



Teacher's Guide

Nelson Mandela Great Hearts of Courage

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

Multicultural

World History

Synopsis:

Opens with Nelson's birth and early life explaining that he was raised in the Transkei where racial prejudice was unknown and Methodist teachers provided an excellent secondary and college education for both Blacks and Whites. As a young man he first experiences racial segregation when he pursues a career as a lawyer in Johannesburg. There he becomes a spokesman for the African National Congress under Walter Sisulu, and eventually forms a militant wing to protest the ban against the ANC. Mandela is tried for high treason, acquitted because of his oratory, but arrested again and sentenced to life in Robben Island Prison. It is there that his dignity and humility make him beloved by fellow prisoners and prison guards alike. The documentary follows the 27 years of his imprisonment, the Soweto Uprising, and Mandela's ultimate release. It praises his courage but also his lack of bitterness as de Klerk puts an end to Apartheid, Mandela is elected President, and eventually becomes a popular speaker and champion for world peace.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why Mandela became so influential in South African politics.
- Describe the social conditions under Apartheid.
- Appreciate the qualities of character that have made Mandela so influential on the world stage.

Vocabulary:

Boers, Afrikaners, townships, Draconian laws, advocacy, guerillas, sabotage, sanctions, humility, autocrat, autocratic

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why is Nelson Mandela such a renowned political figure?

What was Apartheid? What was the A.N.C.?

What motion pictures were based on injustices suffered under Apartheid? What did you learn about Apartheid from watching them?

How old was Nelson Mandela when he was released from prison? When did he become President of South Africa? How long did he serve as President?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why was Nelson Mandela able to connect with both Blacks and Whites in South Africa? What incidents in the documentary indicated that he did not see people as Black or White? What did his early education have to do with this?

Why did Mandela change his views about non-violence? Was he guilty of high treason? Should he have been imprisoned?

How was he able to maintain his spirit of forgiveness and humility while he was in prison? What did he understand that other political prisoners did not?

Why are statesmen, kings and queens, and ordinary citizens the world over so enamored with Nelson Mandela?

Further Activities:

Find other personal accounts of conditions under Apartheid. Attempt to understand the variety of attitudes people held toward this political system.

Interview a family member or older person who remembers Apartheid and the world's reaction to Nelson Mandela's imprisonment.

Research the lives of ANC members who did not survive their experiences in Robben Prison.

Find firsthand accounts of the Soweto Uprising and its effect on South African politics.

Related New Dimension Titles:

African Christian Traditions