

Who is

MRS. ROSA PARKS

ROSA LOUISE PARKS (4 February 1913 - 24 October 2005) is internationally recognized as the “mother of the modern civil rights movement”. Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white male passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, on 1 December 1955, triggered the Montgomery bus boycott on 5 December. Because of their activism with others to abolish “Jim Crow” laws, Mrs. Parks and her husband Raymond had threats against their lives and could not find work. They moved to Detroit, Michigan, in

1957 where she continued her activism by working with the U.S. Congressman John Conyers. In 1987 she co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development with longtime friend Ms. Elaine Eason Steele. Mrs. Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton. She also received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. At her death, her body was laid in honour in the Rotunda in the U.S. Capitol; she was the first woman and the second African-American civilian to be so honoured.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH:

- What was the simple action that Rosa Parks took and why was it important?
- What do you think needs to change in your family or your community to make life better?
- What small thing can you do to help make that change?

Who is

MR. NELSON MANDELA

NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA (July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013) is known around the world for his fight for freedom and democracy in South Africa. He spent 67 years as an activist, including 27 years in prison, 18 years on Robben Island. In 1985 he was offered a conditional release from prison, but he refused it as an act of solidarity with thousands of others fighting South Africa's racist apartheid system. Nelson Mandela was released on 11 February

1990 and became the first president in an election where all South Africans voted. After he retired in 2004 he continued to fight for children's rights and education. Mr. Mandela received more than 100 awards for his courage and commitment to freedom, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. On his birthday each year, a day now called Mandela Day, people often celebrate his legacy by participating in 67 minutes of service to others.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH:

- Why was Nelson Mandela put in prison?
- Have you experienced, witnessed, or heard of someone or a group of people who were being treated unfairly?
- Following the spirit of Mandela, what steps could you take to have a positive impact in this area?
- What could you do for 67 minutes of service to make a positive impact in your local and/or global community?