



1. *Cyrus the Great*

Although he was a conqueror, Cyrus the Great (c. 600–530 BCE) allowed the cities he overpowered to keep their cultural traditions and worship as they wished. He is known as one of the greatest leaders in world history because of his belief that people are good.



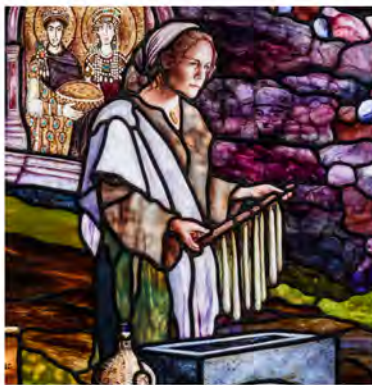
2. *Confucius*

Confucius (551–479 BCE) was a philosopher and teacher who remains influential to this day. His philosophies focus on ideas such as personal and governmental morality, justice, kindness, accessible education, and the duty of a ruler to his subjects.



3. *Cato the Younger*

Cato the Younger (95–46 BCE) was admired for his integrity and his dedication to the greater good. He advocated against dictatorship and fought for Rome to uphold their traditional system of government, including a senate working together to lead the country.



4. *Bruriah*

Bruriah was a Jewish sage who lived during the first and second century in Roman-occupied Israel. Both her parents were killed for teaching from the Torah, but she chose to carry on their legacy with risk to her own life relying on inner strength and her great breadth of knowledge.



5. *Robert the Bruce*

During the First War of Scottish Independence, King Robert the Bruce (1274–1329) helped unite his fractured people and win independence from England through his courageous leadership, integrity, humanity, and love of freedom.



6. *Joan of Arc*

Joan of Arc (1412–1431) is known for her amazing courage and leadership during the Hundred Years War in 1429. She is a patron saint of France and still inspires many today with her words, “Go forward bravely. Fear nothing.”



7. *Queen Nzinga*

Queen Nzinga Mbandi, also spelled Nijinga (1582–1663), protected her people from abduction and enslavement in many ways, including leading her people to battle even into her 60s. Queen Nzinga continues to inspire many through her example of leadership and courage.



8. *George Washington*

George Washington (1732–1799) was the commander of the Continental Army and the first president of the United States of America. He was known to be trustworthy and fearless as he led a divided nation to independence from British rule.



9. *Sojourner Truth*

Most famous for her “Ain’t I a Woman?” speech, former slave Sojourner Truth (1797–1883) fought for the rights of all people by working to free enslaved individuals and sharing the message that women have the power to accomplish anything.



10. *George E. Waring Jr.*

George E. Waring Jr. (1833–1898) was a civic reformer and sanitation engineer. He designed a drainage system that facilitated the development of Manhattan’s Central Park, improved sanitary conditions in New York, and created a sewer system that reduced the spread of disease in Tennessee.



11. *Nelson Mandela*

Nelson Mandela (1918–2013) spent 27 years in prison because of his fight against racism and Apartheid in South Africa. In 1994, Mandela became South Africa’s first Black president. Mandela is still an inspiration to many for his example of courage and compassion.



12. *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968), a leader in the civil rights movement, stood against segregation and shared his dream of equality and peace. He taught about the “beloved community,” a global vision of eliminating poverty, racism, and violence.