

# Rays of Light in the Darkness Lesson Plan

## For High School

---

This lesson plan was adapted for Congregation Kol Ami by Deborah Fripp.

### *Overview*

This unit is designed to teach about those who helped the Jews during the Holocaust, known at Yad Vashem as the “Righteous Among the Nations.”

*Grade Level:* High School

### *Essential Lessons:*

- Students will learn that there were people from all over the world and from all walks of life who helped.
- Some of these people continued to help even after being arrested or threatened, and some of them died because they helped.

### *Stories of the Righteous can be found at Yad Vashem’s Website:*

- “I am My Brother’s Keeper” ([www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous/themes.asp](http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous/themes.asp))
- Online exhibits ([www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/index.asp](http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/index.asp)) and click on “Rescue: Jews Saving Jews and Righteous Among the Nations.”

### *Procedure*

- Allow the students to choose among the people in these exhibits. Consider presenting the students with a narrowed list of exhibits or people.
- Have each student research the following questions:
  - Who was this person? What was their religion, occupation, age, educational level, etc.?
  - Where did they live?
  - What did they do to help?
  - Why did they help?
  - What did they risk?
  - What price did they pay?
- Have each student present their findings to the class. And discuss the breadth of people who helped and how some continued to help even after being threatened or arrested.
- Within the discussion of why some people helped, be sure to discuss why some did not help and the choices that people must make.