

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE SPIES: JAMES ARMISTEAD LAFAYETTE

By Kyandriea Jones
Anti-Racial Workshop Family Activity & Discussion Guide
(4th Grade)



We hope these discussions and activities will help your child see that we can all be leaders for justice! These discussions can happen while reading the book or while doing the activities. Visit our St. Luke's Children Pinterest page for links for activities and fun!

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- James was an enslaved Black person. In his time, many white people were racists. They believed that their white skin color made them better than others. Do you think people are still racist today? Have you ever heard someone say or do something racist? How can you fight racism if someone makes a racist joke or says racist things to a person of color?
- An ally is someone who believes people are equal and stands up for or stands with a person who is treated unfairly because of their differences. Were there people who acted as an ally to James? Share what they did that made them an ally?
- In the story General Lafayette told James, “forgiveness and understanding go a long way during a conflict”. Think of a time you have been upset and had a conflict with someone. Were you able to forgive and understand during the conflict? How do you feel when you are upset? What can you do to calm yourself in an argument before things get too emotional?
- Many believe that General Lafayette’s association with James Armistead helped him grow more passionate about anti-slavery. General Lafayette became known for publicly calling slavery evil. People who boldly seek to change racist rules are activists. Is it important for people who are leaders to be bold and stand up for what is right? Do you know of leaders or activists who stand or who stood up for justice?
- If someone has privilege, it means they have power because they are in a dominant group (like being white or male or Christian). Few people who have privilege even know they have privilege, and even fewer take time to understand someone who doesn’t have privilege. Do you have privilege in any way? Is there someone around you who is different from you who may not have privilege? What can you do to understand them better?
- Even though James Armistead Lafayette played an important role in giving America a victory and freedom from British rule, he was still enslaved for several years after the war. Does that seem fair?
- Why might most Americans have never heard of James Armistead Lafayette before?

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Watch

Discover more about the Revolutionary War by watching movies or shows. Do they include the story of James Armistead Lafayette? Check out these options that do:

- *African American Trailblazers* - [James Armistead Lafayette](#)

- *Liberty's Kids* Episode 35 (on Hulu or STARZ on Amazon)

In more recent times, Black people and their allies fought for Civil Rights because even though they were not enslaved, they were still not free. Watch these stories (or read the books!) to learn more:

- *American Girl Story* – [Melody](#) (Books and movie)
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* (Book and movie)
- [Akeela and the Bee](#) (Movie)

Explore

It is likely that when James Armistead worked as a spy that he used codes, such as the Culper Code. Find some secret codes on the [internet](#) or in a book; choose one to share with a family member or friend and write a coded message.

Art

Squirrels were a comic part of the story. Learn some [cool things](#) about squirrels and try your hand at [drawing](#) a one of those furry creatures.

Mindfulness

As the parent, read [this](#) article about anger and mindfulness. Print out (or recreate/narrate) the worksheet and fill it out together. Help them come up with words they can say or actions they can do when they're getting angry such as walk away and find a quiet place, or remember that we aren't always right, or that disagreements can be about facts or opinions, not about hurting others' feelings.

Bible

Read Luke 4:14-23 in your Bible. Do you think the scripture Jesus chose to read aloud from the scroll was important? He told the people it was coming true right in front of them. What do you think he meant? How can you do to be more like Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for making each of us special and creating us for purpose. Help us to be bold leaders who stand up for justice. Help us to learn how to be good friends to one another. Let us learn from the leaders of past and from Jesus who wants to lead us each day. Help us strive to forgive and understand one another – and thank you for forgiving and loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

