



HEART AND SOUL

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Pastor Jehu Jones (1786–1852)

A Man After God's Heart

Key Bible Verse

“People look on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7b

Preparation

1. Place the objects of value in the container.
2. Print the Key Bible Verse from page 3 on cardstock and cut them apart to hand out to children.

Welcome

February is the shortest month of the year, yet it is filled with holidays and special events. What are some of the special days in February?

(Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, Chinese New Year, *sometimes* Ash Wednesday, and *occasionally* the Jewish festival of Purim). **Do you know what else happens in February? February is Black History Month. Black History Month is a time when we pay special attention to the accomplishments of people of African descent from all over the world and throughout history.**

Share

Hold up the violin or guitar case and ask children what they think is inside. Then open it up to see that the case holds unexpected things! **Today we celebrate the life of Jehu Jones. Jehu Jones was the first Black person ordained in the Lutheran Church. Let's practice saying his name. Repeat after me. Jehu (Jehu) Jones (Jones). Jehu Jones was born in 1786 and lived in slavery until his father was able to purchase the family's freedom in 1798. Jehu Jones was a dedicated and gifted pastor, but because of the color of his skin, because of what he looked like on the outside, people made judgments about what they thought he was like on the inside.**

Jehu Jones was an amazing man who faithfully served the church. In that time in Philadelphia, church pews were segregated. **Do you know what *segregated* means?** Wait for responses. ***Segregated* means that people were separated based on the color of their skin. Jehu Jones knew that segregation made God very sad. Therefore, he was committed to creating a congregation where Black people could worship in freedom. After his ordination in 1832, he worked very hard to establish St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the first African American congregation in the Lutheran church. But guess what? He and his congregation were treated unfairly because of their outward appearance. They had brown skin, and because of the color of their skin, they were not considered true children of God. Pastor Jehu worked very hard to keep his congregation open, but ultimately, Pastor Jehu Jones lost his congregation in 1839. Nevertheless, Pastor Jehu Jones remained a faithful minister in the church for the rest of his life. People almost forgot about him. But not us! We remember him with honor.**

Supplies

- Empty guitar or violin case (or another container that indicates its “obvious” contents)
- Objects of value (favorite books, keepsakes, special photographs, stickers or prizes for children, etc.)
- Key Bible Verse from page 3
- Cardstock

Pray

Let's pray together.

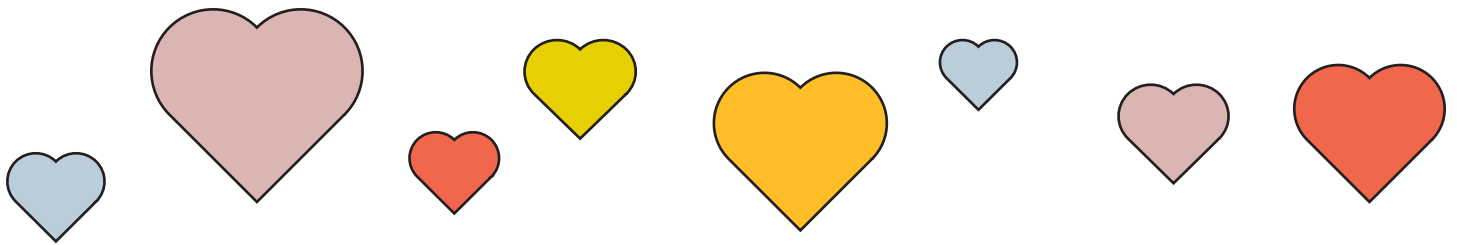
Dear God, we know that you have created all humanity in your divine image. Thank you for the gift of diversity. Teach us to look at the heart of a person and not judge them prematurely. Thank you for the gift of Pastor Jehu Jones and all those who are dedicated to the body of Christ. Amen.

Hand out Key Bible Verse cards to children as they depart.

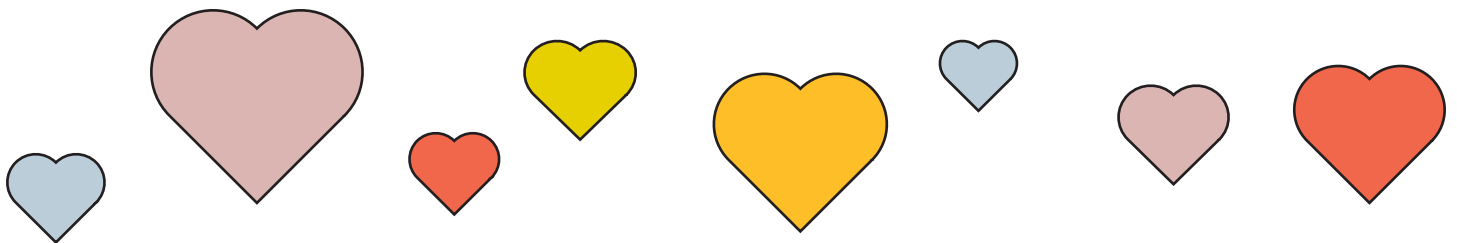
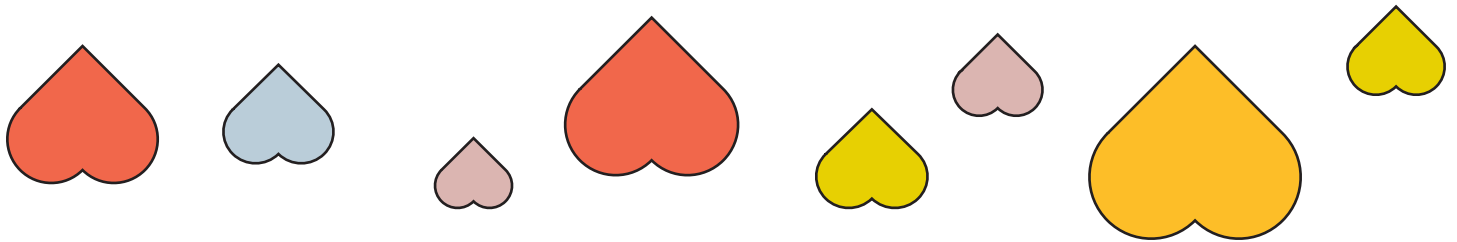
Sources

Lutheran Quarterly Volume X (1996) http://www.lutheranquarterly.com/uploads/7/4/0/1/7401289/jehu_jones.pdf

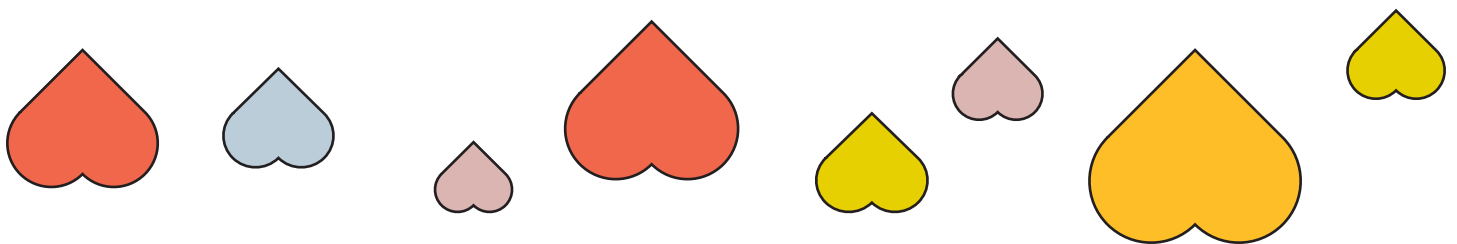
The Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart <https://youtu.be/JvJPTZSFwXl>



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CHILDREN'S MESSAGES CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Harriett Tubman (1821–1913)

Portrait of a Courageous Heart

Key Bible Verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.” Proverbs 3:5

Preparation

1. Cut hearts out from the construction paper. Make sure they are large enough for the mailing labels to fit on.
2. Print the Key Bible Verse Labels from page 3 on your printable mailing labels.
3. Put one Key Verse Label on each heart.
4. Set up the train (if you have one).

Welcome

We all know that February is the shortest month of the year, yet it is filled with holidays and special events, like Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day, Presidents Day, Chinese New Year, *sometimes* Ash Wednesday, and *occasionally* the Jewish festival of Purim. Do you know what else happens in February? February is Black History Month. Black History Month is a time when we pay special attention to the accomplishments of people of African descent from all over the world and throughout history.

Share

Today we remember Harriet Tubman. Does anyone know who she was? Wait for responses. Harriet Tubman was a true American hero. She is best known as a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad. Point to your train, if you have one. The Underground Railroad was not an actual railroad but a series of safe houses where enslaved people could find safety as they fled to freedom in free states and Canada.

Harriet Tubman lived a courageous life. She was born a slave in Maryland’s Dorchester County around 1821. In 1849, she learned that the people who owned her were going to sell her to another plantation. But she was determined to be free. Trusting that God would guide her, Harriet Tubman escaped on foot and followed the North Star to freedom. Once free, she worked hard and saved money. A year later, she returned to Maryland to escort others to freedom. She made several trips and rescued many people who were enslaved. She became known as “Moses” because she delivered her people to freedom. But her bravery didn’t stop there.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked for the Union as a nurse, soldier, and spy. In fact, Harriet Tubman became the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the United States in what is known as the Combahee Ferry Raid, rescuing 700 enslaved people. At one point she was labeled as the bravest person on the continent.

Harriet Tubman was such an amazing hero that our country will honor her by putting her portrait on the \$20 bill. Show a photo of the Tubman \$20 bill if you have it.

Supplies

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Writing utensil
- Large printable mailing labels (Avery 5264)
- Key Verse Labels from page 3
- Toy train, model train, or photo of a train (optional)
- Photo of the Harriet Tubman \$20 bill (optional)

Pray

Dear God, thank you for courageous heroes like Harriet Tubman. Help us to be brave like her even when we are afraid. Teach us to put our trust in you and follow where you lead us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hand out Key Bible Verse hearts to children as they depart.

Sources

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p1535.html>

<https://www.history.com/news/harriet-tubman-combahee-ferry-raid-civil-war>

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Arthur Wharton (1865–1930) A Champion's Heart

Key Bible Verse

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1

Preparation

1. Collect a soccer ball and a trophy and/or medal.
2. Print and cut out the Key Bible Verse Awards from page 2 to hand out to children.

Welcome

I have a question for you. Who knows what month this is? (February) Do you remember what special thing happens in February that we've been talking about the last couple weeks? (Black History Month) Black History Month is a time when we pay special attention to the accomplishments of people of African descent from all over the world and throughout history.

Share

Hold up a soccer ball. **Do you know what this is?** (soccer ball) Hold up the trophy or medal. **What is this?** (trophy/medal) I want to introduce you to an amazing soccer player who was a champion. His name is Arthur Wharton. Arthur Wharton was born in Ghana in 1865. His father was a Methodist minister, and his mother was an African princess. When he was a teenager, his family moved to England so Arthur could attend college to become a pastor like his father. But a funny thing happened. People recognized his amazing athletic talents. He was a champion cyclist and player of a game called cricket. He also excelled at a sport called rugby and track. In fact, in 1888, he held the record for running 100 yards in 10 seconds. At that time, Arthur Wharton was the fastest man on earth! Arthur was an outstanding athlete in many different sports, but he especially shined on the soccer field. In 1889, he became the first Black man to play professional soccer.

However, even though he was a spectacular athlete, he endured constant ridicule and harassment because of the color of his skin. Nevertheless, his legacy continues even after more than a century.

Pray

Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for awesome athletes like Arthur Wharton. Help us to also persevere in challenging times. Give us peace when our hearts are troubled and strengthen us to pursue our biggest dreams. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

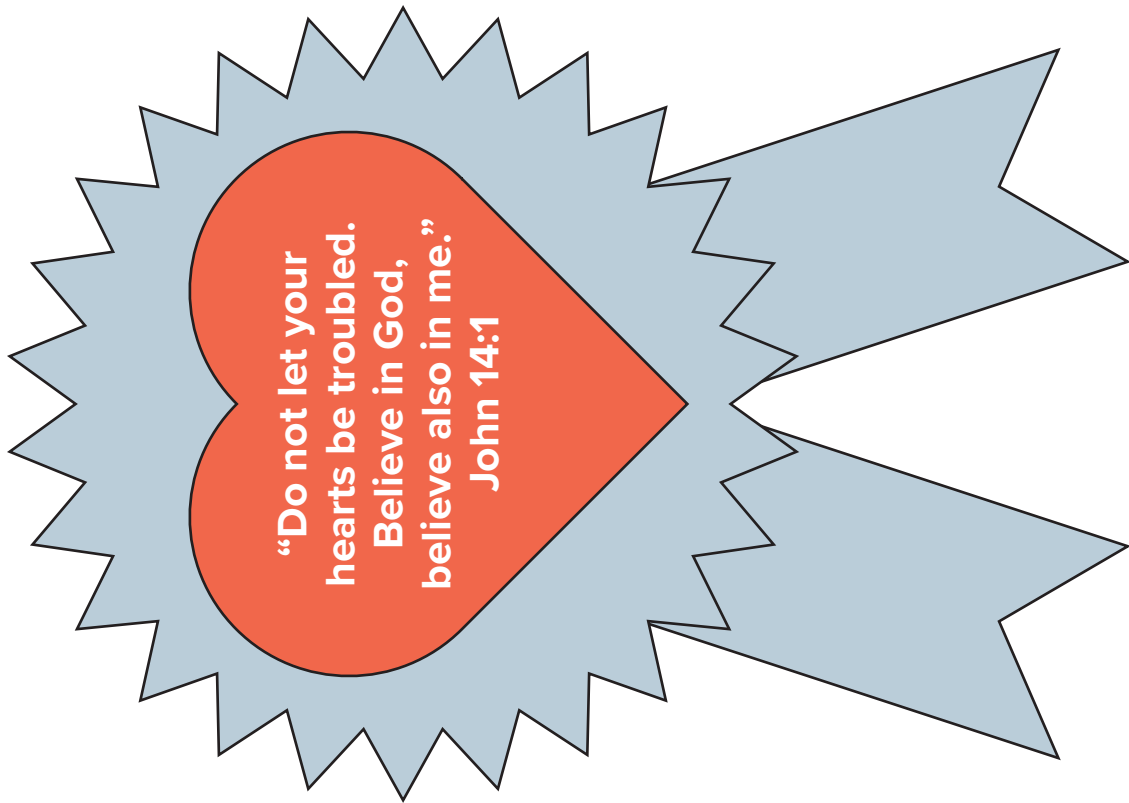
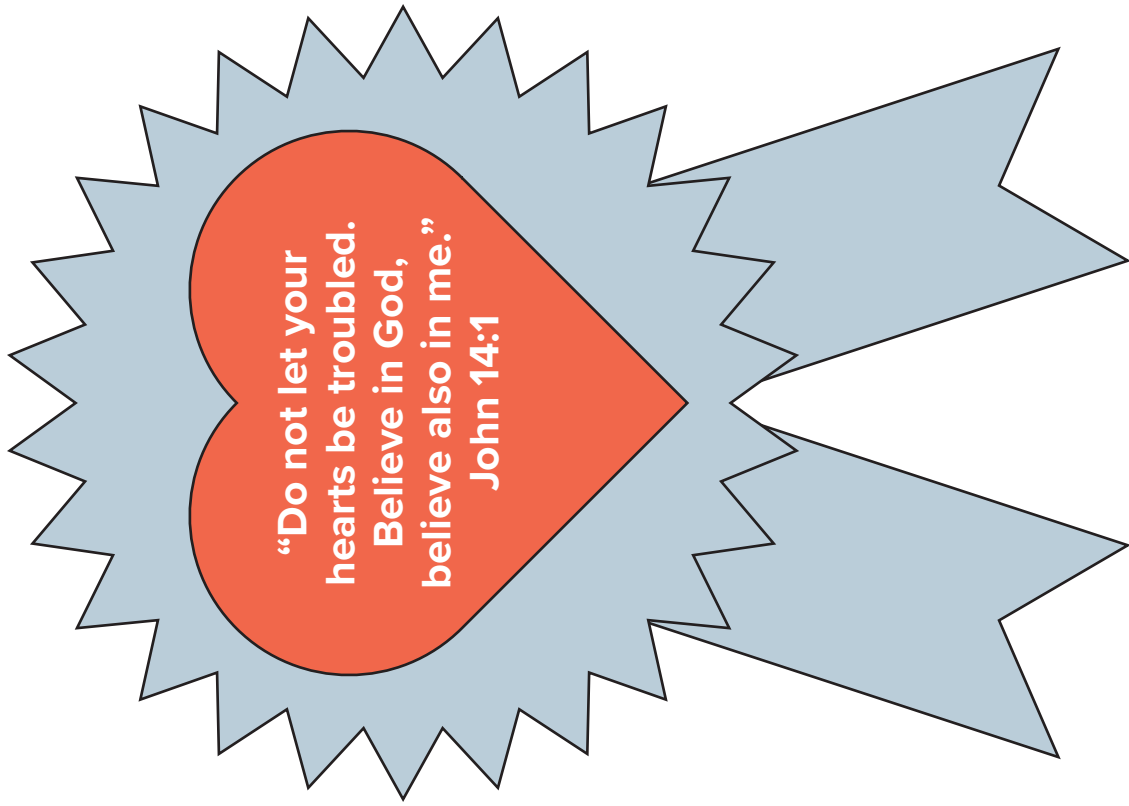
Hand out Key Bible Verse awards as children depart.

Sources

<https://www.fifa.com/news/pioneering-wharton-finally-takes-his-place-1413035>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/tyne/roots/2003/10/arthur_wharton.shtml

Supplies

- Soccer ball
- Trophy and/or medal
- Key Bible Verse Awards from page 2
- Cardstock
- Scissors





HEART AND SOUL

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Leymah Gbowee (1972-)

A Heart for Justice

Key Bible Verse

“It is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”
Luke 6:45b

Preparation

1. Bring megaphone to church.
2. Print Key Bible Verse Megaphones from page 3 on cardstock and cut them out to hand out to children.

Welcome

This is the last Sunday in February. February is a time when we pay closer attention to the achievements and contributions of people of African descent. Today we celebrate Black History Month.

Share

Hold up the megaphone. **Does anyone know what this is?** (megaphone) **Does anyone know what a megaphone does?** Allow time for responses. **A megaphone makes your voice louder so more people can hear you. Today, I'd like to tell you about a remarkable woman who used her voice to bring a peaceful end to a civil war! Her name is Leymah Gbowee (LAY-ma BŌW-ē). Let's practice saying her name. Please repeat after me. Leymah (Leymah) Gbowee (Gbowee).**

Leymah is from Liberia, Africa, and in her home country there was a terrible war that lasted for several years. But Leymah had a dream that peace was possible. Using her prophetic voice, she organized thousands of women from every religion to come together and start a non-violent movement that would bring an end to the fighting. The women's movement gained power and worldwide popularity. The women protested, picketed, and prayed in the streets. These courageous women of faith went to radical lengths to bring about change. The women even lay down on the landing strip of an airport, preventing the arrival of planes that were bringing in weapons and ammunition to Liberia. **WOW!** That is so brave! The women played an important role in promoting peace talks. In 2011, Leymah Gbowee won the Nobel Peace Prize because of her dedication to bringing a non-violent end to the Liberian Civil War in 2003. The women's movement helped pave the way for the election of Africa's first woman president, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Liberia.

Leymah Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church of Liberia, has shared her vision throughout the world. She is committed to creating a better life for women and girls all over the globe. Leymah's impact on the world has only just begun.

Supplies

- Megaphone or photo of a megaphone
- Key Bible Verse Megaphones from page 3
- Cardstock
- Scissors

Pray

Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for people who work for peace. Give us a boldness in our hearts so that we can speak truth to power like Leymah Gbowee does. Give us a heart for justice and courage when we are afraid. Help us to do the right thing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hand out Key Bible Verse Megaphones to children as they depart.

Sources

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2011/gbowee/biographical/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/07/whose-corner-asks-nobel-laureate/>

<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/7448>

Pray the Devil Back to Hell Documentary (2016)

