

☀ Values

- Courage to Admit Mistakes
- Making Amends
- Asking for Forgiveness
- Accepting Apology
- Social Emotional Learning

☀ Reflection Questions

Imagine you are Rev. Joseph Lowery. How would you react to George Wallace's request?

Has anyone ever tried to apologize to you for their mistakes? How did you respond?

Where have you seen the effect that hatred and bigotry has on other people?

Do you know anyone who has marched to stand up for what they believe in? Have you?

☀ Lessons Learned

Miracles can happen, especially when we are willing to let go of the past to move forward.

Do the right thing even if your friends disagree?

When we forgive one another, we create opportunities for healing and positive change.

Even our leaders can make mistakes and ask for forgiveness.

Alabama Governor George Wallace became a symbol of the hatred and bigotry during the Civil Rights era. After being shot and paralyzed, he changed his ways, saying "I can understand something of the pain that black people have come to endure... I contributed to that pain and I can only ask forgiveness." He then appointed 160 blacks to office and doubled the number of black voter's registrations in Alabama. Thirty years after the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, he asked for the opportunity to join with others reenacting the famous march. In this story, Reverend Joseph Lowery shares his struggle to accept Wallace's offer of repentance and tells of the miracle of forgiveness that happened that day.

☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Send a letter to your Governor encouraging him to promote racial harmony in your state. Make a collage from newspapers and magazines on racism and cultural healing. Watch Wallace, the TNT special on George Wallace's life. Have students write a report about the changes in his life and the impact he made on the Civil Rights Movement. Read *Southern Journey: A Return to the Civil Rights Movement* by Tom Dent (pp. 247- 335) to discover what has happened in Selma since the march.

☀ Social Studies: Diversity

Study the impact of hate crimes in America including the history of the Klu Klux Klan. Study the geography of Alabama. How many miles is it from Selma to Montgomery? Which historical landmarks are there? How have these communities changed since 1965? Study how the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments have affected black voter registration. Discuss some current hate crimes in your community and in the United States.

☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Have students organize a Walk for Justice in your community. Learn about the process of getting permits, sending announcements to leaders, the police, the press and cleanup crew. Locate Freedom Songs that were sung during civil rights marches. Learn a few songs by listening to the CDs. Sing during the march. Play songs on school intercom in the morning. Learn how the Racial Dialogue and Reconciliation Program at the Fellowship of Reconciliation can help you to encourage racial harmony in your school and community.