



Modern Martyrs: Manche Masemola

Born: c. 1913

Died: c. 4th February 1928

Biography

She was born into the Pedi tribe in the Transvaal in Africa. She did not go to school and instead worked with her family at home and on the land.

At this time, German and English missionaries were living in the Transvaal but were viewed as suspicious. Manche Masemola went with her cousin to hear a Christian missionary speak and started to attend classes twice a week. Her parents were worried that Manche Masemola would leave them or refuse to marry, so they stopped her attending the classes.

Manche Masemola told the missionaries that she thought she would die at the hands of her parents. Her mother and father killed her soon after. Her grave became a pilgrimage site, a place where Christians still visit today.

Activities

Manche Masemola was determined to be a Christian, but this meant defying her parents. She is reported to have said:

“I am sorry, but from now on, I am going to stand by myself.”

Discuss this with a partner. How do you think she felt? How do you think her parents felt?

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

(Romans 12:2)

Discuss this Bible passage with a partner. How is this passage similar to Manche Masemola’s reported quotation?

Write a paragraph about what people can learn from the behaviour and teachings of Manche Masemola.



For teachers:

We recommend you read our "[Introducing Modern Martyrs: primary teachers' guide](#)" before using this activity sheet.

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