

## Exercise 4

**Key Questions:** Does the Montgomery Bus Boycott mark the beginning of the civil rights movement? In what other ways should the boycott be remembered?

Examine the section called [“We Are Having a Difficult Time Here but We Are Not Discouraged”](#) and the [“Highlander Folk School and the criminalization of organizing”](#) page (under the “Treading the Tightrope of Jim Crow” section).

### Discussion Questions

- How did the Montgomery Bus Boycott begin?
- Why was a bus boycott called for rather than leaving Parks’s case to the courts?
- What impact did Parks’s bus stance and the bus boycott have on Parks and her family?
- What efforts were made to squash the bus boycott?
  - Why do you think these attempts are so often forgotten in public memory around Rosa Parks, the bus boycott and the larger civil rights movement?
- How did black activists respond when bus segregation was ruled un-Constitutional?

### Sources

- [“5000 at Meeting Outline Boycott; Bullet Clips Bus”, \*Montgomery Advertiser\*, 6 December 1955](#)
- [Negro Ministers of Montgomery and Their Congregations, “To the Montgomery Public”, statement that references previous arrests like White’s, Brook’s, Colvin’s](#)
- [Photo showing Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King at civil rights related “training” at Highlander](#)
- [“Integrated Bus Suggestions” from 19 December 1956](#)