

Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying the similarities between selected passages from the Book of Daniel with certain aspects of Black History, we will discover the transformative influence we can have in the world today.

Lesson Aim:

To be reminded that we are divine originals, created in the image of God, and as such we must **dare to be different**.

Objectives:

To remind students that they are differently gifted by God, using Daniel 1:8-21 (key verse 17) as a biblical example and drawing a parallel with Katherine Johnson's life.

Introduction:

1. Start with a brief discussion on the importance of being true to oneself and the challenges individuals may face when choosing to be different.
2. Introduce the lesson aim: To embrace our uniqueness and stand firm in our convictions, using the biblical story of Daniel and the contemporary example of Katherine Johnson.
3. Provide a summary of Daniel 1:8-21, emphasizing the theme of daring to be different and the divine favor that accompanies such courage.

Reading and Discussion:

1. Read Daniel 1:8-21 aloud or have students read it individually.
2. Facilitate a discussion on the impact of Daniel's decision "not to defile himself"/to maintain his identity and principles, leading to physical, intellectual, and spiritual excellence.
3. Discuss the broader lesson of choosing obedience to God and adherence to one's values – even in the face of societal expectations.
 - a. Diet prescribed by God (Genesis 1:29); for us cf Romans 12:1-2
 - b. Different gifts – all from God yet unique to Daniel (Daniel 1:17); for us cf 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Black History Parallel - Katherine Johnson:

1. Introduce Katherine Johnson's life and achievements, emphasizing her unique gift in math and her determination to be different in the face of racial and gender discrimination.
2. Discuss Katherine's role at NASA and her significant contributions to space exploration, breaking down barriers in a male-dominated field.
3. Show Katherine Johnson's picture and briefly discuss her life and legacy.

Showcase Your Skills – True or False:

Ask students to individually answer the True/False questions on their handout.

Reflection and Discussion:

1. Facilitate a discussion on the True/False questions, emphasizing key points from Daniel 1:8-21.
2. Connect the biblical narrative and Katherine Johnson's story to the lesson aim, encouraging students to reflect on their own uniqueness:
 - How God has gifted them?
 - What do they love?
 - Where do they excel?
3. Discuss the importance of daring to be different (obedient to Christ and true to themselves) cf John 14:15.
4. Suggest that students watch or re-watch the movie *Hidden Figures* with their families. You may want to begin session 4 by allowing students to share their reflections on the film.