



Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail

A conversation about justice, extremism and activism

What You'll Learn:

- Facilitate a conversation about issues of justice, activism, extremism, race using a text by Martin Luther King Jr. as a springboard
- Explore your own relationship to activism and issues of social justice
- Draw parallels between historical antecedents and current events

Description

Issues of injustice persist in our world today and require urgent action. Yet conversations around race, activism, extremism and justice can be difficult to have. This course will equip you to lead a discussion on these important and challenging topics by using Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" as a springboard. The discussion guide provided in this course will help you explore MLK's arguments, dissect his masterful use of rhetoric, and come to a better understanding of how to address issues of social injustice in the present time and in your own community.

Format: Discussion-Based Course

Curriculum

- **LEARNING TOOLS:**
 - Downloadable version of Martin Luther King Jr.'s letter
 - Step-by-step facilitator's guide and background materials that will equip you to host a small group of friends or colleagues for a discussion
- **Section 1: Individual Preparation**
 - Reading: Welcome Message from Jacqueline Novogratz
 - Activity: Pre-Meeting Checklist
 - Reading: Context on Martin Luther King and this Letter
 - Reading: Letter from a Birmingham Jail

- Activity: Reflection Questions
- Activity: Introduce Yourself to the Course Community
- **Section 2: Team Meeting using Discussion Guide**
 - Discussion: Welcome and Introductions
 - Discussion: Group Norms
 - Discussion: Step-by-Step Analysis of the Letter
 - Discussion: Wrap-Up
- **Section 3: Virtual Sharing with the Global Community**
 - Activity: Reflection on Discussion

About the Course Partner

Acumen's Fellowship Program This discussion guide has been drawn from the curriculum for Acumen's Fellowship program. This curriculum has been developed by Acumen's Leadership team including Jacqueline Novogratz, Sasha Dichter and Bavidra Mohan who have years of experience hosting powerful conversations with emerging moral leaders from around the world.