



## Module 1, Unit 1, Lesson Plan 4

# Coretta Scott King and Children

### (Grades 6-12)

#### Learning Targets/Objectives:

- Discuss the common interests that bound Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott together
- Evaluate the Kings' decision to remain in the South and have Martin pastor at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

#### Success Criteria:

- Work collaboratively to explore the life and legacy of Coretta Scott King
- Present an original perspective about Coretta Scott King's impact on humanity

#### Anchor Text:

- "Celebration of Her Spirit, Coretta Scott King, April 27, 1927 - January 30, 2006." Retrieved from ISSUU at [https://issuu.com/welbeluv/docs/coretta\\_scott\\_king\\_funeral\\_program/14?scrlybrkr=38395acb](https://issuu.com/welbeluv/docs/coretta_scott_king_funeral_program/14?scrlybrkr=38395acb)
- (Excerpt) Carson, Clayborn (ed.) *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. "Corrie"*

#### Supplemental Text:

- Errin Haines. "First lady of civil rights." *Cincinnati Enquirer*. February 1, 2006. 6. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/102742960/?terms=%22Coretta%20Scott%22&match=1>
- The King Center. "[The Architect of the King Legacy](#)."
- Jim Bishop. "Dr. King Saw Early What It Was To Be Black and It Stunned Him." *Daily Register* (Red Bank, NJ). January 17, 1972. 17.

#### Lesson Content Overview:

As noted in the previous unit, King and Coretta Scott met in Boston. King was at Boston University. Coretta had recently transferred out of Antioch College to enroll on scholarship at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Though from Alabama, she hoped to live in the North and become a mezzo-soprano concert singer. Introduced by a mutual friend, the two found that they had many common interests:

- The plight and liberation of Black people in the United States and around the world

- A commitment to serve humanity
- A love of truth and justice
- Religion and philosophy
- Issues of violence and peace in the world
- Classical music

King didn't take long to conclude that Coretta had "everything I have ever wanted in a wife."<sup>1</sup> After a short courtship, they married in Marion, Alabama, on June 18, 1953. "Daddy King" officiated the ceremony on the lawn of the Scott family home. Before they married, however, Coretta made it clear that she intended to return to the conservatory to complete her degree.. The two lived in an apartment in Boston. In May 1954, Martin Luther King, Jr. accepted the call to the pastorate of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

The Kings had four children. Their firstborn, Yolanda Denise, was an actress, author, and noted lecturer. Yolanda passed away on May 15, 2007. Martin Luther King, III served as the President and CEO of The King Center, and is a past President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as well as former Fulton County Commissioner. Dexter Scott King has been President/CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of The King Center, an actor, entrepreneur, lecturer, and author of *Growing Up King: An Intimate Memoir*. Dr. Bernice Albertine King is the current CEO of The King Center, a minister, a licensed attorney, author, thought leader, and noted speaker.

#### **Instructional Sequence:**

- **Opener:**

Students will read pages 10-17 and 24-25 of Coretta Scott King's [official funeral program](#) and respond to the prompt: In what ways was Coretta Scott King an independent and consequential leader in the movement for social reform?

- **Class Discussion:**

Using the Lesson Content Overview, the teacher will lead a short discussion describing each member of the King family.

- **SEL Connection:** Explain the similarities and differences between the King family and your family.

- **Small Group Collaboration:**

In groups of three, students will read two sources about the King Family. The first is an excerpt from *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* titled "Corrie," which features King speaking about his relationship with Coretta Scott, and the section "At this time I was torn in two directions." The second source is the King Center's "[The Architect of the King Legacy](#)." Each group member has one of the following roles:

- Reader – will read aloud the excerpt
- Notetaker – will take notes as the reader reads the passages
- Questioner – will generate questions based on the content being read by the reader

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<sup>1</sup> Coretta Scott King, *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.*, 1969, *Holt Rinehart Winston*, 55.

Once finished the readings, students will use notes from the two readings to create a three-minute presentation about the life of Coretta Scott King.

**Formative Assessment:**

- Inspired by The King Center’s Coretta Scott King Soul of the Nation Award, students will use information gathered from the readings and presentations to write a speech about why Mrs. King is deserving of such an honor.
- Students should use the following statement to write their speech.
  - “It takes a brave woman to stand beside a brave man. Coretta Scott King has stood firmly with her husband despite bombs, curses, and threats. What kind of person is she? How did she help Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?”

**Adaptations for Student Needs**

IEP:

- Sizes of student groups range
- Students team up with a peer partner, while others would prefer to work individually.
- There is a variety of small-group work
- Chunking information
- Visual cues and wait time
- Visual supports (maps, images, PowerPoint slides, handouts)
- Assessments will be modified, and students given extra time

ELD

- Modified/simplified reading material
- Content-related lists/handouts of key terms
- Text is supported by visuals and connected to real-life experiences