

Topic: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Let's get started... talk with a partner about countries where you've lived. Do people discriminate because of race, skin color, sex, education, tribe, wealth or other reasons? Explain.

Story:

Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLKJ) was an American leader. He talked about a dream (a hope) he had. He gave a speech in Washington, D.C. at the nation's capital on August 28, 1963. He said:

"I have a dream today.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.



I have a dream that one day . . . little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers."

U.S. President Lincoln said "no more slavery" in 1860. But in 1960, there were still many problems. Black people were separated from white people on buses, at restaurants, and in schools. They did not have the same chances to live and work and raise their families. Martin Luther King helped people to make changes in society. We remember Martin Luther King on the third Monday of January each year, a national holiday.



In pairs for 5 minutes:

Give examples of people of different skin colors in your native country. Are people with different skin colors friends, coworkers or spouses? Explain. Share your partner's answers with the group.

Group Activity - Brainstorm words about character - for example: honest, lazy, generous

Generous				Lazy	
	Honest				

Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups:

Prejudice - what is it?

Prejudice means . . . to judge before you have much information. You may know a little about a person: for example, her skin color is brown; but you may not know enough to make a judgment about her character.

When you meet new people, what do you learn about them . . .

- from what you see?
- from what they say?
- from what they do?



- Give examples of prejudices . . .
- in your family
- that are normal in your culture.
- that others have about you.



Which prejudices are helpful? Which prejudices are not helpful? Explain.

Give examples of prejudices that have changed over time in your life, family, culture or nation. How did they change?

Discrimination - what is it?

One definition is: "unfair treatment of one person or group, usually because of prejudice about race, ethnicity, age, religion, or gender." Treating people or things differently can also be good. For example, *adults* may smoke, but *children* may not.

- Give examples of discrimination that you saw or felt.
- Give examples of discrimination that you did or do.
- How do you feel about these examples of discrimination?



Dreams

- What do you think about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream? Why?
- Do you know people with big dreams? Give examples.
- What do you dream about today? (for yourself? for others?) What actions will you take to reach your dream?
- What dreams have you reached?

New vocabulary: discriminate, race, tribe, dream, hope, judge, judgment, character, prejudice, slavery, separated, ethnicity, religion, gender, treat differently, write down.

Keep talking about it this week: Ask friends about their prejudices or discrimination they've experienced. Write down their answers and be ready to share with the group.

More on the "dream" speech: read it at <http://www.mlkonline.net/dream.html>
www.hope-link.org