

“WE THE PEOPLE”

PROGRAM #5 - PEOPLE WHO HELPED

Length: 16:10

(Depending on the specific audience and the facilitator, some *Suggestions for Discussion* questions could also include Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders)

Suggestions for Discussion:

1. If you had been a student, neighbor, 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. Have you ever had someone else stand up for, or support you when you were bullied or the target of prejudice?
3. If you now belong to an athletic team, church group, national organization (Kiwanis, Rotary, Knights of Columbus, League of Women Voters, etc.), what would your group’s responses 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 remain with you? Why?

After discussions have ended ask volunteer viewers what they are thinking/feeling.

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

Teachers with students in the Camps

The people who helped that were featured in the film

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 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 thoughts about the poem?