

A champion of justice



Bible verses:
Isaiah 61:1-2



Aim:
To consider what the Bible says
about equality and consider how
our faith impacts what we do



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness,
joy and love



Memory verse

**'The Lord God has put his Spirit in me.
This is because he has appointed me to
tell the good news to the poor.
He has sent me to comfort those whose
hearts are broken.'**

(Isaiah 61:1a *ICB*)



Start it

Print *Sojourner Truth's* story on to A3 paper.
(Set the printer properties to A3.) Cut along the
dotted line, then cut out the photo of Sojourner
Truth and the small cartoon image separately.

Using the cartoon cut-out and the comic
strip, tell the story of Sojourner by adding
her to each part of the story. Children can
help move her, and you can stop and talk
or ask questions as you go. Talk about her
faithfulness to God.

Keep the *Sojourner Truth's story* handout
for Session Four.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of Isaiah 61:1-2
(eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*).

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share
together:

- What do you think made Sojourner feel
brave?
- How can we be brave and stand up for
fairness like Sojourner did?
- Who can help us?



Sing It

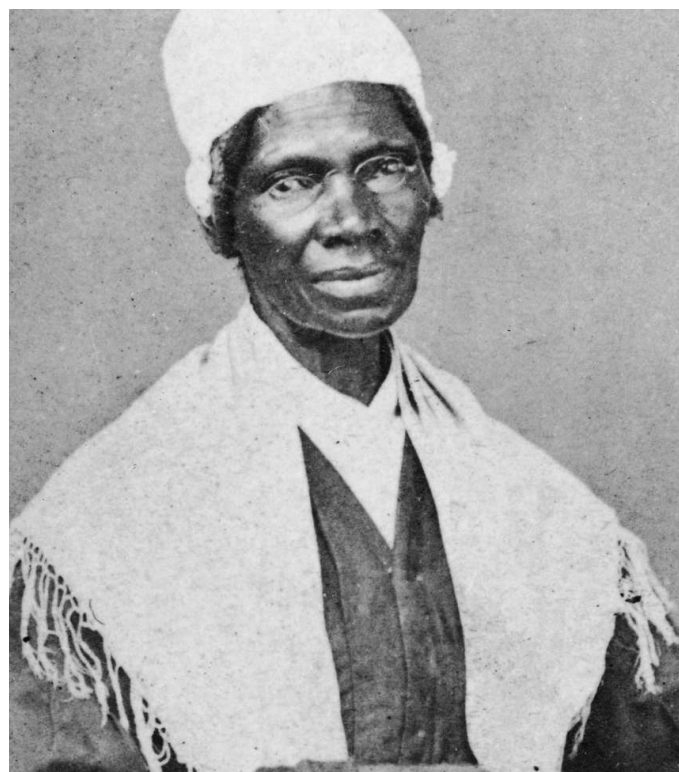
**'Looking at my heart' (preschool worship
song)** by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:18)

'Ohana' (preschool worship song) by
KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:07)

Action it

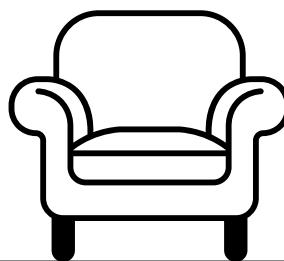
Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Using the *Speech bubbles* handout, ask the children to write or draw what they'd tell people about God if they travelled around and preached like Sojourner.
- **Play:** Act it out! Using the words you added to the comic strip (*Sojourner Truth's story*), say the words one at a time and see if the group can act out the word. You could add different words in and see if they can tell you which ones are from your story.
- **Pray:** Using a heart-shaped object or cut-out, talk about how our hearts help us to love God and love others. Because we love God, we can ask him to help us treat others well. Pass the heart around the circle, thanking God for his love, and asking him to help us love others.
- **Try:** Using the words you wrote in the last story box, think of actions you can do to show them.

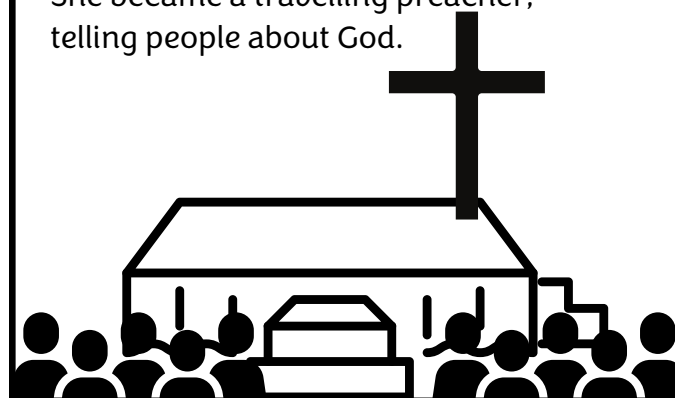


Sojourner Truth's Story

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in America at the end of the 18th century. This meant she was not free to make her own choices and had to work for lots of different owners. However, her last owner freed her. So she got a proper job as a house cleaner.

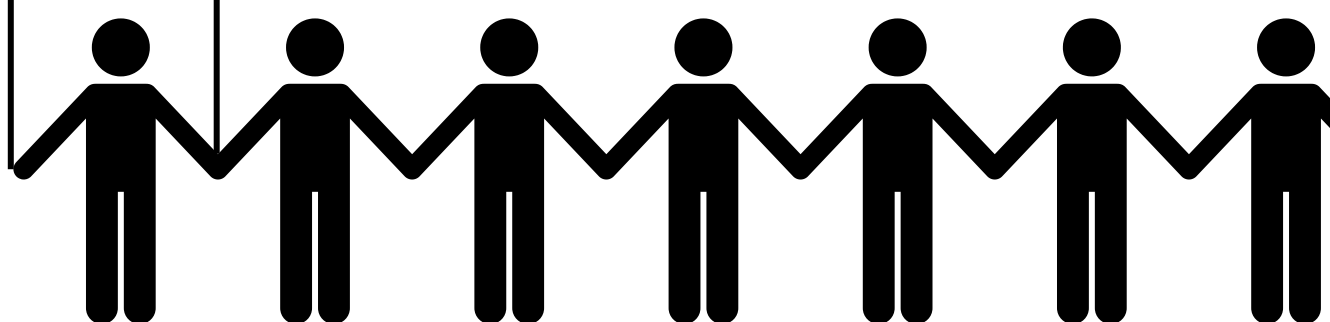


Sojourner's faith in God was very important to her, so she chose to do something amazing. She became a travelling preacher, telling people about God.

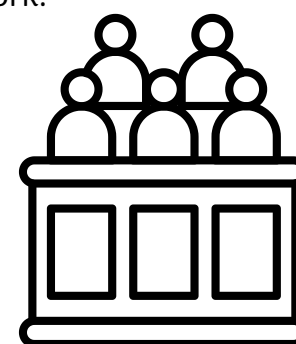


FREEDOM

Sojourner met other people who were working to end slavery, and she joined them.



Sojourner spoke up for women to be treated equally, that it was unfair that women received less money than men for doing the same work.



Sojourner was an important leader in the fight to end slavery. Her stories and speeches helped people understand how bad slavery was and that it must be stopped. She was in the first group of women honoured in the United States of America's National Women's Hall of Fame.

Sojourner Truth

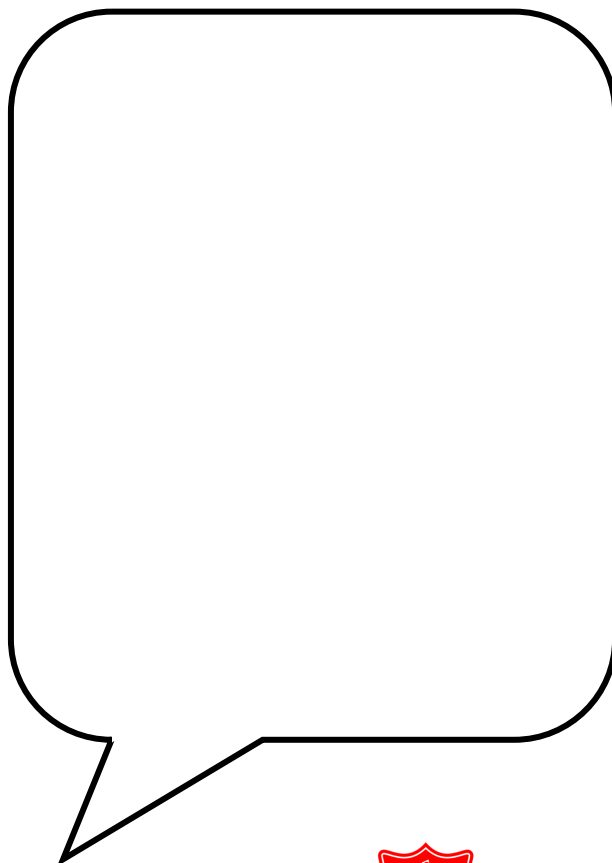
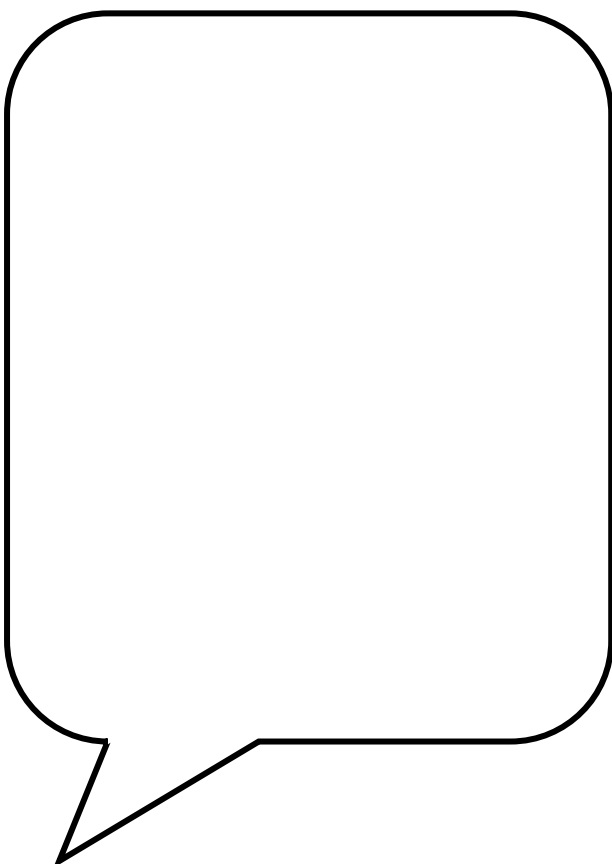
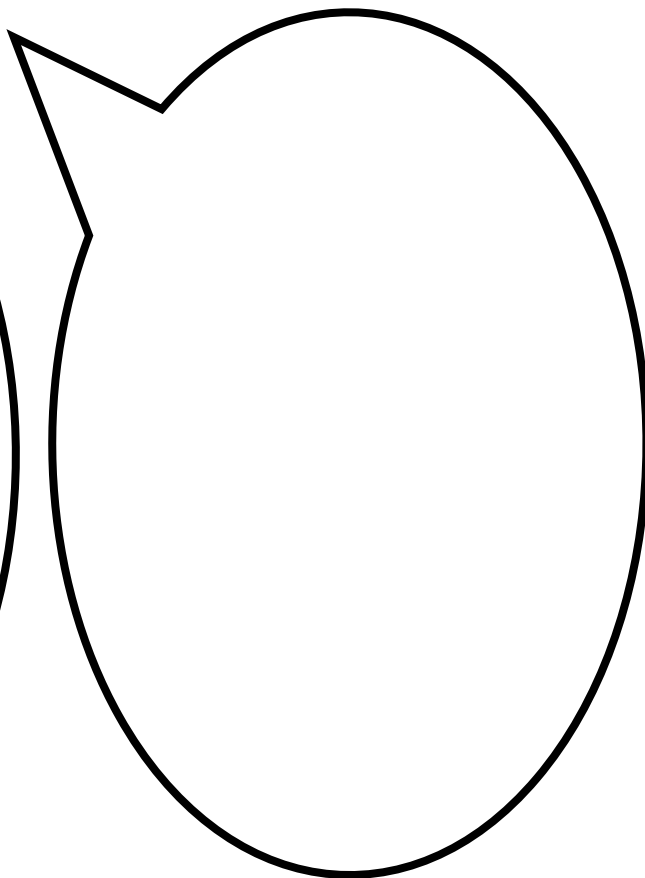
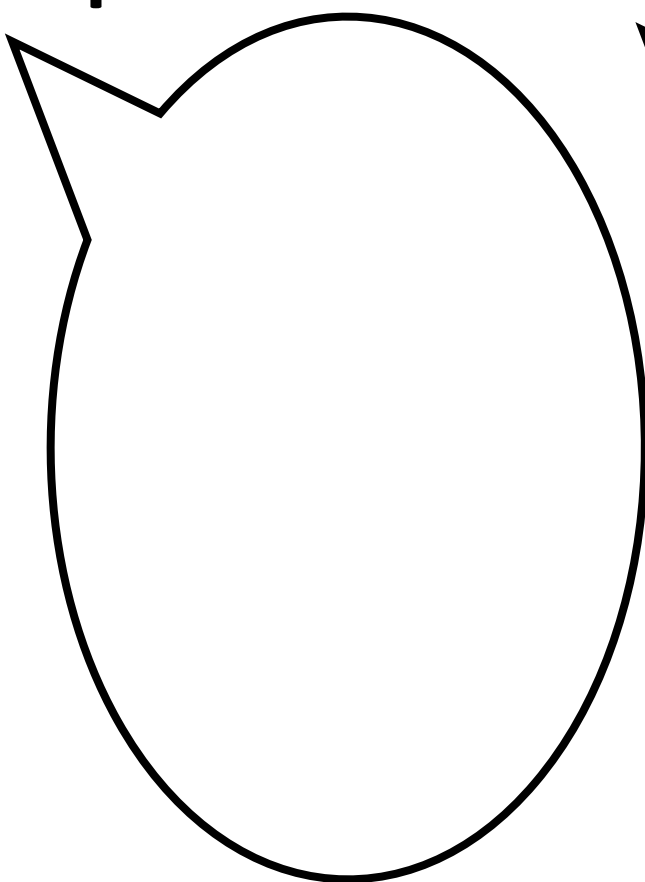


Place Sojourner Truth in the space above and write words that you think describe her.



Explore it Light

Speech bubbles



A Trailblazer



Bible verses:
Luke 4:14-21



Aim:
To explore the link between Isaiah 61 and Luke 4 and think about how it shows us an inclusive way to live



Today's fruit:
Joy



Memory verse

'The Lord God has put his Spirit in me. This is because he has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.'

(Isaiah 61:1a *ICB*)



Start it

Print *Jarena Lee's story* on to A3 paper. (Set the printer properties to A3.) Cut along the dotted line, then cut out the photo of Jarena Lee and the small cartoon separately.

Using the cartoon cut-out and the comic strip, tell the story of Jarena by adding her to each part of the story. Children can help move her, and you can stop and talk or ask questions as you go. Talk about how her faith in God encouraged her to include others.

Keep the *Janera Lee's story* handout for Session Four.



Share it

Create a scroll by rolling up some paper. Share a child-friendly version of Luke 4:14-21 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*). Explain that books in Jesus' time looked like scrolls. As the verses describe Jesus reading the book of Isaiah and then closing it, unroll then roll up your scroll.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What kind of people does God care about in these Bible verses?
- Now that you have heard about Jarena's life and the way she spread the good news of Jesus, how can we be joyful when we talk about God?



Sing It

'Looking at my heart' (preschool worship song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:18)

'Ohana' (preschool worship song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:07)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** *We all fit in here* poster. Print or make a jigsaw piece for each child (**Pinterest**)

Let the children decorate their puzzle piece, then stick them all together. Explain that even though we are different, we can all belong. Everyone can be included.

- **Play:** Using age-appropriate puzzles, as one group or in small groups, ask the children to work together to put the puzzles together, giving each child an equal number of pieces.

- **Pray:** Ask the children to repeat after you the following prayer. They can say 'Amen' with you at the end if they want to make the prayer their own.

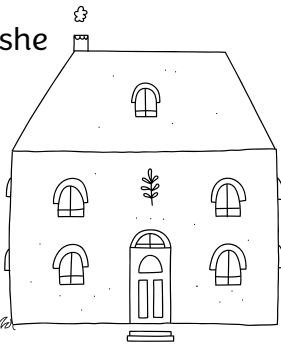
Dear God, thank you for loving us. We all belong here. We are all important to you. Help us care for others. Amen.

- **Try:** Create an inclusion poster for your group (**Pinterest**)



Jarena Lee's Story

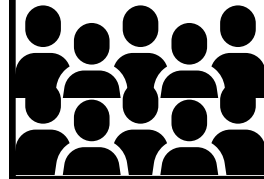
Jarena Lee was born into a free black family in the United States of America in 1783. From the age of seven she worked as a live-in servant. She taught herself how to write.



When Jarena was a young adult, she heard a preacher, Richard Allen, at a special church event. She wanted to know more about God and, after a lot of prayer, felt ready for her faith.



Jarena felt God was telling her to 'Go preach the gospel!' At first Richard said no, but after he heard her preach, he was so impressed that he changed his mind.



Some people did not like a woman being a preacher, but Jarena did not give up.

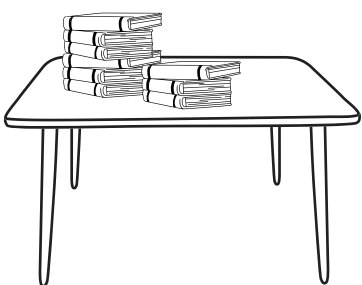


She said, 'If a man can preach because Jesus died for him, why not a woman? Didn't Jesus die for her too?'

Jarena's strong belief in God gave her great confidence. She became a church leader and travelled far and wide. She taught about feeling completely pure and close to God.



Jarena made history again when she became the first African American woman to write an autobiography, a book about her life.



Place Jarena Lee in the space above and write words that you think describe her.

A voice of freedom



Bible verses:
Philippians 2:1–4



Aim:
To think about the needs of others and consider how we can stand with them



Today's fruit:
Love



Memory verse

'The Lord God has put his Spirit in me. This is because he has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.'

(Isaiah 61:1a *ICB*)



Start it

Print *Harriet Tubman's story* on to A3 paper. (Set the printer properties to A3.) Cut along the dotted line, then cut out the photo of Harriet Tubman and the small cartoon image separately.

Using the cartoon cut-out and the comic strip, tell the story of Harriet by adding her to each part of the story. Children can help move her, and you can stop and talk, or ask questions as you go. Talk about how she used her voice to help others.

Keep the *Harriet Tubman's story* handout for Session Four.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of Philippians 2:1–4 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*).

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

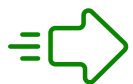
- Why do you think Harriet chose to go back and help others?
- How might we be able to look for what other people need?



Sing It

'Looking at my heart' (preschool worship song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:18)

'Ohana' (preschool worship song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:07)



Action it

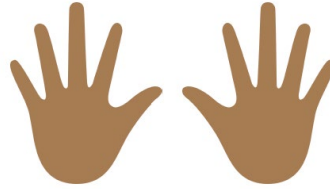
Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Paper people chains (**Pinterest**)
Children can decorate their paper people.
- **Play:** Act it out! Using the words you added to the comic strip (*Harriet Tubman's story*), say the words one at a time and see if the group can act out the word. You could add different words and see if they can tell you which ones are from your story!
- **Pray:** Use the *Be kind prayer* handout. The children can join in with movements/ actions.
- **Try:** Group the children into twos or threes. Ask them to put their arms around each other's shoulders and have one child stand on one leg. Think about how when you're on your own it can feel wobbly, but when you have someone to stand with you, they help you to be more steady. Think about when people are feeling wobbly with their feelings, and we stand with them. How can that help?

Explore it Light

Be kind prayer

Thank you, God,
for my hands.
With them I can share.
Help me to
remember you
and want me to be fair.



Thank you, God,
for my heart.
With it I can find
lots of ways
to show your love.
Please help me to be kind.



Thank you, God,
for my feet.
They help me follow you.
You show me how
to live like you
and care for others too.



Amen



Harriet Tubman's Story

Harriet Tubman was born in the 1820's to an enslaved family in the United States of America. She had to work in the fields and, from the age of six, was responsible for looking after children too.



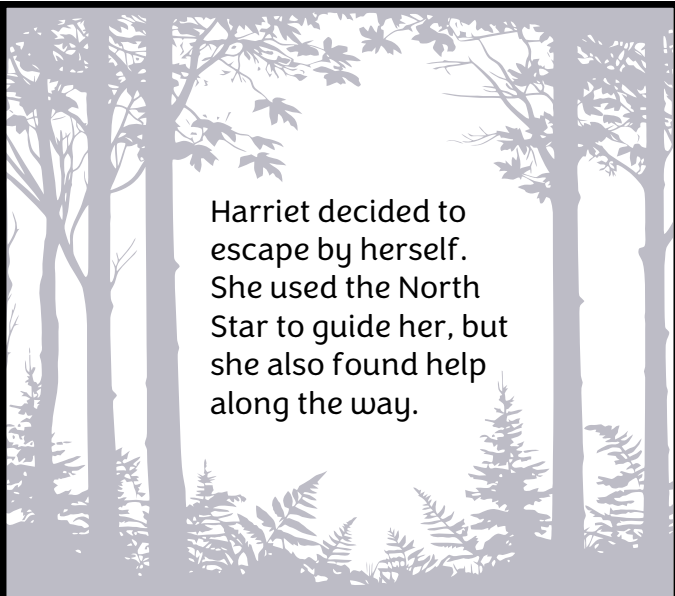
Harriet and two of her brothers managed to escape from the farm. But her brothers were worried they would be caught and punished, so they all returned.



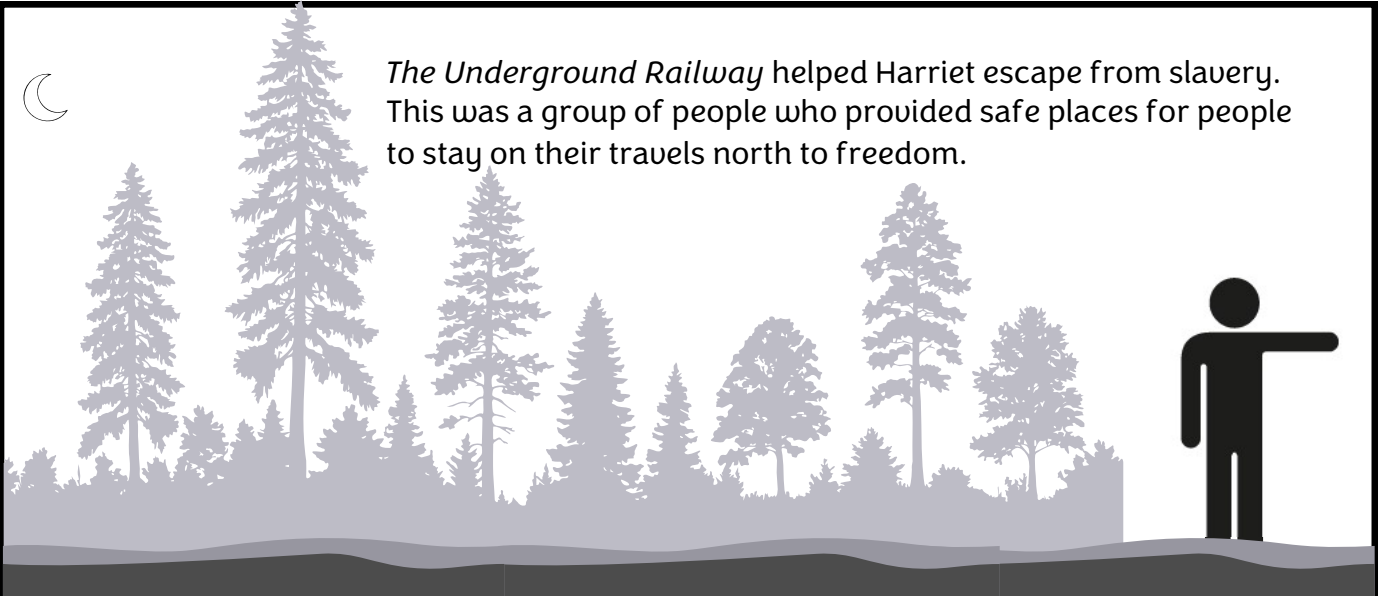
Harriet experienced visions and vivid dreams that she believed were messages from God.



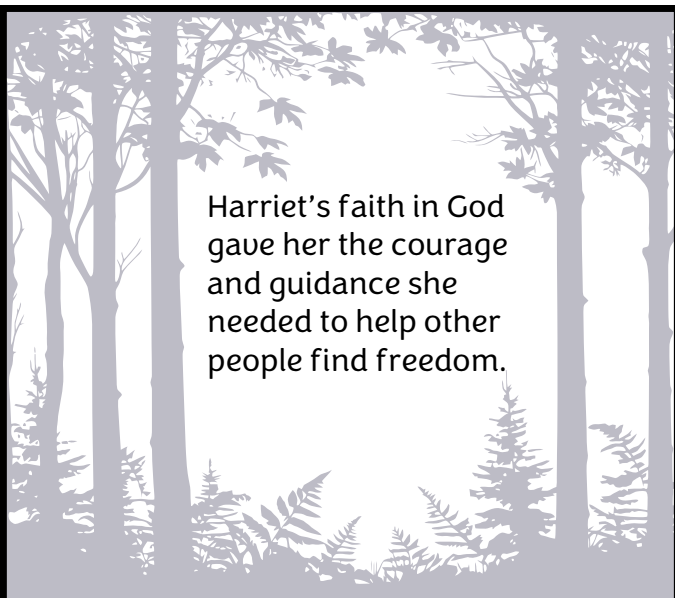
Harriet decided to escape by herself. She used the North Star to guide her, but she also found help along the way.



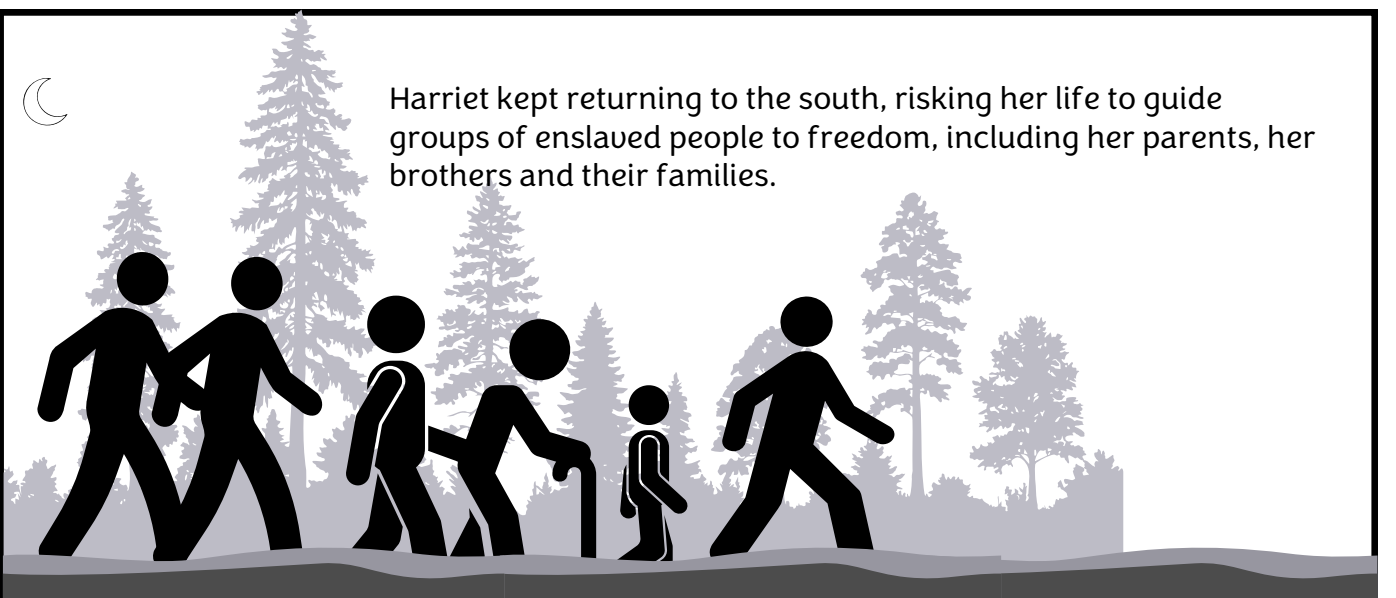
The Underground Railway helped Harriet escape from slavery. This was a group of people who provided safe places for people to stay on their travels north to freedom.



Harriet's faith in God gave her the courage and guidance she needed to help other people find freedom.



Harriet kept returning to the south, risking her life to guide groups of enslaved people to freedom, including her parents, her brothers and their families.



Place Harriet Tubman in the space above and write words that you think describe her.

A dreamer and a doer



Bible verse:
Galatians 3:28



Aim:
To explore equality and
understand the power of
our own faith in Jesus



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Memory verse

**'The Lord God has put his Spirit in me.
This is because he has appointed me to
tell the good news to the poor.
He has sent me to comfort those whose
hearts are broken.'**

(Isaiah 61:1a *ICB*)



Start it

Print *Martin Luther King Jnr's story* on to A3 paper. (Set the printer properties to A3.) Cut along the dotted line, then cut out the photo of Martin Luther King Jnr and the small cartoon image separately.

Using the cartoon cut-out and the comic strip, tell the story of Martin by adding him to each part of the story. Children can help move him, and you can stop and talk or ask questions as you go. Talk about how his faith in Jesus gave him power.



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of Galatians 3:28 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*).

Place a hula hoop on the floor and sit around it. Ask which people were mentioned in the verse, eg Jew, Greek ... Write them on pieces of paper, and as a group you can add your own, eg young, old ... Say that the verse says that everyone can belong to Jesus, as you place each piece of paper into the circle.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- If God sees us all as his children, is anyone more important than anyone else?
- How should we treat others?



Sing It

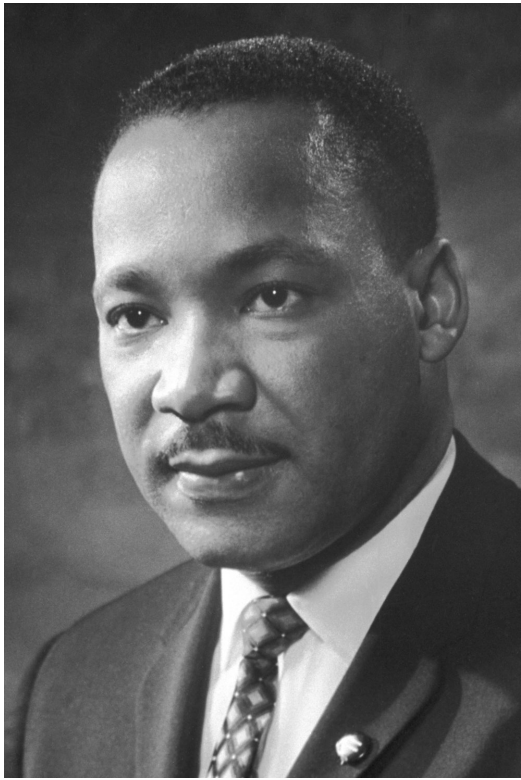
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'Ohana' (preschool worship song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:07)

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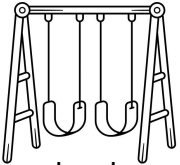
Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Create a piece of artwork together using the four photographs from the story handouts and the words written for each person on the comic strip.
- **Play:** Give each child a balloon. Ask everyone to throw their balloons into the air at the same time. The children's challenge is to work together to keep ALL the balloons in the air at the same time. If someone just focuses on their own balloon, the others will quickly fall. Keep the game going for a short time and encourage teamwork. Ask: How might this remind us of how God wants us to see each other?
- **Pray:** Using the photos, thank God for each person and what they did for him.
- **Try:** Act it out! Using the words you added to the comic strip (*Martin Luther King Jnr's story*), say the words one at a time and see if the group can act out the word. You could add in different words and see if they can tell you which ones are from your story.

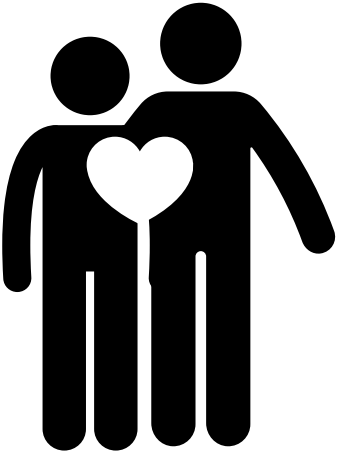


Martin Luther King Junior’s Story

Dr Martin Luther King Junior was born in 1929, in the United States of America. When he was little, he had a good friend who was white. When they were both six years old they had to go school.

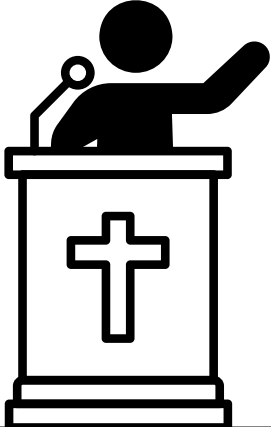


But they had to be separate schools, and his friend’s parents then said they didn’t want the boys to play together any more. This made Martin very sad.

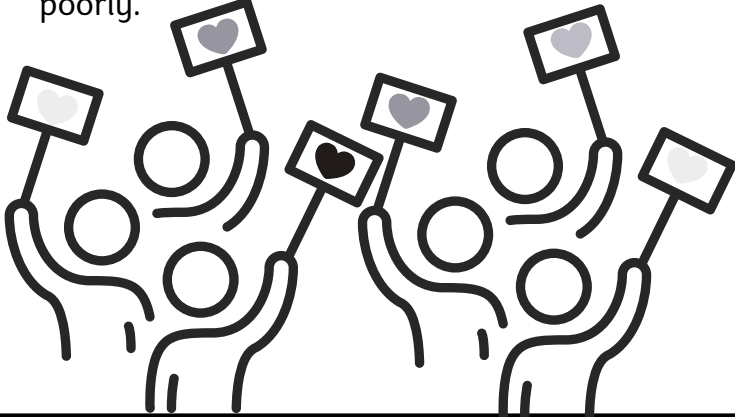


Martin’s parents taught him that everyone is equal and that he should love everyone, even those who treated him unfairly.

Martin’s dad was a preacher. This inspired Martin to also teach people about God and to be a preacher.



At the time, some people thought that black and white people should be separated, and they treated black people poorly.



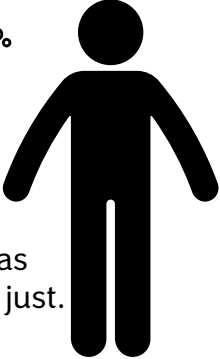
Martin believed that people should be treated the same, no matter their skin colour. So he organised peaceful protests and marches.



During one peaceful march, with more than 250,000 people, Martin gave a very famous speech. Martin said, ‘I have a dream ...’ He talked about his dream, a dream of a world where people were not judged by the colour of their skin.




Martin believed in love, kindness and peaceful ways to solve problems.

He believed in a God who was infinitely loving, caring and just.

Martin taught people that it is important to stand up for what is right, even when it’s hard. His actions were because of a deep love for people and a belief that love is stronger than hate. His faith gave him the strength to want justice and equality for all people.

Place Martin Luther King Junior in the space above and write words that you think describe him.