

Religion and American Slavery

Student Guide

Lesson III. Religious Influences on Tensions Leading to the Civil War

Begin the Lesson

Visit the [Student Learning Hub](#) to begin Lesson III of the *Religion and American Slavery* series. At the bottom of each online step, you will find a button to proceed to the next step. Individual steps are also listed below with hyperlinks, which you can access if you are viewing this document on a digital device.

Questions to Check for Understanding

[Step 1. Enslaved People Create the Invisible Church as a Form of Resistance](#)

1. What are some examples of African religious traditions found among enslaved people?
2. What are some ways the religious freedom of enslaved people was suppressed under slavery?
3. What was the Invisible Church?
4. What are some ways that enslaved people who participated in the Invisible Church began reclaiming their religious freedom?

[Step 2. Sectional Crisis](#)

[Step 3. Timeline of Sectional Crisis](#)

[Step 4. Sectional Crisis and American Christianity](#)

Prepare for Class Discussion

Step 5. Prepare for Class Discussion

After browsing the timeline of events leading to the Civil War, answer this question:

In your opinion, how did Christian churches splitting over the issue of slavery help lead to war?

Step 6. Religious Arguments for and Against Slavery

1. What are some examples of arguments that supported slavery in the period leading to the Civil War?

2. Slavery was accepted as normal in the American colonial period. Leading to the Civil War, more Americans began to believe that slavery was immoral. What changed?

Step 7. Proslavery Advocates and Abolitionists

1. What were some of the ways advocates for slavery interpreted the Bible to argue for their viewpoint?

2. What were some of the ways abolitionists interpreted the Bible to argue for their viewpoint?