



Module 2, Unit 1, Lesson Plan 4

Principle 4 - Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform (Grades 6-12)

Learning Targets/Objectives:

- Describe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Nonviolence365 Principle No. 4

Success Criteria:

- Students must be able to use video software to create a presentation profiling Dr. King's commitment to nonviolent reconciliation.

Lesson Content Overview:

Nonviolence chooses to accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause or greater good to achieve the goal. Not retaliating or fighting back is not the same as not resisting because nonviolence always resists evil. King described Principle No. 4 in the following way:

It accepts suffering without retaliation.

It accepts violence, if necessary, but never inflicts it. It willingly accepts the consequences of its acts.

It believes that unearned suffering is redemptive.¹

Instructional Sequence:

Opener:

Have students read the following scenario. When they are done, students should discuss whether they agree or disagree with the lesson in the scenario. After a short discussion, groups should write a 4-6 sentence response to whether they agree or disagree.

You are the star player, you and your team are boarding a school bus to go play a championship game when a bully grabs your book-bag and empties all the contents on the ground. Nonviolence would not retaliate by fighting or doing the same to the attacker's bag. Even if you are more powerful than your attacker, you choose not to fight because it is the right response to violence. Additionally, there may be a policy against fighting in your school, which would automatically cause you to be expelled.

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr. quoted in The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. "The King Philosophy - Nonviolence365." Retrieved from <https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/>

You recognize your teammates viewing you as weak and cowardice is never more important than doing what you know to be right - not fighting. Also, your sacrifice to endure the possible disappointment of others for not defending yourself by using violence is an example of unearned suffering. Your teammates will not lose your participation in the championship game as a result of fighting because you chose nonviolence. Even if your friends do not understand your choice, your example will serve as an education to some of your friends that may cause them to change their view. Even your attacker could be transformed to view nonviolence as the right choice.

Class Discussion:

All groups will discuss their 4-6 sentence responses. The teacher will find common themes and use those to engage the entire class in a discussion on King's Nonviolence Principle No. 4.

Formative Assessment:

- Using loom or another video recording software, students will work in small groups to create a 2-3-minute presentation titled "King: A Profile on Nonviolence." In the presentation, students must choose one moment from King's life where he chose nonviolence instead of fighting back. Presentations must include the following:
 1. An explanation of Principle No. 4's meaning is "Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform".
 2. Details of one event where King was attacked in some way but his nonviolent activism educated society.
 3. How that principle could be applied to the real world/school community.

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