

“WE THE PEOPLE”

People Who Helped - Program #5: (Length: 16:10 Min.)

Viewers may want to discuss what they're thinking/feeling before & after suggested discussion questions.

Suggestions for Discussion:

1. If you had been a student, neighbor, or friend during the time of the mistreatment of Japanese-American citizens, especially those of your same age, do you think that you would have spoken up for them? Why or why not?
2. What further assistance do you think might have been provided?
3. If you now belong to an athletic team, church group, national organization (Kiwanis, Rotary, Knights of Columbus, women's clubs) what would your group's response be if you realized that some of your friends had been suddenly removed from your midst? How would/could you support them in their situation?
4. Did the efforts of anyone in the film stick with you? Why?

Groups to Research:

American Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

Japanese-American Student Relocation Committee

Church of the Brethren

People to Research:

Ralph and Mary Smeltzers

Robert Gordon Sproul

Shizue Seigel

Virginia Swanson

Photos to Discuss:

“No JAPS Wanted Here” or “Japs Go Home” Signs on Windows

Santa Anita Assembly Center

Students with Teachers in the Camps

The people featured in the film

Continued...

Possible Follow-Up Activities:

1. If you (or family members) know of any older person(s) who lived during the time of the internment of Japanese-American Citizens, ask them whether or not they were even aware of this kind of treatment of their fellow Americans. Perhaps even invite them to meet with your group to view the program and discuss its impact on them now.
2. Find out whether or not there is a Japanese-American Cultural Center or Japanese Shinto or Buddhist Temple in your area and schedule a tour.
3. Watch a video of a Japanese Tea Ceremony to try to understand the Japanese culture a little better.
4. Read the famous poem by Martin Niemoller - 1892-1984 (which can be found in several versions)

“First they came for the Communists,
and I didn’t speak up,
because I wasn’t a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn’t speak up
because I wasn’t a Jew.

Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn’t speak up,
because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me,
And by that time there was no one
left to speak up for me.”

5. Your best idea...