



THE IMPACT OF BLACK CHURCHES ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Tell the Tale

Chapter One of this book describes a bomb explosion at Bethel Baptist Church in 1962.

Imagine you are near the church at the time of the explosion. Write 200 words about the sounds you hear and sights you see. How does the community respond to this attack?





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Say What?

Studying the civil rights movement can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book you've never heard before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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Why Do I Care?

The civil rights movement happened more than 50 years ago. But that doesn't mean you can't think about its legacy today. How does this movement influence your life? How might your life or the lives of others be different if the civil rights movement had not happened?





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Another View

This book talks about the role Black churches played during the civil rights movement. As you know, every source is different. Ask an adult to help you find another source about this topic.

Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. What is the point of view of each source? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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You Are There

Chapter Four of this book talks about the March on Washington. Imagine you are in the crowd marching toward the Lincoln Memorial. Write a letter home telling your friends about the experience. What do you see and hear? Be sure to add plenty of details to your letter.





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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did enslaved people worship in the 1700s? How did they find comfort and hope in religion?
- How did Black religious leaders stand up against discrimination in the late 1800s and early 1900s?
- In what ways were Black religious leaders involved in civil rights issues? What roles did Black churches play during the civil rights movement?





- How do Black religious leaders speak out against racial violence today? Do you think their faith plays a role in their activism? Why or why not?
- What is the legacy of Black churches today? How do you think this history could be taught in schools and communities?

