ALL IN GOD'S IMAGE

A CELEBRATION of BLACK HISTORY and DIVERSITY

WEEK 4 *A Family Guide for the Ohio Episcopal Area of The UMC*

EAST OHIO CONFERENCE
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

West Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

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Note to Teachers, Parents, and Caregivers,

This unit was designed to provide an introductory look at African American History for family groups in the home setting as well as Sunday School settings. It is arranged in four lessons, one per week, to take place during Black History Month or at other times during the year. A free and full curriculum for various grades levels is available by contacting the Office of Multicultural Ministries or downloading it on the East Ohio Conference website.

The format of each lesson includes:

- Objectives.
- Supplies. Supplies might include specific book titles and/or equipment, i.e., a computer, to project online stories, pictures, or maps.
- Introduction and Bible Memory Verse. Please encourage the child(ren) to learn the Bible verse and see how it relates to the information shared on that particular day.
- Story Excerpt(s) and Discussion. The stories have been chosen carefully for each grade level. The books can easily be obtained through your local libraries, book distributors, or read-aloud versions which are available online. Scripted discussion questions should also prove helpful and are listed in each lesson. Skits (role play) may be included in some lessons. In addition, suggested photographs of key individuals, maps, and other materials will be mentioned.
- Music. Music has been essential in the African American culture for centuries and was shared with all Americans. Simple songs are included in the lesson plans, many of which are found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Most of the songs should be familiar and are easy to teach.
- Conclusion and Prayer. Closing statements and prayers are included. Please also spotlight the prayers of several African Americans which are also listed at the end of each lesson.
- Activities. Art projects are opportunities to end the lesson in creative ways.
- Extended Activities. Children can be encouraged to share new information with family members and friends. Some home activities are suggested, and extensive listings of recommended books for children are also included at the end of the unit.
- References and Appendix. A complete list of books and some extended activities are spotlighted at the end of the unit.

Final Comments:

Attempting to introduce African American History in a short timeframe is challenging but important in all settings in the Ohio Episcopal Area. I have included significant events and individuals, but there are so many more! I hope that this will be just the first step in continuing to explore Black History in future years. We all have so much yet to learn.

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Teacher/Parent Code to Lesson Plans

- Lesson Numbers are at top of first page of each lesson **in bold**.
- Themes explored in the lesson are at top of first page of each lesson **in bold**.
- Lesson Objectives are on first page of each lesson.
- Sentences highlighted in gray are scripted words of important information to be shared by the adult or an older sibling or student.
- *Sentences in italics* are suggested questions (and answers) which can be posed by the adult or read by an older student.

Week 4 Lesson Plan

Theme: Post- Civil Rights America

Objective(s):

By the end of the lesson, the Sunday school participant will … Repeat--Explain the importance of Black History Month in February and celebrating Black History throughout the year.

- State some ways that life has changed for African Americans since the Civil Rights Movement took place fifty years ago. Civil Right Laws
- Name two individuals, President Barack Obama and Mae Jemison, who are just a couple of the hundreds of African Americans known for their contributions to our country.
- Complete a paper rocket to celebrate Mae Jemison's contribution.

Supplies:

- Suggested books listed in lesson plans as obtained from local libraries, book distributors, and/or online read-aloud versions. *Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed. *Mae Jemison* by Luke Colins. *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* by Barack Obama.
- Large poster board or mural paper (for use all month)
- Crayons or markers which include black and brown colors (for use all month)
- Construction paper which includes black and brown colors, scissors, and glue sticks (for use all month)
- Computer or other device with flash drive portal (for use all month)
- Bible(s)
- *The United Methodist Hymnal*
- World map and U.S. map

Lesson Format:

- Introduction (including Bible memory verse) Begin the lesson by reviewing the Bible verse from last week. Have individuals repeat the verse if they memorized it. James 1: 1 and 2 CEB My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy. Our last memory verse this month comes from the book of Matthew. Matthew 7:12 CEB Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets. Last week, we talked about how even after African Americans were no longer enslaved, they were still not treated the same as white people. In 1964, a new law, called the Civil Rights Act, assured that for the first time, Black citizens would have the same freedoms as white citizens. This included jobs, schools, and all public places in the United States! In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson also signed the Voting Rights Act which allowed voting by all citizens, no matter what their skin color.

Do you think it was fair that it took hundreds of years for African Americans to have the same rights as others? Why not? How do you think life changed in America after these laws were passed?

- Story Excerpt(s) and Discussion. Through the years, hundreds of African Americans have continued to excel in all areas of life. There are so many biographies about artists, athletes, musicians, teachers, political leaders, and others, that we've made a long list for your parents. I hope you and your parents will read a few together! One person who stands out in the 21st century was Mae Jemison. Mae was born in 1956 and had a big dream as a child. Let's hear about her dream in the book, *Mae Among the Stars*, by Roda Ahmed. You can also read a portion of a different book, *Mae Jemison*, by Luke Colins. *Mae's teacher told her to be a nurse instead of an astronaut. Why do you think she said that to Mae? (In those days, neither girls nor African Americans were astronauts.) How do you think Mae's parents helped her reach her dream? They encouraged and supported her.) What is your dream?* Another person who has encouraged his daughters is Barack Obama. [Share picture from reference books or internet.] Who knows why he is famous? In 2008, President Obama became the first African American President of the United States, and he accomplished many things during the eight years he was President. In 2010, he wrote a book for his daughters, Sasha and Malia, about many Americans who have made a difference in the world (*Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*). At the end of his "letter," President Obama says,"Have I told you that America is made up of people of every kind? People of all races, religions, and beliefs. People from the coastlines and the mountains. People who have made bright lights shine by sharing their unique gifts and giving us the courage to lift one another up, to keep the fight, to work and build upon all that is good in our nation." *What lesson can we learn from President Obama's letter? (There are many different people in America with special gifts; we need to share our gifts with one another.)*

- Music to hear and/or sing. For the first two Sundays, we sang spirituals that were passed down from generation to generation by enslaved African Americans. Last week, we learned a new song called "We Shall Overcome." This song was sung during the Civil Rights movement and is still sung today! Let's now sing all three of the songs that we learned during our Black History Month Celebration. (Sing "This Little Light of Mine," "When the Saints Go Marching In," and "We Shall Overcome.") If time permits, listen to music, such as Mytrell Foreman's "Jesus Hears Me," by other Christian hip-hop vocalists.]

- Conclusion. With the children's help, share significant events and people from the four weeks of our Black History Month Celebration. Begin with the first week, Africa and the enslavement of Africans, and continue all the way through today's lessons including Barack Obama, Mae Jemison, and hip-hop music. Dear God, we thank you for all of the many ways African Americans have blessed our country. Forgive us if we have not always realized how important it is for us to learn about each other. We were made in your image and should always treat each other as we would want to be treated. May we continue to learn more in the months and years to come and help others to learn more, too. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

- Activities (craft, skit, discussion, creative writing, DVD excerpt, etc.) Finish a group mural showing highlights of lesson each week. (This week—Civil Rights Laws, President Barack Obama, astronaut Mae Jemison, Christian hip-hop music) Mae Jemison Rocket—using construction paper design your own 3D rocket in honor of Mae Jemison. Draw or glue her face on the rocket!

- Extended activities (optional) to do during the week: Find out more information about the presidency of Barack Obama. How old was he when he became president? What number president was he? How many four-year terms did he serve? Choose a biography, historical fiction book, or nonfiction book from the lists of references, or find a book on one of the lesser-known people mentioned at the end of the lists. When you are done, choose another book!

Bible Memory Verses (Common English Bible)

Lesson One:

Genesis 1: 27 (CEB) God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.

Lesson Two:

2 Corinthians 3: 17 CEB The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom.

Lesson Three:

James 1: 1 and 2 CEB My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy.

Lesson Four:

Matthew 7:12 CEB Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets.

Resources for Children suggested by the Ohio Episcopal Area

Go to: https://www.eocumc.com/standagainstracism/childrensresources.html for a full list.

As United Methodists examine ways to end racial injustice, offering resources about racism to children can help a younger generation be part of the solution.

Resources for Children suggested by The United Methodist Church

Go to: https://www.umc.org/en/content/books-about-racism-for-kids for full list.

The conversation about race should not limited to adults. Bringing children into calm, educated discussions can help a younger generation confront the reality of racism and be part of the solution in ending racial injustice.

Suggested Non-Fiction Books for Younger Readers

*Asim, Jabari & Gaines, Lynn. (2018). *A Child's Introduction to African American History*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers.
Brian, Ashley. (2007). *Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
Farris, Christine King & London, Ladd. (2008). *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*. New York: Scholastic Press.
Fishman, Cathy Goldberg & Elliott, Mark. (2012). *When Jackie and Hank Met*. New York: Marshall Cavendish Corporation.
Giovanni, Nikki. (2007). *On My Journey Now: Looking at African-American History Through the Spirituals*. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press.
Harrison, Vashti. (2017). *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.
*Hughes, Langston & Pinkney, Brian. (1994). *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
Pinkney, Andrea D. & Pinkney, Brian. (1996). *Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin' Cowboy*. New York: Gulliver Books.
*Pinkney, Andrea Davis & Pinkney, Brian. (2010). *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.
*Raum, Elizabeth. (2020). *The Life of Ruby Bridges*. Mankato, Minnesota: Amicus.
*Shange, Ntozake & Kadir Nelson. (2004). *Ellington Was Not a Street*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
Shetterly, Margot Lee & Freeman, Laura. (2018). *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

(Books marked with asterisk (*) were utilized in lessons.)

And more interesting people to explore!
Bessie Coleman (1892-1926). "Brave Bessie" was the first African American aviator.
Ta-nehisi Coates (1975-). African American author and journalist. He has written series for Marvel comics, "The Black Panther" and "Captain America."
Rita Dove (1952-). First African American and youngest poet to receive the U.S. Poet Laureate in 1993.
Pauli Murray (1910-1985). First African American woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest.

Note: Individual names were provided by Sharon Sudberry, Church of the Saviour United Methodist Church.

References

Note: The following books were used in the preparation of this teaching unit. They are a valuable asset for children of all ages.

Suggested Biographies and Historical Fiction for Younger Readers

*Bryan, Ashley. (2016). *Freedom Over Me*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
Clark-Robinson, Monica & Morrison, Frank. (2018). *Let the Children March*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
*Coles, Robert & Ford, George. (1995). *The Story of Ruby Bridges*. New York: Scholastic Inc.
*Colins, Luke. (2014). *Mae Jemison*. North Mankato, Minnesota: Capstone Press.
Crews, Donald. (1991). *BIGMAMA'S*. New York: Greenwillow Books.
Easton, Emily & Chen, Ziyue. (2018). *Enough! 20 Protestors Who Changed America*. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers.
Johnson, Angela & Long, Loren. (2007). *Wind of Flyers*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
*Levine, Ellen & Nelson, Kadir. (2007). *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*. New York: Scholastic Press.
Lyons, Kelly Starling & Mallett, Keith. (2019). *Sing a Song: How "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Inspired Generations*. New York: Nancy Paulson Books.
*McDermott, Gerald. (1972). *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*. New York: Henry Holt and Company.
*Obama, Barack & Long, Loren. (2010). *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
*Parks, Rosa (with Jim Haskins) & Clay, Wil. (2011) *I Am Rosa Parks*. New York: Penguin Young Readers.
Pinkney, Andrea Davis, Fancher, Lou & Johnson, Steve. (2016). A *Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of the Snowy Day*. New York: Viking.
*Rappaport, Doreen & Collier, Bryan. (2001). *Martin's Big Words*. New York: Jump at the Start/Hyperion Paperbacks for Children.
Woodson, Jacqueline & Lewis, E.B. *The Other Side*. (2001). New York: G.P Putnam's Sons.

(Books marked with asterisk (*) were utilized in lessons.)