

Name _____

Block _____

Read this quote by Reverend Martin Niemoller, a German minister who was sent to the camps for his outspoken criticism of the Nazis:

"In Germany, the Nazis came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I was not a trade unionist. 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."

Answer these questions:

1. Why do you think many people did not "speak up" when Hitler's government began its persecution of various groups in Germany?

2. Why do you think it was difficult to oppose the government's actions?

3. At what point in the escalation of anti-Jewish policies in Nazi Germany did non-Jews have a responsibility to interrupt what they saw happening? What actions could they have taken?

4. Do you think it is difficult for individuals to do these kinds of things? Why or why not?

5. What is the cost to the individual who does not act to interrupt injustice? What is the harm to the victims? What is the harm to society as a whole?

6. Thinking about the key events that you have learned about in this lesson, what, in your opinion, is the power of peer pressure?