



Show Up

MLK drive has served as a *representative* place to acknowledge the pain of racial injustice and celebrate the beauty and strength of African American culture. While we acknowledge that racial discrimination still prevails in many of the systems and structures of American society, we want to invite people to show up at one of the many *actual* places where evil and destructive discrimination regularly and legally occurred in our communities during the lifetime of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Consider that nearly all public pools, libraries, and schools that were built in the American South before 1964 contained signs such as "whites only" or "colored entrance". We tend to recoil from these dramatic symbols of oppression. Rarely do we engage in the painful reality that for MANY WHO ARE STILL LIVING these were daily reminders of the demonic deception that sought to tarnish the image of God in them.

We have much to learn from these places about the real impact of such evil on the hearts, minds, souls, and strength of the people who experienced them firsthand. This impact includes the darker skinned people who suffered at the ungodly discrimination AND whites and white-passing who 'benefited' from the clearly defined privilege.

Step by Step

1. Do some research* on the history of your own immediate community to discover a specific place where racial injustice regularly occurred during the lifetime of MLK, Jr. ***
2. Discuss places within walking or short driving distance from where you live.
3. Pray about where to show up with your household or 'extended quarantine fam (Qfam)'.
4. Once you have selected the place, go there and stand outside to be changed.
5. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the "Be Changed" instructions

* Research Tips: Interview older members of your family or community who have memories of the 1960s. Older schools, pools, hotels, churches, theaters, or restaurants all would be candidates to consider. Include for consideration places of racial pain that have impacted the indigenous peoples of the land (San Antonio, for example, has several of these). Use an internet search engine to look up historical articles from your city.

*** If you and your family personally endure racial discrimination, then you may want to skip to the "Be Changed" instructions (#5) for a guide to a healing conversation about your experiences. You also may want to find a location to show up and gain deeper understanding about the impact of specific forms of racial discrimination in the past.



Be Changed

If we want to 'be the change we want to see in the world' - we must first allow ourselves to 'be changed' by compassionate engagement with the pain of others. History, unfortunately, affords us many opportunities to encounter pain in others. For the purposes of this challenge, we will begin with opening our hearts to the pain of the past - specifically the era marked by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SIDENOTE: If you are older than 54, then you were alive at the same time as MLK. When this guide invites you to 'imagine', it may trigger personal memories that reach back to this time. You may have fear, shame, trauma, or guilt related to these memories. As you open up this place and that part of your life or history to Jesus, we can expect transformation and healing.

Step by Step

After you have decided where to **SHOW UP**. Continue with the instructions below:

This exercise will utilize a rhythm of dialogue where we see and say what is obvious, then what is hidden.

We will first look at what we can see, then share with our group (or you can journal if participating in the challenge by yourself.)

We will then explore what we cannot see, then share with the group.

Part ONE: Enter the space

Part TWO: Acknowledge Jesus

Part THREE: Engage

PART ONE

1. Look around and describe what you see.
2. Check in with the group - "How do you feel about being here today?"
3. Now imagine what might have been different about this place in the past. Share out loud some of the things you imagine.

PART TWO

1. Picture the Lord in your midst: Jesus said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20 NIV)
2. Read **PSALM 139**
3. Right where you are, acknowledge His presence together. Say aloud in unison, "Lord Jesus, you are present in this place."
4. Ask Jesus, "where are you right now in this place with us?" Be bold and try to picture Him physically with you.
5. Share as a group where you see Him. As you continue in this prayerful journey remain aware of his presence.

PART THREE

Explore the questions in this part. You may want to focus on some specific prompts that connect with you in a deeper way. Feel the freedom to answer as few or as many of the questions as you are able. If a specific question engenders fruitful discussion, that may all that you need in order to be changed in a way that opens your heart to the Love and healing of Jesus in the place you have chosen.

We recommend the following process: Ask one of the questions aloud to the group, take a few moments of quiet to consider your response, then share out loud with one another (or write in your journal).

1. Do I feel included in this place?
2. What would have people experienced in this place? (what could be seen? what about feelings and things unseen?)
3. Consider those who benefited from this place: What would they have felt about themselves? What would they have felt about others?
4. Consider those who suffered in this place: What would they have felt about themselves? What would they have felt about others?
5. What are the lingering effects of the past pain experienced here?
 What can we see?
 What can we not see?
6. What are some of the walls created here?
 What can we see?
 What can we not see?
7. What was lost here?
 What can we see?
 What can't we see?
8. What were some of the hurts and fears here?
9. Who cried the tears? If the tears in this place had names, what would they be?
10. How could this place have been different for the better? What could it have looked like?
11. Ask the Lord - "Jesus, what is your dream for this place?"
12. Ask the Lord - "Jesus, what do you have for me today in this place?"

To complete this section of the challenge, take a few minutes to pray for ALL those impacted by the racial injustice that has been perpetrated in this specific place. With hope and faith we trust that God responds to our prayers.

Once you have completed your conversation and prayed together, please continue to the instructions on the next section: BEAR WITNESS



Bear Witness

Bear Witness

Can you imagine what would have happened to 'the dream' had MLK not shared it?

There was a blind man who experienced Christ. According to the Gospel of John, He was healed from a lifetime of blindness and began to walk around with his eyes wide open. Not all welcomed this change, and he was called before his church leaders as they interrogated him regarding the methods of his transformation. His simple and defiant testimony presents a classic formula for us to follow: "One thing I do know: I was blind and now I see!" (John 9:25 NIV).

Later in the story, after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, his followers echoed the example of the man born blind when they defended themselves with the formula: "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20 NIV).

Furthermore, Jesus proclaimed **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"** - Acts 1:8 NIV. To the extent that you have showed up in a place of real pain, and allowed yourselves to be changed by the heart of Jesus towards those who walked before you in that space, then you have a story worth telling.

It's not without risk, to be sure. If you share, then You may risk offending someone you love, or worse. If you share, You may risk comfort at the next large family gathering. If you share your testimony about the pain of racial injustice in America, You may even risk some sources of income or comfort by sharing your testimony. The greatest risk, however, comes if you do not share. **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth**

"So do not be afraid of them. For there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." - Matthew 10:26-31 (NIV)

Step By Step

1. Before you leave your chosen location, record a short video (less than 1-3 minutes) to state the date, acknowledge the specific place, and introduce yourself
2. Include in the video at least one thing that impacted you from the experience
3. Voice at least one hope or prayer that YOU hold onto as you leave the location
4. Pray with your group about how to share your video (to family or friends in a message, on social media, in person to a coworker)
5. We would love to hear your heart and compile the testimonies from this simple challenge: if you decide to share using a social media platform, please include the hashtag #prayonmlksa.

You can also send a feedback email to media@wildfire.church.

Lastly, we are thankful to God for your participation in this experience. Our sincere hope remains that the Kingdom of Jesus will be established among those who love him by the power of Holy Spirit. May the grace of our Lord, Jesus the Messiah, be with you.