



LESSON PLAN: Was Anything Learned From The Holocaust?

1 Introduce students to **Jan Karski (bio)**, **Joseph Berger (bio)**, and **William McKinney (bio)** and show their clips of testimony. Follow with a discussion using the questions below as a guide.

- Jan Karski states that “great crimes start with little things” and then goes on to give examples of things people should not do. What are some of the examples he gives? Which, if any, of his suggestions do you think are particularly difficult for people to put into practice and why?
- Does Joseph Berger believe that anything was learned from the Holocaust? How does he support his argument?
- William McKinney states in his testimony that it is time to “eliminate bloodshed.” What do you think would be needed in order to achieve this goal?
- Do you think that individuals play a role in helping to make the world a peaceful place? If so, explain the role of the individual.
- What are some things that you can do to prevent prejudice and bigotry in your school, community, society, and beyond? What are some things that your teachers, parents, religious and community leaders can do?

2 Inform students that some people, including survivors¹, believe that something the magnitude of the Holocaust could happen again, while others feel that it could not. Ask students to consider their thoughts on this topic and then allow time for students to participate in a round-table discussion on the question: “Could an event the magnitude of the Holocaust happen again?” Encourage students to refer to specific information that they have learned throughout their study of the Holocaust as they develop and present their arguments. [Optional: Divide students into two groups based on whether they believe something the magnitude of the Holocaust could happen again or not. Have each group prepare its argument and share with others in the class using the “Fishbowl” strategy.]

ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME: 60-90 MINUTES

¹ If not shown prior, introduce students to Leo Bach and Joseph Berger and show their clips of testimony from the Researching Genocides after the Holocaust lesson in this unit.