

JOHN CLARKE

BAPTIST FREEDOM FIGHTER



Questions for Conversation

- What does it mean to be a “freedom fighter” and why was John Clarke called this?
- John Clarke courageously advocated for religious freedom. How did he help people have the right to worship as they chose?
- Why is it important that no one is forced to follow a specific religion?
- When John Clarke was thrown in jail for his beliefs, he didn’t give up. What kept him going?
- How can we stay strong when things are tough?
- What does the story of Obadiah Holmes being whipped tell us about standing up for what we believe?
- Can you think of someone who courageously stood up for what was right, even though it was hard?
- John Clarke worked with the government in Rhode Island to create a place where everyone could have religious freedom. Why was this important?
- How can we be like John Clarke by helping others have freedom and rights?
- What can you do at school or in your community to stand up for others?

Suggested Activities

Freedom Mural: On a large sheet of paper, have students work together to create a mural that represents freedom. They can draw symbols like open doors, birds, and churches to show how John Clarke fought for religious freedom.

Historical Skit: Create a short skit where students act out John Clarke's story, including his imprisonment and courageous fight for religious freedom. Discuss how his bravery helped create more freedom for others. Include role-play prompts.

Letter to a Leader: Have students write a letter to a modern leader, encouraging them to stand up for freedom just like John Clarke did. Discuss how they can advocate for freedom and fairness in their own communities.