Famous People of the Civil Rights Movement

In the 1950s and 1960s, more and more people joined the fight against discrimination and segregation. They wanted equal rights. This struggle for equal rights was called the Civil Rights Movement.

One of the great leaders of the Civil Rights Movement was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King was a minister who believed in nonviolence. He wanted to have peaceful protests. King led the people in many marches for equality and made many famous speeches to convince others to give true equal treatment to African Americans. King was killed in 1968 by someone who didn’t agree with his ideas.

Another great leader of the Civil Rights Movement was an African American woman named Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks lived in Montgomery, Alabama. One day in 1955, she refused to give up her bus seat for a white person. She was arrested. Rosa’s friend from the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) posted bail for her to get out of jail. When the African American community heard about Parks’ arrest, they decided to boycott the buses. The blacks who normally rode buses to work found other ways to get to work. The Montgomery bus boycott lasted for more than a year. Finally, blacks were allowed to sit anywhere on buses in Alabama.