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The Quest For Equal Rights

Our history is full of racism. In fact, the struggle for equal rights is still going on today. Although there is a lot of bad stuff in the world, there are many brave people who are able to take a stand. For example, Linda Brown, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, and the Greensboro Four all took a stand for equal rights. This paper will talk about the Greensboro Four, the sit-ins, and the courage they showed.

Who were the Greensboro Four? The Greensboro Four were people who were African American students in North Carolina in 1960. They were kids who were 17 and 18 years old. Four boys whose names were David Richmond, Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair, Jr., and Joseph McNeil. The boys would go to restaurants in Greensboro that did not allow African Americans to sit at the counter but where they were allowed to spend their money. They would buy what they wanted but they had to eat or drink it somewhere else, or they just had to stand but were not allowed to sit at the counter. Sitting at the counter was only for white people. The Greensboro

Four boys would sit at the counters even though they were not supposed to, and even though they would not get served. African Americans were not allowed to sit at the counter because they were different. This was a result of slavery, the Civil War and segregation. These four boys were called the Greensboro Four and what they did was a nonviolent protest called sit-ins.

At the Greensboro Four sit-ins, the boys did a non violent protest where they sat at the counter until even though they were not supposed to sit at the counter, until someone served them. The sit-ins began with the four college students doing the sit ins and then other kids joined, even high school kids started joining in the sit ins. The students got arrested and some of them were put them in jail. Many of them did not want to get bailed out of jail because they knew that the protest would make a bigger impact if they stayed in jail. The sit-ins spread all over the south very fast.

The sit-ins that started with the Greensboro Four in North Carolina spread quickly all over the south to other cities where the same thing was happening. There was segregation all over the south. It spread so fast and so much because the protests were working. They worked because they were not violent and got a lot of attention. Other people in the south where the same thing was happening got excited too and wanted to stand up for their rights and protest.

If that was me back then, I would have participated in the protests and if I got arrested, I would have said "arrest me and don't let me get bailed out" because it would make a greater impact to stay in jail. Though it would be hard, that is what I would want to do. I would be willing to go to jail to stand up for what is right. However, I am not brave enough to risk my life. I would want to do that, but I'm not sure I could. Though I am not African American, I still would have done lots of things to help.

It just goes to show that sometimes you have to sit down to stand up. These four people helped millions of African Americans all over the country. The Civil Rights movement was a truly special thing. And even today we are still struggling to end inequality. It's amazing how much good can come out of nonviolent protests. As the quest for equal rights continues, we will do our best to stand up for what is right.