

# the Venues

Go Deep

“Don’t Know Much About History”  
February 19, 2017

*How do you describe your feelings toward studying history?*

\_\_\_\_\_ *History? Leave it in the past!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I love it!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *We need to know it and understand it so we don’t repeat it.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Boring!*

Read Joshua 4:6-7 and Luke 22:19.

*What do these passages tell us about the importance of remembering?*

*What do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to remember about him? What do you remember about him?*

*Did you celebrate “Black History Month” or “Week” in your school? What do you remember about it?*

*Who comes to your mind when you think of African-Americans who have contributed to our society?*

64% of people have a favorable opinion of Black History Month. 21% of people have an “unfavorable” opinion. 15% are unsure.

*Are you surprised by the stats?*

*Why would a person have an “unfavorable” opinion?*

John Fea, Professor of History at Messiah College [writes](#), “...the past can sometimes shame us. In the process of seeing ourselves as part of a larger human story, we also see that the people who have gone before us were capable of tremendous atrocities. The story of human history is filled with accounts of slavery, violence, scientific backwardness, injustice, genocide, racism and other dark episodes that might make us embarrassed to be part of the human race. If our fellow human beings can engage in such sad, wrong, or disgraceful acts, then what is stopping us from doing the same?”

Black History Month reminds us of a shameful past. Christians were a part of that past.

Read 1 Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:9, 1 Peter 2:18, Ephesians 6:5, Acts 17:26

*Based on the above passages, create your position on slavery. What would it be?*

Lillian Smith, Southern raised and author of [Strange Fruit](#), wrote, “I had learned that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that we might have segregated churches. I learned it is possible to be a Christian and a white Southerner simultaneously and to pray at night and ride in a Jim Crow car the next morning and to feel comfortable in doing both.”

*What is the tension she identifies in this statement?*

Read Psalm 147:6 and Luke 4:18-19

*Based on the life of Jesus, create your position on slavery. What would it be?*

Read Romans 15:7

*What guidance does this verse give us in our relationships with others.*

Writing in the midst of the American Revolution, Thomas Paine told American colonists, “We have it in our power to begin the world over again.”

*Reflection question: What will we do to “make our world over again”?*