

Introduction to A level R.S.

- At A level we study Dietrich Bonhoeffer in more detail than we do at GCSE. Can you remember who he was?
- Read through the following slides and complete all tasks in bold.
- When you have completed tasks can you please take a screenshot and email to me please at:
lsealey@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk
- Thank you. I hope you enjoy this week's work.



Introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Bonhoeffer was born on 4th February 1906 in Breslau, Germany.
- He studied theology at Tübingen University.
- He began to think that the church should be more active in achieving justice. In other words to be a good Christian you sometimes need to challenge the government.
- Many Lutheran Christians at the time believed that being a good Christian was to obey the state.
- On 30th January, 1933 Adolf Hitler became Chancellor and Führer of Germany

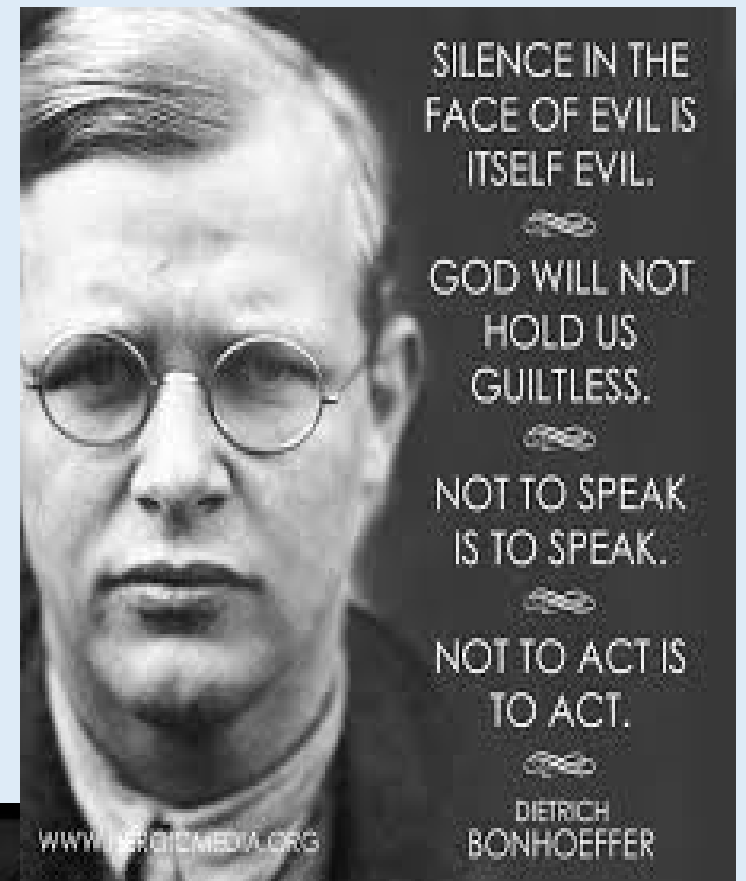




Introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- On 1st February 1933, Bonhoeffer began to deliver a radio broadcast called, 'The Younger Generation's Altered View of the Concept of the Fuhrer'.
- In the Broadcast Bonhoeffer was deeply critical of the Nazi concept of people giving complete devotion and power to an earthly leader.
- Before Bonhoeffer could finish the broadcast the microphone was switched off.
- ***Watch and make notes on the video clip, Bonhoeffer Speaks Out Against Hitler.***

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-hS_90axHg





Introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Bonhoeffer joined the Confessing Church.
- The Confessing Church believed that all races could belong to the church not just Aryans.
- They also believed that there was only one authority – that of Christ (not the state).
- He also joined the Resistance movement against the Nazis.
- He began to realise that true pacifism was not really a Christian concept.
- He realised to achieve true justice and peace on earth and to tackle evil it was sometimes necessary to use violence.





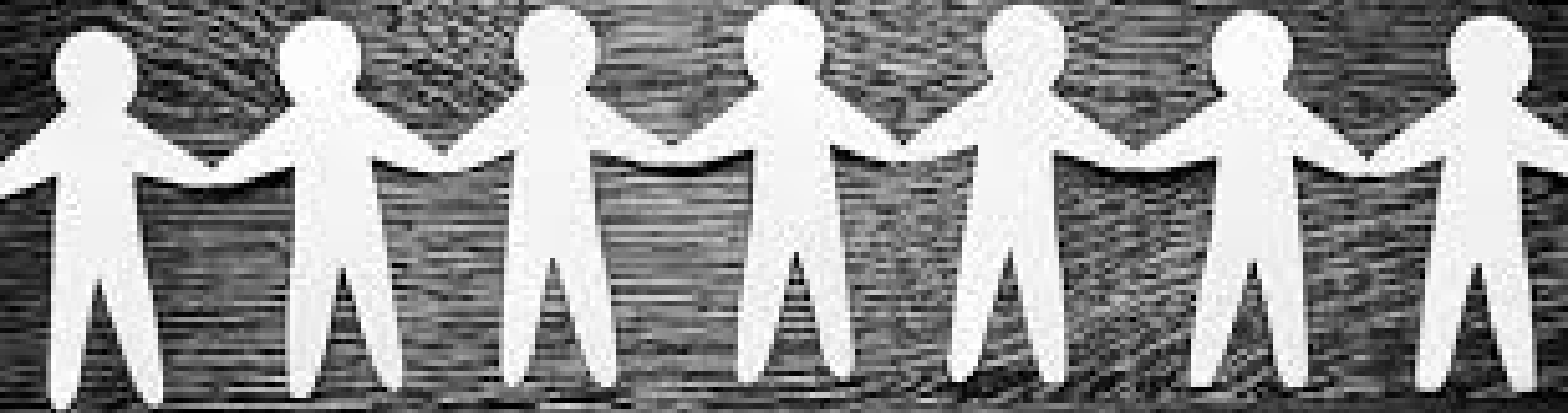
Introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer



- In 1939 he was living in America.
- He decided to return to Germany to try to bring down the Nazi regime through the Resistance Movement.
- Through the Resistance Movement he helped Jews to escape Germany using false papers.
- He was also involved in a failed attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler. He was even prepared to bless the suicide bomber.
- On the 5th April 1943, Bonhoeffer was arrested and imprisoned by the Gestapo.
- On the 9th April 1945 Bonhoeffer was executed by hanging in Flossenburg concentration camp.
- **Watch the video clip - Dietrich Bonhoeffer Anti-Nazi Resistant.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLiRuu-SIY>



Have you ever experienced witnessed
solidarity?



- Solidarity – being with those who experience the most suffering.

Lets go back in time...

- It is June 1939 in Nazi Germany.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer has just learned that war is imminent and he is likely to be conscripted in the army.
- However, Bonhoeffer is opposed to the Nazi regime, and he could never swear an oath to Hitler and fight in his army, though not to do so was potentially a capital offense.
- So, after receiving an invitation from the Union Theological Seminary in New York, he left Germany and arrived in America where he knew he would be safe.
- But, after 21 days in America, Bonhoeffer returned to Berlin.

Your Task

- *You are going to read through three information sheets.*
- *Fill in the work sheet which has 5 questions based on the text.*
- *On the right hand side of the worksheet is the question: - Why did Bonhoeffer return to Berlin? Answer this question using approx. 100 words*
- *Please remember to send me a screenshot of your work - thanks*

The cost of discipleship

1. What is cheap grace?	Cheap grace, as Bonhoeffer describes it, "is the Giving of forgiveness without true repentance." Cheap grace is when a sinner is forgiven by the church for their misdeeds, yet shows no effort to actively repent for their action. Therefore not actively accepting Christ and his sacrifice.	<p><u>Why did Bonhoeffer return to Berlin?</u></p> <p>Bonhoeffer returned back to Berlin, despite escaping the Nazi's wrath and fleeing to America, Bonhoeffer decided 21 days after arriving in the States, to turn back and return to Berlin. Bonhoeffer did this because of solidarity, he felt compelled to return and help the suffering German people in any way that he could, he felt wrong fleeing to comfort whilst his countrymen suffered, he wanted to suffer as they did as he believed it was what Jesus would do.</p>
2. What is costly grace?	Costly grace, is when one sacrifices their life to follow in the footsteps of Christ, who sacrificed himself for humanity on the cross. Whether through sacrificing luxury, or actually committing and giving their lives to thwarting acts of evil and ensuring that good prevails. Bonhoeffer's sacrifice, was that he gave his life to resist the Nazi's.	
3. Why does Bonhoeffer believe that discipleship involves suffering?	Bonhoeffer, believed that walking the righteous and moral Christian path, required you to put yourself in Christ's shoes, as Jesus walked many miles carrying a heavy cross which ultimately would serve as his end, all for the sake of mankind. Bonhoeffer believed that as Jesus suffered in immense pain and solidarity for us, we must suffer in turn for him and God, if we want true good to prevail in the world.	
4. Why does Bonhoeffer believe Christians should show solidarity with the Jews in Germany?	Bonhoeffer believed that, because Jesus Christ showed solidarity to the weak, vulnerable and oppressed, so should any God-fearing Christian. This is why he showed solidarity to the German Jews, as in his eyes they were vulnerable and oppressed by a violent and bloody regime, which compelled him to forge papers for Jews and donate large sums of money to Jewish resistance movements.	
5. How did Bonhoeffer show solidarity with the German Jews?	He forged papers, which allowed many Jews to escape from the Nazi's, and flee to other countries far away from harm. Bonhoeffer and his brother raised a large sum of money, which they donated to Jewish resistances to aid them in fighting Nazi oppression, this money also went to aid many Jews in fleeing.	

Information Sheet 1

- Christians believe in 'grace'. **Grace is a key theological idea meaning God's love and mercy, given freely to people**, which includes the forgiveness of sins and the offer of eternal life. Grace is not offered as a reward for the good things humans do, but it is freely given to all. It comes from God's desire to save all sinners.
- Now Bonhoeffer believed that this idea of grace has meant that some Churches didn't place any expectations that people should struggle to be a good Christian. They saw Christian living as an easy, comfortable experience, full of rewards without any effort, struggle or price.
- Bonhoeffer was concerned that people think because Christ paid the price for grace with his death on the cross, the Church can keep on giving grace out for free. He referred to this type of grace as 'cheap' and said **"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without Church discipline, Communion without confession."**
- Bonhoeffer disagreed with cheap grace. He said that God's grace cannot be bought as if it is a commodity merely by going through the Christian rituals.
- Instead, he said that grace should be costly because it calls us to follow Jesus and that means making changes in our lives and our decisions. **He said grace is 'costly because it costs man his life, and it is grace because it gives man the only true life...above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son'.**
- Costly grace underpins Bonhoeffer's realisation in prison that he would in all probability have to pay the ultimate sacrifice of death.

Information Sheet 2

- Bonhoeffer believed that the call to discipleship involved suffering and sacrifice. This is because anyone who follows Jesus must also pick up his cross and follow the path of suffering that Jesus walks.
- "Whoever, wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." Mark 8:34-35
- Just like Jesus suffered in solidarity with us, so must Christians. The life of a Christian is a life of suffering for Christ.

Information Sheet 3

- Bonhoeffer's thoughts around suffering are linked to solidarity of 'existence for others'.
- Bonhoeffer felt that he had to live through the experience of suffering that his people in Germany were enduring, rather than waiting in safety and security.
- The goal of the Christian life is not to become 'religious' but to be there for others just like Jesus was.
- The Church in Germany had failed to act in solidarity with humanity - Jesus showed solidarity most of all with the weak, vulnerable and oppressed. This is the situation the German Jews found themselves in and yet the Church did nothing.
- Bonhoeffer was explicit about the Church's obligations to fight political injustice. He wrote that the Church must fight the evil of Jewish discrimination in three ways:
 1. The Church must question whether the state's actions are legitimate and call on the state to be fully responsible for its decisions.
 2. The Church must help all victims of injustice of whatever faith or belief.
 3. The Church must be fully engaged in resistance to reverse the machinery of injustice. The Church must take direct action.
- Bonhoeffer clearly showed his solidarity with the German Jews. In April 1933, following the boycott of Jewish businesses, he explicitly criticised the Nazi regime and called for solidarity to all those persecuted by Nazism. After Kristallnacht, 9-10 November 1938 (where German synagogues and Jewish businesses were burned and destroyed), he publically rejected the common view that this was God's just punishment of the Jews for their rejection of Jesus Christ and called it an act of godless and violent regime. Later he and his brother-in-law collected large sums of money to aid Jewish immigrants - it was this action which ultimately ended in his arrest and execution.
- For Bonhoeffer this conviction of being with and for others led him to the decision, only 21 days after arriving in America, to return to Berlin. He was determined to share in the time of suffering with the German people. That sharing of suffering included his decision to get involved with the Resistance. Some see it as a shift from his work in matters of the Church and religion, towards social action.
- David H. Jensen explores the idea that solidarity for Bonhoeffer became a subversive act. It was against the State and for the sake of human relationships with each other (the thing that the Nazi State was damaging).