

James Baldwin: My Dungeon Shook: A Letter to my Nephew

In 1962, the Progressive Magazine published a letter James Baldwin wrote to his nephew. The letter is excerpted from his novel, The Fire Next Time, published in 1963. In this letter Baldwin shared his thoughts for his nephew's future in a nation with a history of racism.

Throughout the month of February, the full letter as well as reflections and other readings or videos will be on the church's website. [CLICK HERE](#) to access those materials. Our hope is that you will hear the words and the sentiment expressed in this letter and ask yourself why Baldwin felt he needed to write this letter and what we can do to make this kind of letter unnecessary.

Week Four Reflections

The last line of this letter is "We cannot be free until they are free." It is clear that Baldwin is speaking about white America. Think about what it will take for that freedom to occur? What will you do to further our country to that goal?