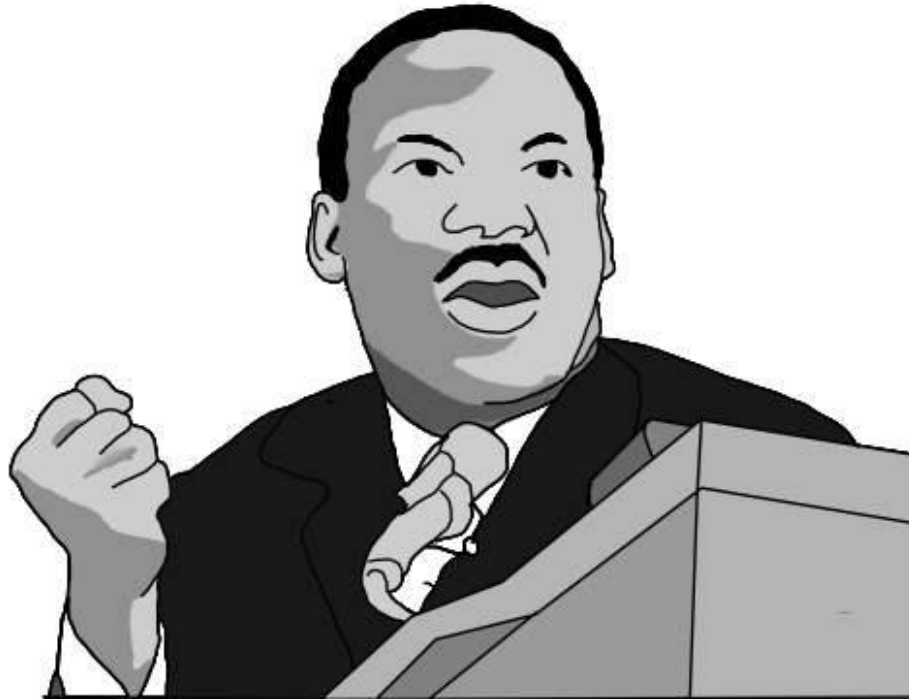


## Peace and Forgiveness

Who is Martin Luther King, Jr.?

What did he say about **peace** and **enemies**?



Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great man.

He believed in change, but not **violence**.

He believed everyone, black or white, is equal.

He talked about peace.

He told people, “Love your enemy” and “Pray for your enemy.”

He was killed by a man with a gun.

But his message of peace and love lives in peoples' hearts.

Where does his message come from? Read the story and find out!

## Peace and Forgiveness

Jesus is a teacher. He loves all people. He teaches about God.

Jesus has no sin.

Some people do not like his teaching. He is arrested for his teaching, but did not **commit a crime**.



Jesus is put on a cross between two criminals. People laugh at Jesus.

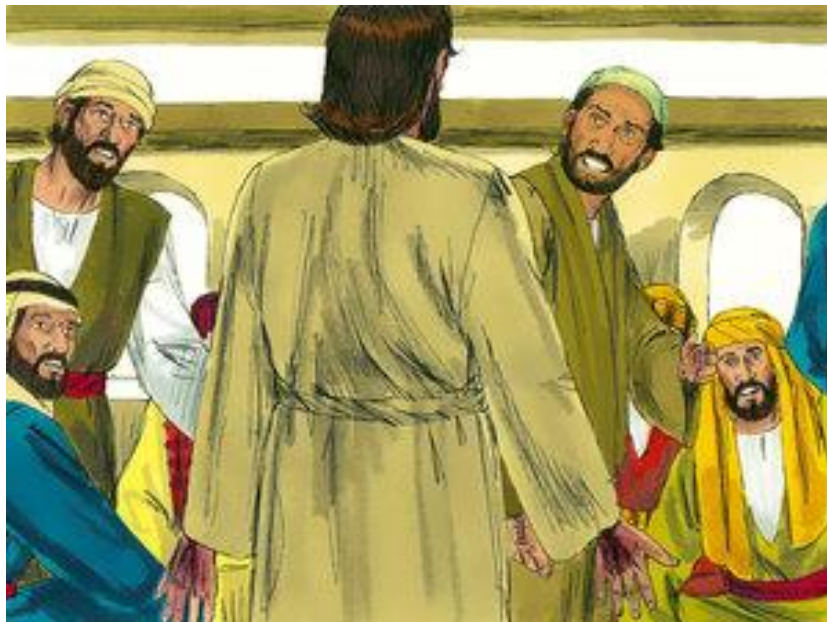
Jesus has the power to free himself, but he stays there. One criminal says to not bother Jesus because he did nothing wrong. Jesus tells that man, "Surely, today you will be with me in **heaven**."

Jesus is in a lot of pain. He has nails through his hands. He hangs on the cross. He **suffers** on the cross.

Jesus has power from God, but does not fight. He prays for his **enemies**. He says, "God, forgive them, they know not what they do."

He dies, but comes back to life a couple days later. It is a **miracle!**

He find his **followers**. His followers see him and touch his hands. They see that his hands are healed. He teaches them. Jesus' followers see him go up to heaven. He is coming back!



Martin Luther King, Jr. says, "Love your enemies and forgive them" because Jesus said, "Love your enemies and forgive them." MLK followed the example and teaching of Jesus.

Anyone, from any nation, can have peace and forgiveness from God. Jesus said, "If you **confess** your sin, God is faithful to **forgive** and **purify** us".

## Contractions

A **contraction** is one way to shorten a **phrase**.

A phrase is more than one word.

You take out the first letter of the second word.

You put an **apostrophe** in place of the missing letter.

Put it all together, with no spaces.

Ex. He is = He's

1. Practice saying: con---**trak**---shun = contraction

uh---**pos**----tra---fee = apostrophe

2. Add an apostrophe to the contractions below.

can t      he s      l m      don t

3. Shorten these phrases. Make contractions.

I am = \_\_\_\_\_

Do not = \_\_\_\_\_

He is = \_\_\_\_\_

We are = \_\_\_\_\_

They are = \_\_\_\_\_

I will = \_\_\_\_\_

Find possible **contractions** in the story.

Write them the long way and as a contraction (short way) below.

Example:

I am = I'm

did not = didn't

**Long Way**

**Contraction (Short Way)**

_____	=	_____
_____	=	_____
_____	=	_____
_____	=	_____
_____	=	_____
_____	=	_____

## Word List

**peace** = to not fight with people

**enemy** = someone who hates you or tries to do wrong to you

**commit a crime** = to do something against the law

**sin** = bad things people think or do

**heaven** = the place where God is

**suffer** = to feel a lot of pain

**follow, follower** = like a student, learn from someone and do as they do

**purify** = to make clean, or to have no sin

**violence** = to hurt someone else

**miracle** = something man can't do, only God can do

**resurrection** = someone dies and comes back to life

**confess** = tell someone all the bad things you think and do

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Read the Somali words. What words do they match above?

cafiyo    dembi    mucjiso    nabad    cadowga

## What is Easter Really About?

There is a holiday in spring called “Easter”. During Easter, you can see children look for colorful eggs. You can see candy decorated as rabbits and chicks.

But this day is not really about rabbits, eggs, or spring. Those things are fun for children. It is really about celebrating the **resurrection** of Jesus. It is about peace and forgiveness.

Jesus is called “The Lamb of God”. In Jesus’ time, people could take and kill a sheep for the wrong things they did, to **purify**. This is called a sacrifice. People did this again and again.

Jesus is the only one with no sin, a perfect sacrifice. Now no sacrifice is needed. People only need to believe and ask God for forgiveness.



## **Lesson Suggestions:**

This is a conceptual story, rather than a straight telling. It is recommended that it be used as a storytelling companion. Tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection out loud and go to [bible.is](http://bible.is) to listen in Somali.

Show the picture of MLK and ask the student what he or she already knows. You share what you know, including the part about him praying and not fighting his enemies. Ask the student why he did that. After reading, ask the question of "why" again.

Start with the word list. Have the student refer back to it while reading if he or she forgets what one of the words in bold means.

Red Cross Symbol: Most refugees will recognize this as a symbol of "help". Bring a copy to show the student as a way to introduce the cross. Ask, "What does this mean?" You might get a response that it means "Help" to them and that they have seen this in Africa.

## **Extension**

Option 1: Ask, "What do you think about the story?" "Do you want to hear another story about Jesus' teaching?"

Option 2: The "What is Easter Really About?" page is for those who you have been able to talk with about sin and sacrifice before. Muslims do not believe that sacrifice is necessary, so pray about whether or not your friend is ready. If not ready, do option 1, but here are some ideas for building the concept of sin: give personal testimony and examples, talk about bad things we see in the news, the idea that how can we know if we have ever done enough good things to counter the bad, and share parables illustrating sin.