

# ***After the Flood:* Viewers' Guide**

## **Introduction to the Film**

The Methodist Conference has asked our Church to consider how to respond to the lasting damage caused by the slave trade. Methodist churches are being invited to show the film, *After the Flood*, in churches, communities or house groups, and encourage conversations about the film.

*After the Flood* was produced by the Movement for Justice and Reconciliation to examine the roots and legacies of the eighteenth-century Church's role in the transatlantic slave trade. This 67-minute feature documentary has been licensed to be made available to all Methodist churches.

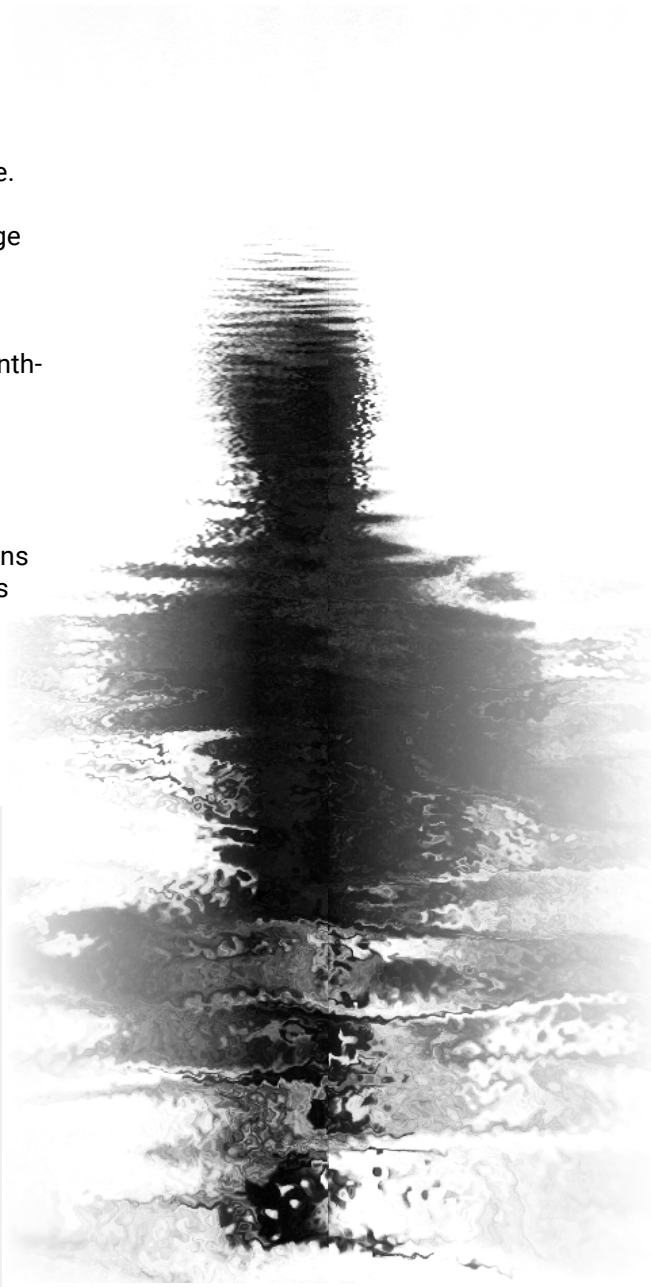
*After the Flood* looks at the ideas that justified and sustained the enslavement of Black Africans, exploring biblical justifications around the origins of racism, whiteness and slavery. It examines how slavery came to be seen as Christian, and how Christians (and the Church of England in particular) participated in the transatlantic slave trade. Finally, it looks at the legacy of slavery in racism, and asks questions around reconciliation.

While this topic is not an easy one, it is vital that we engage with it. This material should help to resource our conversations, our reflections and our commitment to action.

In the words of **James Baldwin**, "*not everything can be transformed, but nothing can be transformed unless it is faced*", and of **Cornel West**, "*justice is what love looks like in public*".

Our participation in the waking life of love invites us to engage with the truth about slavery, learn from it and commit to act justly.

**The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference**



## **After the Film**

### ***Praying***

Holy God, we come to you as your people, made in your image, each worthy of equal value and dignity. We mourn and lament those people who were enslaved, those people whose humanity was denied. We ask your forgiveness for times in the past when the Church was silent in the face of exploitation.

Be with us as we explore the Church's historical involvement in the transatlantic traffic in enslaved Africans, as we seek routes to reconciliation and repair. May our praying, learning and speaking be guided by your grace and wisdom.

Teach us how to reinterpret and re-evaluate the past, and how to understand what it means for our present, as we long to become a justice-seeking Church. Amen.

### ***Wondering***

- **What surprised me?**
- **What did I learn?**
- **What questions do I have?**
- **What more do I want to know?**
- **What might we do next?**

## Responding

In 2021, the Methodist Conference formally recognised the impact and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade on enslaved African people and their descendants. This legacy includes the inequalities faced by Black and Brown people in Britain today. British society continues to benefit from the wealth generated by slavery. The Methodist Church would have benefited from the transatlantic slave trade, irrespective of any direct involvement of individuals within the Church.

Therefore, the Methodist Conference is currently looking at the extent to which the Church benefited directly or indirectly from the transatlantic slave trade and will bring a report to the Conference in 2026. It is studying the full breadth of reparations required for the injustices suffered by enslaved people, and exploring the scope of any public statements including any apology.

The Church invites you to join in a conversation by sharing your response to the questions below:

### Question 1

Have you watched the film, *After the Flood*, which was promoted during Black History Month? **Yes/No**

If so, what was the key thing you learned from the film?

### Question 2

Where do you see the legacies of slavery in British society and around the world? Where do you see yourself in this story?



### Question 3

What examples are there of 'reparations' – repair of relationships, restoration or putting things right – in the Bible? What might we learn from these about repentance, forgiveness and justice?

### Question 4

Seeking justice means making restitution where injustices have benefited us or others...

If we benefit where historic injustice lingers in modern inequality, we are called to make restitution.

**From 'A Justice-seeking Church',  
Report to the 2023 Methodist Conference**

What do you think is ours to do in response to the injustices and legacies of slavery as the Methodist Church in Britain in terms of:

Repentance?

Reparation?

Reconciliation?

Thank you for being part of this important conversation. Please share your responses to these questions at **[Methodist.org.uk/AfterTheFlood](https://Methodist.org.uk/AfterTheFlood)**