



Understanding the Legacy of Dr. King: Listening Worksheet

This worksheet accompanies the audio podcast series [Understanding the Legacy of Dr. King](#) with Dr. Clayborne Carson of the Stanford University Martin Luther King Research Institute. Some questions invite you to recall information from the podcast, which will help you to foster active listening and serve as a study guide after you finish the podcasts. Other questions invite you to expand and apply your knowledge and understanding beyond the podcasts. Additionally, further reading is provided at the end of each section with links to relevant entries in the [King Online Encyclopedia](#), a project of the Stanford King Research and Education Institute. If you would like to discuss the responses, please email your completed study guide to education@mettacenter.org.

Podcast #1: [What are the similarities and differences between King and Gandhi's leadership styles?](#)

1. List 7 similarities that Dr. Carson discusses in this podcast:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

2. Choose one aspect of Gandhi and King's leadership style that you would like to emulate. Explain why, and what you can do to improve in this area.

3. The differences between Gandhi and King's leadership styles are not discussed. Based on what you know about both individuals, do you see any differences in their leadership styles?

Further exploration: [Read about Gandhi in the King Encyclopedia.](#)

Podcast #2: [How did King deal with people who were not committed to nonviolence?](#)

1. In short, how did Dr. King deal with people who were not committed to nonviolence?
2. What myth does Dr. Carson discuss in this podcast?
3. If you heard someone lament, “If only we had another Martin Luther King...”, after listening to this podcast, how might you respond to them?

Further exploration: [Read about Stokely Carmichael in the King Encyclopedia](#)

Podcast #3: [Who was King outside of professional life?](#)

1. How did King’s private life affect his work and leadership? Who was King the man?
2. What main area of King’s life do you need to understand in order to get Dr. King?
3. What was King’s primary role in life?

Further exploration: [Read about Martin Luther \(Michael\) King, Sr. in the King Encyclopedia](#)

Podcast #4: [What was King like as a father and husband?](#)

1. In what ways was Coretta Scott King a “unique partner?”
2. In what way was King somewhat sexist in his view of her role?
3. In what important way did Coretta Scott King take the lead in the early 1960s?

Further exploration: [Read about Coretta Scott King in the King Encyclopedia](#)

Podcast #5: [How did King define nonviolence?](#)

1. Summarize King' definition of nonviolence according to Dr. Carson.
2. Why did were both Gandhi and King uneasy with the term nonviolence?

Further exploration: [Read about nonviolent resistance in the King Encyclopedia.](#)

Podcast #6: [Was King's approach to nonviolence unique?](#)

1. Summarize Dr. Carson's response to this question.
2. List and describe the two aspects/influences of most nonviolent movements that Dr. Carson mentions.
3. Do you believe King's approach to nonviolence was unique? Why or why not?

Further exploration: Read about King's philosophy on the [King Center web site.](#)

Podcast #7: [Letter From a Birmingham Jail](#)

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. What affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

1. What story from the Bible does Dr. Carson tie to this quote?
2. How does this relate quote relate to the concept of universal human rights?
3. What are some ways in your daily life that you can try to honor this "network of mutuality?"

Further exploration: [Read about Letter from a Birmingham Jail in the King Encyclopedia](#), and [read the letter in its entirety](#)

Podcast #8: [What was the relationship between Malcolm X and MLK?](#)

1. What was the relationship between and MLK? Summarize Dr. Carson’s assessment.
2. What do you think might have happened if Malcolm X and King had had the opportunity to meet again?

Further exploration: Read about [Malcolm X](#) and [Elijah Muhammad](#).

Podcast #9: [How did King get his start in nonviolence?](#)

1. Where did King get his first exposure to Gandhian ideas?
2. Why did King initially believe in nonviolence?
3. During the boycott, what was one of the key turning points for King with respect to his understanding of nonviolence?

Further exploration: Read about [Morehouse College](#), [Mordecai Johnson](#), [Howard Thurman](#), [Bayard Rustin](#), [Glenn Smiley](#) in the King Encyclopedia.

Podcast #10: What do you most want people to know about Dr. King?

1. Summarize Dr. Carson's response to the question.
2. Dr. Carson talks about how King was able to see connections that many of us miss, such as the connection between the abolitionist movement and the civil rights movement. What connections do you think he would see today between past and present movements, and across global issues?

Podcast #11: Who was the "Radical" King?

1. Why is the perception of a "radical" King a misunderstanding?
2. What was radical about King's philosophy?

Further exploration: Read about [Rosa Parks](#) in the King Encyclopedia.

Podcast #12: What would King be working on if he were alive today?

1. List the issues Dr. Carson projects that King would be working on if he were alive today.
2. Why would he be working specifically on these issues?
3. Choose one issue that you are also interested. How do you think King would approach this issue if he were alive today? What would he say about it and what would he be doing to solve the problem?

Podcast #13: What was King's leadership style?

1. Describe Dr. King's leadership style.
2. Give an example of King's visionary leadership.

End of Podcast Wrap-up Questions:

1. After listening to the podcasts, what recurring themes or threads did you notice throughout the podcasts? What points were emphasized with respect to King's leadership and practice of nonviolence?
2. What are your personal key takeaways from this series?