**STORY CARD:** 

**Martin Luther King, Jr. visits Lowell, Massachusetts**

Image 1. [*First United Baptist Church,*](https://www.fubc.org/) *Lowell Massachusetts.* Image 2. *Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Photograph, Boston University.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), was born in Atlanta, Georgia, son of Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams.

King was invited to visit Lowell on April 12, 1953, by Rev. Otto R. Loverude, (1900-1973), the minister of First United Baptist Church, Church Street, Lowell. King, who was then a student in the doctoral program at Boston University, came to the church to present a program.

***More Information:***

In a letter of invitation addressed to King, Loverude wrote:

"*Tell us something of what it means to be a member of the minority race in the South..."*

Martin Luther King, Jr. sent this response back to Loverude:

"*This is to acknowledge your letter of February 18. Following your suggestion I will use as a subject at the 5:30 discussion group: 'What it means to be a Negro in the South.' My subject for the regular evening service will be: 'What does it mean to believe in God?'*

*I am very happy to be able to serve you and your church and I will look forward to this occasion with great anticipation. Please feel free to contact me about any additional information. I would appreciate it very much if you would give me some directions as to getting to the church. I will be driving out.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Martin L. King Jr."*

**Source:** Correspondence. Rev. Otto R. Loverude and Martin Luther King, Jr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Papers, 1954-1968, [Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.](https://www.bu.edu/library/gotlieb-center/)

***Sources: Adapted from*** [Untold Lowell Stories: Black History](https://libguides.uml.edu/c.php?g=1125577) ***UMass Lowell University Library Center for Lowell History.***