

Charles Harrison Mason

Activities and Assignments

These activities can be used for individual (older grades) or group projects or creative class activities.

Grades 2 - 5

1. Interview Bishop Mason: "If Mason were alive, what would you ask him?"

Teachers can pair students up, one student pretending to be Charles Harrison Mason, the other being a TV news host interviewing the bishop. Students will work together to compose questions and rehearse hypothetical answers based on what they have learned about Harrison in the lesson.

2. Write A Letter! Students practice their handwriting and short friendly letter format by composing a letter to Bishop Mason. In the letter, students can pretend they are contemporaries of Mason, and let him know what they think of his desire for an integrated religious movement, his love for God, the loss of his father, etc. In addition, the students can ask him questions.

All Grades

Build A Building! Mason spearheaded the building of the largest Black-built structure in the US, the Mason Temple. Integrate this lesson with art.

Using 48x60 craft paper mounted on a classroom wall or adhered to the classroom floor (can be rolled up when not in use), let students understand the concept of "many hands make light work" and mimic the process of the building of the Mason Temple.

Using various coloring utensils, paint, markers, crayons, each student can illustrate a part of this temple, from the windows and brick exterior to the entry stairs and landscape.



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Grades 5-8 Additional Ideas for Build A Building!

Objectives: Practice researching topics such as architecture, economics, city planning, interior design; Understanding of project management: process and planning to reach a goal; Use of chosen communication style: visual, written, oral or combined presentation; Strengthen core executive skills: short-term and long-term planning, focus and self-regulation, problem-solving, prioritization etc.; Appreciation of Mason's project.

Prompt: What is required to facilitate any major building project from beginning to end?

Activity: Using poster board, a speech, or a report, students will explain the process which can include researching: materials expenses, planning/ timetable, city codes and licenses, process of interior design and exterior architecture.

Student/Group time requirements: (1.5-3 hr. project)