**Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)** was an African American Baptist minister and **activist** who became the most visible spokesperson and **leader in the civil rights** movement from 1955 until his **assassination in 1968**. King advanced **civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience**, inspired by his Christian beliefs and the **nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi**.

King participated in and **led marches for blacks' right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other basic civil rights.** King helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

On October 14, 1964, King won the **Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance**. In his final years, he expanded his focus to include opposition towards poverty, capitalism, and the Vietnam War.

In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the **Poor People's Campaign,** **when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee**. His death was followed by riots in many U.S. cities. King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Civil rights movement

Freedom and justice

Brotherhood

Recognition

Peace

Food, education, dignity, equality, freedom

Brutality, murder

Violence and civilization are antithetical forces

Social transformation

Unconditional love

Racism

Racial injustice civil rights movement