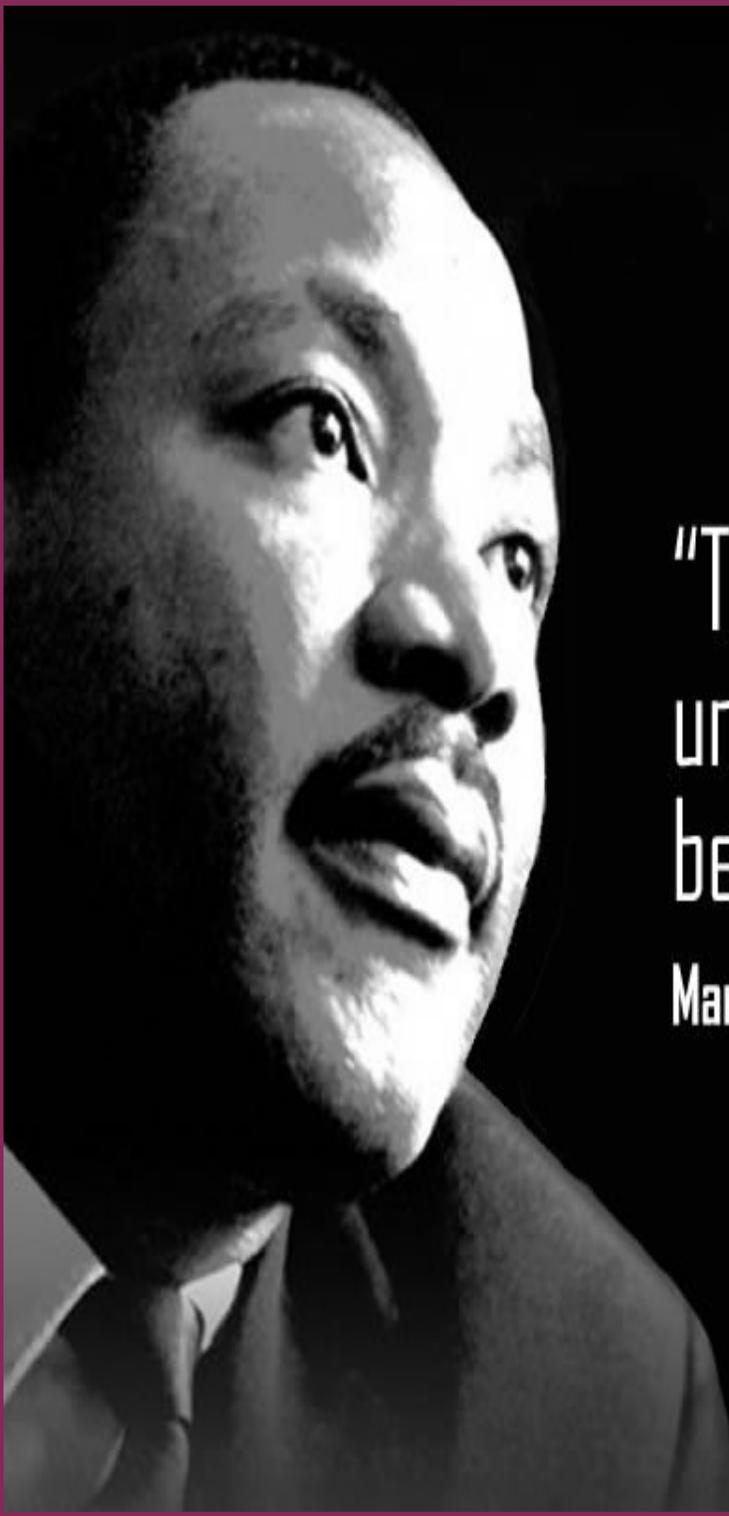


# Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Martin Luther King Jr.

## Martin Luther King Resource 2021

January, 2021

Dear Beloved Community

“And one of the great liabilities of life is that all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes, the new mental responses, that the new situation demands.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The wisdom of these words resonated deeply as we are in the midst of multiple pandemics. Our world has been called into doing things we’ve never had to do. But in the midst of it all, the love of Jesus Christ always comes through. We have also been reminded of the importance of the beloved community. This community that may be meeting virtually and not physically with each other. Yet the physical distance doesn’t mean that we are disconnected from each other. We have learned that social distancing doesn’t mean social disconnection.

Dr. King’s words are timeless and often apply to what we are presently experiencing. As we celebrate his life and legacy, remember his commitment to beloved community. Remember his commitment to justice. Remember his commitment to speaking on behalf of the marginalized and oppressed. Remember his courage to speak truth to power.

You are encouraged to use these resources not only during the month of his celebration, but throughout the year. We are grateful for his legacy.

Blessings,

Rev. Sheila P. Spencer



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# Scripture Reference

## Genesis 37:18-20

They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. They said to each other, "Here comes that dreamer. Now is our chance; let us kill him and throw him into one of these pits and say that a wild beast has devoured him. Then we shall see what will become of his dreams.

## Psalms 82:304

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

## Proverbs 21:3

Do what is right and just; that is more pleasing to God than sacrifice.

## Isaiah 1:16-17

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

## Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me burnt offerings and cereal offerings, I will not accept them, and the peace offerings of your fatted beasts, I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream.

## Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving one another; as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

## Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you.

## John 15:11-16

These things I have spoken to you, that joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down one's life for a friend. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard for God I have made known to you. You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so whatever you ask God in my name, may it be given to you.

## Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew or Greek, there is neither slave or free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ.

## Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the realm of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the realm of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven, for so the prophets who were before you were persecuted.

# Litany

**Leader:** In every era, God has chosen men and women to serve the needs of his people. Such a servant was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we celebrate. We are deeply thankful for the life of this twentieth century prophet

**People:** May the wisdom and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rekindle our faith.

**Leader:** May the deep love that Dr. King had for all people be released in us, that we too might work miracles in the lives of those who continue to hate.

**People:** Dr. King taught that only love can overcome hatred, bitterness and fear.

**Leader:** May his struggle for social transformation continue in this generation. May all people come to believe that with perseverance, "We Shall Overcome."

**People:** "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." (Am. 5:24)

**Leader:** May the work of Dr. King continue to eradicate racial justice and its ungodly consequences.

**People:** Dr. King pursued his dream of racial equality by appealing to the conscience of his enemies.

**Leader:** May we continue to cultivate the nonviolent discipline of Dr. King, abandoning unrestrained acts of force.

**People:** He taught us that a heart full of grace and love is just as important as an education.

**Leader:** May the spirit of Dr. King continue to flow through our daily living.

**People:** He believed in self-respect and dignity, even though he knew that there would be difficult days ahead.

**Leader:** May we have the courage of Dr. King as we continue to stand up for justice, reconciliation and truth, despite challenge and controversy.

**People:** Dr. King said that war is never a victory, regardless of the outcome.

**Leader:** May the peace of the risen Christ cause the fury of war to vanish from the face of the earth.

**All:** Dr. King went to the mountain top; he saw the Promised Land; and he reassured us that we will get there one day. God of Glory, be with us on the journey.

*(African American Lectionary)*

# HISTORICAL FACTS

**1929** Born Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15 in Atlanta, Ga.

**1948** Graduates from Morehouse College, ordained a Baptist minister

**1951** Graduates from Crozier Theological Seminary

**1953** Marries Coretta Scott

**1954** Becomes pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.

**1955** Receives PH.D. degree in Systematic Theology from Boston University; Rosa Parks, arrested for refusing to give up her seat on segregated bus sparks the Montgomery bus boycott; becomes president of the Montgomery Improvement Association; first child, Yolanda is born

**1957** King founds the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); organizes the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom; awarded the NAACP Springarn Medal; second child, Martin is born

**1959** Travels to India

**1960** Becomes co-pastor at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta; imprisoned at Reidsville state penitentiary in Georgia 1961 Launches desegregation campaign in Albany, Ga.; third child, Dexter, is born

**1962** King joins racial protests in Birmingham, Ala.

**1963** Arrested at a demonstration in Birmingham; writes "Letter from Birmingham Jail"; delivers "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington; fourth child, Bernice, is born

**1964** King awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

**1965** Joins the SCLC in Selma, Ala., for its march to Montgomery

**1966** Launches the Chicago Freedom Movement; organizes the "James Meredith March Against Fear"

**1967** Forms the Poor People's Campaign

**1968** Assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

**1983** The U.S. Congress passed a bill declaring the third Monday of January each year as Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law on November 2, 1983, fifteen years after King's assassination.

# Quotes

*To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.*

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*

*We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.*



*The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'*

*The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.*

*Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.*

*Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.*

*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

*The time is always right to do what is right.*

*Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better.*

*A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.*

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter*

# Resources

The following is a list of resources to assist those who would like to present a unit of study in anticipation of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. These resources includes plans, activities, printable material, primary source documents, video documentaries, and so on. **Please copy and paste if the links are not working.**

## Books by Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story.** New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1958. Dr. King's first book; the story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the beginning of the Nonviolent Civil Rights Movement.

**Strength to Love.** New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963. This is a collection of Dr. King's most requested sermons.

**Why We Can't Wait.** New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963. The essential writings of Martin Luther King, Jr., James M. Washington, ed.

**Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?** New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1967. An assessment of America's priorities and a warning that they need to be re-ordered.

**The Trumpet of Conscience.** New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1968. (Foreword by Coretta Scott King.) This book is taken from the 1967 Massey Lectures which King gave through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. King addresses issues including the Vietnam War, youth and civil disobedience and concludes with the "Christmas Sermon for Peace."

**The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.** (1998) Clayborne Carson

**All Labor Has Dignity.** (2011) Michael Honey, ed.

**Thou, Dear God.** Prayers that open hearts and spirits collection of King's prayers. (2011) Lewis Baldwin, ed.

**MLK: A Celebration in Word and Image.** Photographed by Bob Adelman, introduced by Charles Johnson.ks by Family Members

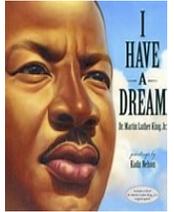
**I've Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Leonard Jenkins

**My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Martin Luther King III, illustrated by AG Ford. What was it like growing up as a son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

**Love Will See You Through.** Martin Luther King Jr.'s Six Guiding Beliefs (as told by his niece) by Angela Farris Watkins, illustrated by Sally Wern Coomport.

**My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Christine

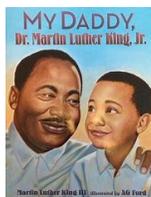
**I have A Dream** by Dr. Luther King, Jr.  
Paintings by Kadir Nelson: from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s daughter, Dr. Bernice A. King.



## Videos, Audio, and/or Interactive Media

Videos that encourage a day of service <https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/mlkdaygov/communication-resources#MLKvideos>

- The King Legacy of Service. <https://youtu.be/gg2aQhLn0Y>
- "Why (The King of Love Is Dead)" was written by Nina Simone. In her typical queenly and riveting style, she wrote what many were thinking about but could not eloquently articulate after Dr. King died. <https://youtu.be/Mx-pfZDVm0Y>
- A pictorial tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. set to the track of "Happy Birthday" by Stevie Wonder. <https://youtu.be/anWx36QPmco>
- For churches and other groups with screens, use images from famous speeches given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. These can be found by searching the phrase "speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." on [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).
- This is a wonderful piece to show to your children and youth groups about the journey of the Chicago Children's Choir as it explored the Civil Rights Movement. <https://youtu.be/9-uddGiN5uU>
- "A Dream," by Common and Will.I.Am, from the film Freedom Writers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBa55sDTIiA>
- Martin Luther King's call <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0FiCzKuv8&feature=youtu.be>
- "I Have A Dream," published by the SALT Project. <https://youtu.be/WRopb2Q1Sml> The following is a list of resources to assist those who would like to present a unit of study in anticipation of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. These resources includes plans, activities, printable material, primary source documents, video documentaries, and so on.



# Glossary Of Nonviolence

**AGAPE** — Overflowing unconditional love for all, including adversaries, needed for nonviolent conflict-resolution. Dr. King called it "love in action... love seeking to preserve and create community...love which is purely spontaneous, unmotivated, groundless and creative."

**AHIMSA** — The Hindi word for non-injury, or nonviolence made popular by Gandhi as the central value of his beliefs and leadership.

**ARBITRATION** — Hearing of a dispute and determining its outcome by a mutually-agreed-upon third party. Can be binding or non-binding.

**BELOVED COMMUNITY** — Term coined by philosopher Josiah Royce to denote an ideal community, used frequently by Dr. King to describe a society of justice, peace and harmony which can be achieved through nonviolence. In his sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., on April 2, 1957, Dr. King said, "The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community."

**BOYCOTT** — A campaign of withdrawal of support from a company, government or institution which is committing an injustice, such as racial discrimination. As Dr. King said, "There is nothing quite so effective as the refusal to cooperate with the forces and institutions which perpetuate evil in our communities."

**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE** — The act of openly disobeying an unjust, immoral or unconstitutional law as a matter of conscience, and accepting the consequences, including submitting to imprisonment if necessary, to protest an injustice.

**CONFLICT RESOLUTION** — Ending of conflict, disputes or disagreements by nonviolent means with intent to achieve a "win-win" outcome for all parties.

**CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION** — A refusal to participate in military service because of moral beliefs.

**CREATIVE TENSION** — In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Dr. King said, "Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue...I must confess that I am not afraid of the word, tension. I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension, but there is a type of constructive tension that is necessary for growth... the purpose of direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation."

**DEMONSTRATIONS** — Gatherings and protest activities organized to build support for peace, justice or social reform.

**DIRECT ACTION** — Nonviolent resistance to injustice. More than 250 forms of nonviolent direct action have been identified, including marches, boycotts, picketing, sit-ins and prayer vigils, to name a few. (see six steps of nonviolence)

**FASTING** —Refusing to eat as a method of self-purification to be spiritually strengthened for nonviolent action, or as a protest.

**GANDHI, MOHANDAS K.** (1869-1948) — Leader of India's nonviolent independence movement, who forced the British to quit India. Dr. King studied Gandhi's successful campaigns and adapted some of Gandhi's strategies in the American Civil Rights Movement. As Dr. King said of the role of Gandhi's teachings in the Civil Rights Movement, "Christ furnished the spirit and motivation, while Gandhi furnished the method." Dr. King said "Gandhi was the guiding light of our technique for nonviolent social change."

**LAWS, JUST VS. UNJUST** — A distinction made in deciding to engage in civil disobedience. A just law is created by both a majority and minority, and is binding on both. An unjust law is created by a majority that is binding on the minority, when the minority has no voice in creating the law. Dr. King said, "A just law is a man-made code that squares with moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with moral law...One who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly and with a willingness to accept the penalty ."

**MASS MARCH** — A large number of people walk in a group to a place of symbolic significance to protest an injustice.

**MEDIATION** — intervention in a dispute by a neutral third party with expertise on a particular issue for the purpose of securing a compromise, an agreement or reconciliation. A mediator can not impose a binding agreement.

**MORAL SUASION** — Appealing to the moral beliefs of an adversary or the public to convince the adversary to change behavior or attitudes.

**NONCOOPERATION** — Refusal to participate in activities of or cooperate with individuals, governments, institutions, policies or laws that result in violence or injustice.

**PACIFISM** — A philosophy based on an absolute refusal to engage in violence because it is morally wrong.

**PASSIVE RESISTANCE** — Challenging an injustice by refusing to support or cooperate with an unjust law, action or policy. The term "passive" is misleading because passive resistance includes pro-active nonviolence, such as marches, boycotts and other forms of active protest.

**PERSONAL COMMITMENT** — The spiritual and psychological decision to participate in nonviolent action to eliminate an injustice. Prayer, meditation and sometimes fasting are used to deepen one's spiritual understanding.

**PETITION CAMPAIGNS** — gathering of massive numbers of signatures in support of or opposed to a policy, proposal or law.

**PICKETING** — A group of individuals walk with signs bearing protest messages in front of a site where an injustice has been committed.

**PURIFICATION** — The cleansing of anger, selfishness and violent attitudes from the heart and soul in preparation for a nonviolent struggle. (see six steps of nonviolence)

**RECONCILIATION** — The end goal of nonviolence. Bringing together of adversaries in a spirit of community after a conflict has been resolved. (see six steps of nonviolence)

**REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING** — A willingness to accept suffering without seeking revenge or retribution. When an individual or group experiences injustice and abuse for a good cause, it will help produce a greater good.

**SAVING FACE** — Offering an adversary an alternative course of action which spares him or her embarrassment.

**SELECTIVE PATRONAGE** — The flip side of a boycott. Making a point of purchasing a product or service from a company that supports justice.

**SIT-INS** — Tactic of nonviolence in which protesters sit down at the site of an injustice and refuse to move for a specified period of time or until goals are achieved. Examples include Flint, Mich., sit-down strike of 1936- 37 in which auto workers sat down on job for 44 days in protest for union recognition and the student sit-ins to desegregate lunch counters in Greensboro, N.C., in 1960.

**SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE** — Fundamental tenets of Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence described in his first book, "Stride Toward Freedom." The six principles include: (1.) Nonviolence is not passive, but requires courage; (2.) Nonviolence seeks reconciliation, not defeat of an adversary; (3.) Nonviolent action is directed at eliminating evil, not destroying an evil-doer; (4.) A willingness to accept suffering for the cause, if necessary, but never to inflict it; (5.) A rejection of hatred, animosity or violence of the spirit, as well as refusal to commit physical violence; and (6.) Faith that justice will prevail.

**SIX STEPS OF NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE** — A sequential process of nonviolent conflict-resolution and social change based on Dr. King's teachings. "The Six Steps of Nonviolence" developed by The King Center include: (1.) Information gathering and research to get the facts straight; (2.) Education of adversaries and the public about the facts of the dispute; (3.) Personal Commitment to nonviolent attitudes and action; (4.) Negotiation with adversary in a spirit of goodwill to correct injustice; (5.) Nonviolent direct action, such as marches, boycotts, mass demonstrations, picketing, sit-ins etc., to help persuade or compel adversary to work toward dispute-resolution; (6.) Reconciliation of adversaries in a win-win outcome in establishing a sense of community.

**STRIKES** — Organized withholding of labor to correct injustice.

**TEACH-INS** — An organized event or series of events, including public hearings, lectures, panel discussions, theatrical presentations, showing of films, role-playing and scenario exercises and other educational techniques, to inform public about a particular issue. altogether.

**TRADE SANCTIONS** — A nation levies import taxes on products from another nation, or bans importation of a nation's products altogether.

**UNEARNED SUFFERING** — See REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE — See "AGAPE."

**VIGILS** — A form of protest in which individuals and groups stand, sit, walk, or pray at a site linked to an injustice or symbolically associated with prin-

# Activities

**Hands together:** Share with children how Dr. King believed in unity and harmony. Make the classic paper chains using black, white, red, yellow, and brown construction paper to represent the various skin tones found across our nation. Show kids the symbolism behind the craft: "Each link represents a hand, and our chain reminds us that Dr. King joined hands with people of all colors when he marched for freedom." A variation on this theme: Children can trace their own hands, then color them in using different skin-tone shaded crayons.



**Living the Dream:** Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that people would not be judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their character. Brainstorm and discuss what dreams you have for your home, community and world. Use cloud shaped paper - and write and illustrate the dreams. Create a dream collage. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change website includes a section where you can share your dreams and post them on a dream map along with dreams from all over the world. You can also share your dreams online at [www.thekingcenter.org/dreams/share](http://www.thekingcenter.org/dreams/share)



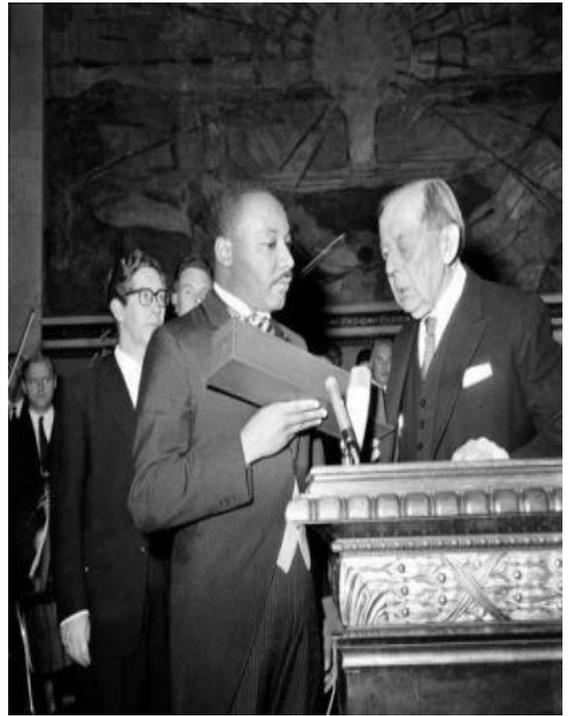
**Listening to History:** There is wisdom among us. If there is an elder in your community who lived during the Civil Rights Movement, there is a wealth of wisdom. Assign a team to interview the person, asking them to share their memories and the lessons that they learned. This can be an intergenerational activity, when you have a younger person as the reporter.



Do you want to share activities that you have done within your community to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King. Email to [ChristianEd@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:ChristianEd@dhm.disciples.org) and put MLK Activities in the header.



Mother: Alberta King; Father: Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr;  
Grandmother: Jennie Celeste Parks Williams; Brother: Alfred  
Daniel King; Sister: Willie Christine King and Martin on the  
right.



King receives Nobel Peace Price



Martin Luther King, Jr. looks on as President Lyndon  
Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the East  
Room. July 2, 1964.



Wife Coretta Scott King; Bernice Albertine King; Dexter Scott  
King; Martin Luther King III; Martin and Yolanda King