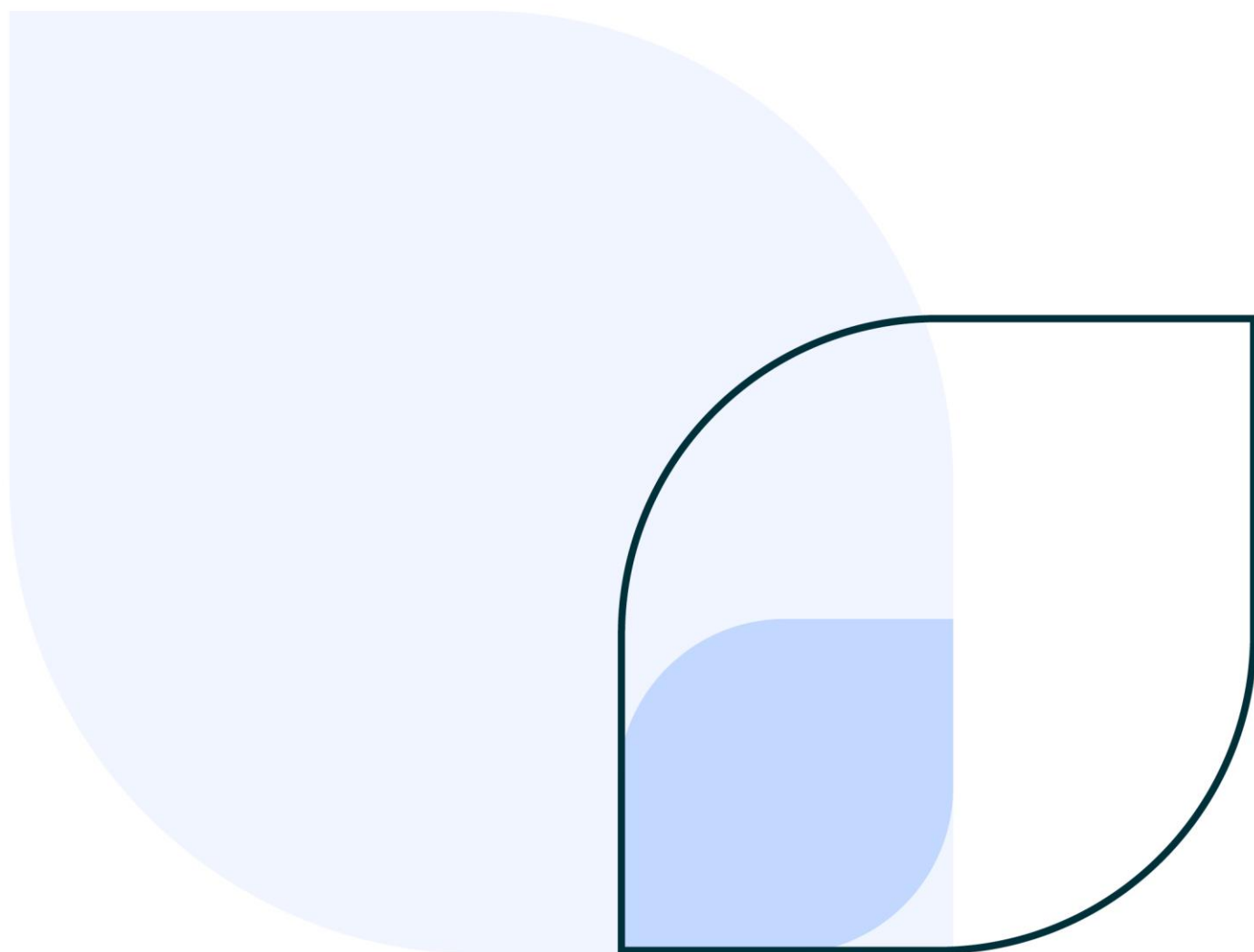


Collective Worship

Secondary resources:

Retelling Our Stories : Harold Moody





Key Concept / Message

Black History Month 2024: Reclaiming Narratives

Black History Month (BHM) provides an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. In the UK, BHM was first observed in 1987 and has since become a significant time to reflect on the diverse experiences and stories of Black communities. This year's theme, "Reclaiming Narratives," emphasizes the importance of taking ownership of our stories and ensuring they are told with accuracy and respect.

A powerful example of this theme is Dr. Harold Moody, a pioneering Black physician and activist in early 20th-century Britain. Dr. Moody faced substantial racial discrimination but remained steadfast in his mission to improve the health and rights of Black people. In 1931, he founded the League of Coloured Peoples (LCP), an organization dedicated to combating racial injustice and advancing the welfare of Black individuals. His leadership and advocacy were instrumental in challenging societal inequalities and supporting marginalized communities.

Dr. Moody's story is closely connected to the biblical passage from Acts 6:1-4, where the early Church faces growing challenges in meeting the needs of its members. The apostles appoint seven deacons to manage practical matters, enabling them to focus on spiritual leadership and teaching. This passage highlights the role of effective leadership in serving the community and addressing its needs.

Just as the apostles appointed deacons to serve and support their growing community, Dr. Moody's work exemplifies the spirit of service and leadership. He took on the responsibility of addressing racial inequality and improving conditions for his community, showing that true leadership involves both serving and uplifting others. Moody's efforts to fight racial injustice and promote equality reflect the biblical call to lead with compassion and address the needs of the community.

As Christians, engaging with BHM and reflecting on stories like Dr. Moody's aligns with the teachings of Acts 6:1-4. We are called to serve and support one another, working together to create a more just and inclusive society. Dr. Moody's legacy encourages us to embrace leadership that is grounded in service and to be proactive in addressing the needs of those around us.

Black History Month is more than a time for remembrance; it is a call to action, a time to celebrate and commemorate the richness and diversity that the global majority have brought into our world. By honouring figures like Dr. Moody and embodying the principles of service and leadership from Acts 6:1-4, we contribute to building a community where every voice is valued, and every individual is uplifted. Let us draw inspiration from Dr. Moody's example and commit ourselves to leading with purpose and compassion in our own lives and communities.



Slide 2: Title Slide – Gathering and Prayer

Begin with your usual greeting to gather everyone together. You may like to start with an opening prayer, such as this one:

Heavenly Father,
We come before you today as we begin our Black History Month reflections.

Our desire God is to open our hearts and minds to these stories of perseverance. We Pray these stories will challenge us and empower us to stand with those who have been wronged.

May this time of worship inspire us to strive for equality, justice, and goodness in our community.

Amen.

Slide 3 & 4: Title Slide – Bible Passage

Use the scripture to highlight the importance of leadership, community service, and standing up for others.

Read Acts 6:1-4 aloud and discuss the context of the passage.

Acts 6:1-4 (MSG)

During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers—“Hellenists”—toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we’ll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we’ll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God’s Word.”

Explore the act of cultural humility demonstrated by the Hebrew Jews by exploring these questions:

I wonder why the Hebrew-speaking leaders asked the Greek-speaking people to help with the food. How does sharing the job show they cared about everyone?

I wonder how the Greek-speaking people felt when they were asked to help with the food. Why was it good for the Hebrew-speaking leaders to listen to them?

I wonder how letting the Greek-speaking people help with the food showed that the Hebrew-speaking leaders respected everyone. How did this help everyone get along better?

Engagement



Slides 5,6 &7: Title Slide – An overview of Harold Moody’s life

Introduce Dr Harold Moody as a key figure in Black history and a symbol of resilience and activism.

Pose the question on the slide to the children: **“Do you know who this man is?”**

Allow for discussion and then introduce Dr Harold Moody.

Explain that Dr. Harold Moody was a medical doctor and community leader who founded the League of Coloured Peoples. Dr. Harold Moody was born in Jamaica in 1882 and moved to the UK in 1904 to study medicine at King's College London. Despite being a top student, Moody faced significant racial discrimination, including being denied positions at hospitals because of his race. In response to the systemic racism he encountered, Moody established his own medical practice in Peckham in 1913. Recognising the broader challenges faced by Black and Asian communities in Britain, he founded the League of Coloured Peoples in 1931 to fight for racial equality, fair employment, and civil rights. His work was essential in advocating for social justice, providing support to those experiencing discrimination, and challenging the prejudiced attitudes of British society. Despite his qualifications, Moody constantly faced barriers due to his race, which fuelled his determination to create a more equitable world.

Share details about his journey from Jamaica to the UK, his training as a chemist and doctor, and the racism he faced that prevented him from practicing at a hospital.

Ask students to reflect on how Harold Moody’s determination to overcome obstacles led him to establish his own medical practice.

How might his experience with discrimination have influenced his decision to advocate for racial equality?

Slide 8: Title Slide – Introduction League of Coloured People

Introduce the League of Coloured Peoples and its mission to improve the lives of Black people in the UK.

Discuss the founding of the League in 1931 and its four key aims:

1. To protect the social, educational, economic, and political interests of its members
2. To interest members in the welfare of coloured peoples in all parts of the world
3. To improve relations between the races
4. To cooperate and affiliate with organisations sympathetic to coloured people

Encourage students to compare the League's mission to modern organizations working toward racial equality. **What progress has been made since then, and what challenges remain?**



Slide 9: Title Slide – Discussion about Harold Moody

Ask students to reflect on times when they or someone they know stood up for others.

How did that action impact the situation?

Relate this to Harold Moody's leadership in the League of Coloured Peoples.

Discuss the importance of speaking up against injustice, both in the past and today.

Slide 10: African Proverb

Read African proverb.

Explain to the children this proverb reinforces the idea that our stories are powerful and if we do not tell our own stories somebody else may do, and not do out story justice.

Black history month is about retelling our story of love, life, light and courage to inspire us today.

Slide 11: Connecting Acts 6 and Moody story

Revisit the story in Acts 6 and relate it to Harold Moody's efforts to address the issues faced by Black people in the UK. The church in Acts prioritised the needs of the overlooked and in a similar manner Dr Moody did the same.

Ask students how they can apply these lessons to their own lives?

Engage the class in a conversation about standing in solidarity with others.

How can they make a difference in their school or local community by supporting those facing difficulties?

Slide 12: Recap Knowledge learnt about Harold Moody

What did they learn from the life of Harold Moody?

Slide 13: Prayer

Invite the children to join with you in prayer:

For Christians, prayer is talking to God, who they believe listens and hears their prayers. If you want to make this prayer your own, then please join me in saying, **'Amen'**.

Heavenly Father,



We thank you for the life of men like Dr Harold Moody.

Help us to be courageous like the church in Acts who amplified the voice of the silenced and overlooked.

We pray for opportunities to stand in solidarity with those who are in need and feel forgotten.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord

Amen

Spiritual Development

Practical Ways to Explore Faith and Develop Spiritually:

1. Leadership and Service Booklet

- **Activity:** Each student creates a page in a booklet about what it means to be a good leader and how they can serve others in their own lives. They can draw, write, or make a collage.
- **Questions to Consider:**
 - What qualities make a good leader?
 - How can you help others in your school or community?
 - What is a time when you helped someone and how did it make you feel?
 - How can we work together as a team to support each other?



2. Community Service Tree

- **Activity:** Students write or draw about acts of service they have performed or witnessed. These are added to a tree display in the classroom or school.
- **Purpose:** To visualize and promote acts of service and leadership in the school community.

Activities to Develop Practices and Habits

1. Daily Service Reflections Journal

- **Activity:** Each day, students write or draw about a small act of service they performed or saw, and how it made them feel.

2. Weekly Leadership Reflections

- **Activity:** At the end of each week, have a class discussion about examples of good leadership and acts of service they observed or participated in.

Conversations Connecting Communities

Personal Reflection:

- How can being a good leader help make our school or community better?
- Why is it important to serve others and work together as a team?
- How can you use your talents to support others in your community?
- What values do you hold that align with the idea of serving others and leading with integrity?

Community and Society:

- How can we encourage others to take on leadership roles and serve our community?
- In what ways can we support each other to create a more caring and inclusive society?
- How can we ensure that our acts of service inspire others to do the same?

Global Perspective:

- How can acts of service and leadership contribute to solving global issues like inequality and injustice?



- How can learning about different leaders and their contributions help us be better servants and leaders in our own communities?
- How can young people lead the way in creating a world that values service and leadership?
- What kind of world do you envision for the future, and what small actions can you take today to help make that world a reality?

Collective Worship – Our approach

Invitational

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

Inclusive

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like: 'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?' 'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ... Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

Inspiring

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?