

# DISCRIMINATION & INEQUALITY

# Ko2 - Responses to the Holocaust

## ① Religious views of FORGIVENESS

### CHRISTIANITY †

- SIN** - you do something that disobeys God.
- ↓
- REPENT** - you must own up and say sorry.
- ↓
- FORGIVE** - God will forgive you.
- ↓
- RECONCILE** - you can come back together with God
- CHRISTIANS BELIEVE:**
  - to be forgiven by God, we must be forgiving of others
  - "forgive us our sins as we forgive those that sin against us"
  - We must always be forgiving
  - Jesus said to forgive "70 times"

### JUDAISM ★

- If you sin, you must do **TESHUVAH** - repent, say sorry to the person you have wronged and try to make up for it (make amends).
- The person you have wronged should then give you **MECHILA** - forgiveness, and move on. This does not mean you have to be friends but that they no longer owe you anything.
- "Do not hate your brother in your heart"

## ③ Corrie ten Boom 1892-1983

- Corrie lived in Haarlem, Holland.
- She was a dedicated Christian.
- She and her family hid Jews and other targeted people in a secret room in her house - The Hiding Place - until a new safe place was ready.
- Their secret was discovered and they were all imprisoned.
- Most of her family were killed.
- She spent the rest of her life talking about her faith and her experiences during WW2.

**CORRIE'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE RAVENSRUCK GUARD**  
 He asked her to forgive him - he had become a Christian and knew God had forgiven him.  
 Corrie recalls:  
 "For I had to do that - I knew that... Jesus helped me! I prayed silently... 'I forgive you brother! With all my heart!'"



## ③ What was the Holocaust?

The Holocaust was the murder of approx 6 million Jews by the Nazis during World War 2. They also targeted millions more - homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, the disabled...

- In the 1930's it started with anti-semitic (anti-Jewish) laws in Germany and Poland had to wear a yellow star to identify them easily.

- They were forced to live in ghettos (blocked off sections of a town/city) in terrible conditions.
- People were sent to work or concentration camps.
- In 1941 the Nazis decided on the 'FINAL SOLUTION' to kill all Jews. They were shipped to death camps eg Auschwitz, Birkenau



## ④ Simon Wiesenthal 1908-2005

- Simon was a Ukrainian Jew living during WW2
- During WW2 89 members of his family and friends were killed by the Nazis.
- Simon was taken to many concentration camps but he did survive.
- After the war he worked as a 'NAZI HUNTER' gathering evidence for the Nuremberg trials and searching for Nazi criminals so they would be brought to justice.
- Simon felt it was important that those that were killed were never forgotten "But I will say, 'I DID NOT FORGET YOU'"



**SIMON'S ENCOUNTER WITH A DYING NAZI SOLDIER**  
 Simon was called to see a dying Nazi soldier he had never met before. He felt awful for the terrible things he had done and asked that Simon give him forgiveness.  
 Simon walked away and the soldier died soon after. Simon was haunted by his decision - had he done the right thing?

