

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT — 2026



When *Faith* Calls

A six-part documentary series on Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movement, and the inextricable role of faith in the fight for justice

FORMAT

6-Episode

Docuseries

RUNTIME

~120 minutes

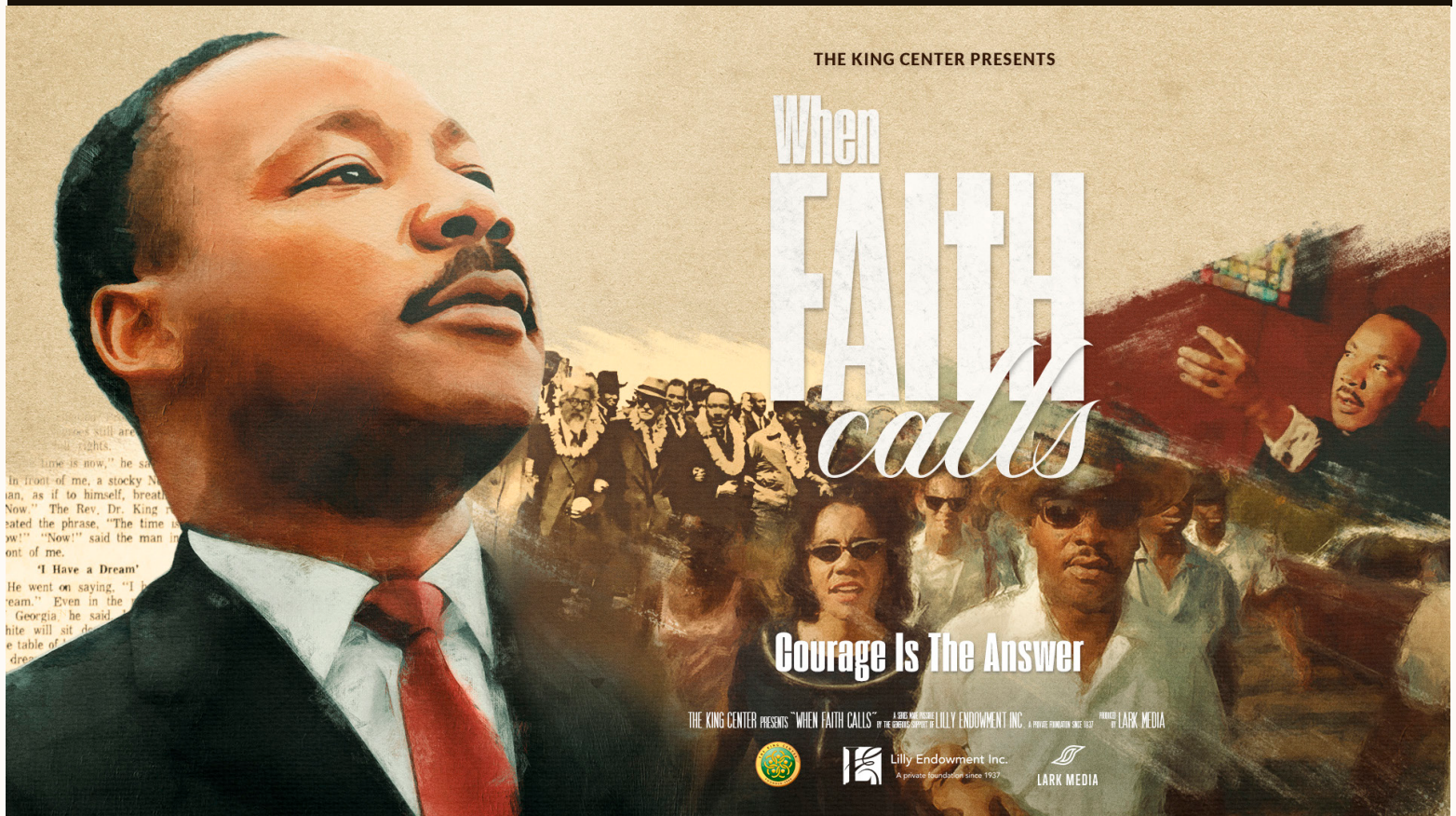
(~20 minutes per episode)

CREATED BY

The King Center in collaboration
with Ashley Woods

PRODUCED BY

Lark Media



THE KING CENTER PRESENTS

When FAITH *calls*

Courage Is The Answer

THE KING CENTER PRESENTS "WHEN FAITH CALLS" A SERIES PRODUCED BY THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LILLY ENDOWMENT INC. A PRIVATE FOUNDATION SINCE 1927 PRODUCED BY LARK MEDIA



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A private foundation since 1927



LARK MEDIA

What happens when faith demands action?

When Faith Calls is a six-part documentary series that explores how faith shaped the life, leadership, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This is not simply a history series. It is a reckoning — with what it has cost to build a more just world, with what faith demands of those who hold it, and with what remains unfinished. Featuring rare archival footage, testimony from civil rights veterans, interfaith leaders, scholars, activists, and members of the King family, *When Faith Calls* uncovers the spiritual foundations beneath the public figure. The series presents King not as monument but as a man — one whose deepest convictions shaped the most important movement of the twentieth century, and whose words speak with urgent relevance today.

The series traces King's journey from his early formation in the Black church and the tradition of the social gospel to his emergence as a global moral leader whose theology demanded action in the face of injustice. Through pivotal moments — from Montgomery to Birmingham to Selma — the series reveals how faith was not separate from strategy, but the source of it.

The series takes its title from a central truth at the heart of King's life: that he did not choose activism and then add faith to it. Faith called. Everything else followed.

“The movement Dr. King led was never local. It was anchored in universal biblical human rights principles and the spirituality of nonviolence — not just for one area, one time and one place, but for all of humankind.”

— HEARD IN THE SERIES

Created by The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change — the official living memorial to Dr. King's life and work — *When Faith Calls* draws on one of the most significant archives of civil rights history in the world. Each episode weaves primary sources — King's own sermons, speeches, and writings — with the voices of those who marched alongside him, those he inspired, and the next generation carrying the struggle forward.

When FAITH *calls*

Six Episodes. One Story of Faith.

Each episode is approximately 18 minutes and can be viewed as a standalone or as part of the complete series.

EPISODE 1

It Has to Call You

Origins, Family & the Roots of Faith

From the slave preachers of Greene County to the founding of Ebenezer Baptist Church, to a six-year-old boy who learned he was “somebody” from his grandmother’s lap — this episode traces the spiritual soil from which Martin Luther King Jr. grew. We meet the family legacy, the Auburn Avenue world of Black Atlanta, and the young King’s awakening at Morehouse College under Benjamin Mays.

EPISODE 2

Taking Up the Cross

Coretta, Montgomery & a Voice in the Kitchen

A matchmaker, a blue dress, and a lunch date that changed history. This episode follows the courtship of Martin and Coretta Scott King in Boston — an intellectual partnership as much as a marriage — and the Montgomery Bus Boycott that thrust a young pastor into the center of a revolution. Including the pivotal kitchen-table prayer that transformed King’s understanding of his prophetic role.

EPISODE 3

Who Is Their God?

Birmingham, the SCLC & the Practice of Nonviolence

King moves from Montgomery to the national stage — founding the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and choosing Birmingham as the proving ground for nonviolent direct action. The children of Birmingham, the fire hoses, Bull Connor’s tanks, and the Letter from Birmingham Jail. This episode examines nonviolence not as passivity, but as the most demanding form of courage.

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EPISODE 4

A Love That Forgives

Washington, the Bombing & the Bible

From the March on Washington — where 250,000 gathered and King spoke from inspiration, not just notes — to the September morning a bomb tore through the 16th Street Baptist Church and killed four little girls. A survivor's testimony anchors this episode's examination of what it means to forgive, to read the same Bible differently, and to keep marching.

EPISODE 5

Speaking Truth to Power

Selma, Vietnam & the Giant Triplets

From the brutality of Selma — where peaceful protesters faced violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge — to the expanding struggle for justice in Chicago and beyond, this episode reveals a deeper dimension of King's calling. Faith is not just a source of inspiration — it becomes the courage to endure suffering, make difficult decisions, and stand firm when the world turns against you.

EPISODE 6

Love in Action

Legacy, the King Center & the Urgency of Now

After tragedy, the question remains: what happens to a movement when its leader is gone? Through the vision of Coretta Scott King and the founding of The King Center, this episode explores how King's philosophy of nonviolence becomes a living legacy — one carried forward by new generations. The call did not end. It was passed on.

What the Series Explores

When Faith Calls is designed to spark conversation — in classrooms, congregations, community organizations, legislative chambers, and living rooms. Its themes are as current as this morning's news.

FAITH & ACTION

What does it mean for belief to have a corresponding action? The series examines how King's theology of the social gospel drove everything he did — and what that demands of us today.

NONVIOLENCE AS DISCIPLINE

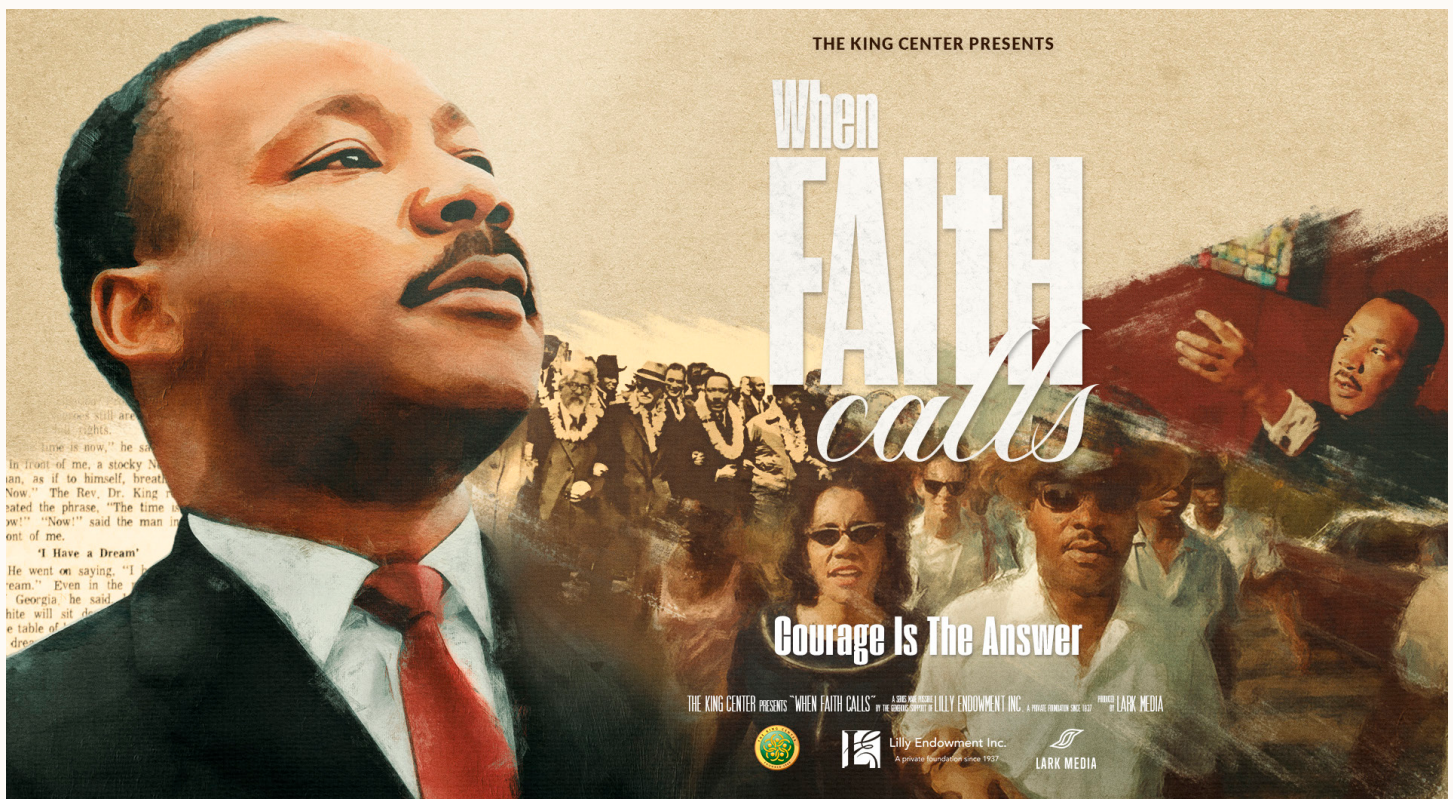
From the Nashville lunch counter workshops to Birmingham's fire hoses, the series shows nonviolence not as a slogan but as a practiced spiritual discipline.

INTERFAITH COALITION

The movement was deeply interreligious. Rabbis, Catholic priests, Hindu and Muslim voices — the series traces King as an interfaith pioneer whose coalition-building was itself a prophetic act.

THE UNFINISHED WORK

Economic justice. War. Democratic fragility. The series closes in urgency — the same urgency King named, now echoed by a new generation of voices.



A Chorus Across Generations

When Faith Calls features voices spanning six decades of the civil rights story — from those who marched with Dr. King to a legislator sworn in the day of a school shooting, from South African anti-apartheid voices to Hindu leaders connecting faith and ecology. The series presents King's legacy as genuinely global, genuinely interfaith, and genuinely urgent.

Voices in the series include members of the King family, civil rights veterans and eyewitnesses, scholars of religion and social movements, interfaith leaders across traditions, civic leaders, and the next generation of activists and faith leaders.



When FAITH *calls*

Ambassador Andrew J. Young

Dr. Alveda C. King

Dr. Bernard Lafayette

Dr. Gary Dorrien

Dr. Kelisha B. Graves

Dr. Susannah Heschel

Dr. Walter Earl Fluker

Kehkashan Basu

Rev. Dr. Albert Brinson

Dr. Carolyn Maull McKinstry

Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, Sr.

Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Franklin

Yasmin Poole

Bishop William J. Barber II

Dr. Amiri YaSin Al-Hadid

Dr. Bernice A. King

Dr. Joyce A. Ladner

Dr. Lewis Baldwin

Dr. Vonnetta L. West

Isaac Newton Farris, Jr.

Representative Justin J. Pearson

Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds

Rev. Dr. John J. Thatamanil

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.

Rev. Naomi Nontombi Tutu

The Living Memorial

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change — known globally as The King Center — is the official, living memorial dedicated to the advancement of Dr. King’s legacy and the continuation of his work. Located on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia, The King Center was founded by Coretta Scott King in 1968, beginning in her home and growing into a multi-block complex that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

The King Center is more than a memorial. It is an active institution offering training in Kingian nonviolence, educational programs for students and leaders, and programmatic work on the social issues of today — including economic justice, voting rights, environmental equity, and international peace. The Center’s archives hold one of the most significant collections of civil rights history in the world.

“People need symbols, buildings — they need a place, a site that they can relate to. They have difficulty relating to ideas. And therefore we see the Center as being the development of the site, as well as developing programs that will deal with the issues of today.”

— CORETTA SCOTT KING, HEARD IN EPISODE 6

MEDIA CONTACT

For press inquiries, screener access, interview requests, and high-resolution materials, please contact:

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SUGGESTED PRESS LANGUAGE

When Faith Calls (six-part documentary series, ~20 minutes/episode) created by The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in collaboration with Ashley Woods. Produced by Lark Media. All inquiries regarding the series should be directed to The King Center’s communications office.

USAGE NOTES

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