

The Forgiveness Project

Forgiving the Unforgivable – Lesson Plan 2

Lesson 2 of 3 – How can forgiveness impact the survivors of war?

Kemal Pervanic's story – Part 2

55 mins



How can forgiveness impact the survivors of war?

Please ensure the staff member facilitating this lesson has an understanding of the Bosnian War. A timeline is at the end of this lesson plan. This short clip (7 mins) from the 1995 BBC documentary, *Death of Yugoslavia*, sets out the process and scale of ethnic cleansing during the Bosnian War: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbNocQORWQ8>. ***Please note this contains very graphic scenes and is not suitable to be shown to the students.***

Lesson objectives: 1. To be able to explain the personal experience of someone detained in a concentration camp. 2. To be able to explain how forgiveness can impact survivors of war.

Key vocabulary: Omarska camp, Manjača camp.

Teacher activity	Learner activity	Time
<p>Recap</p> <p>Discuss thoughts about the film since the last lesson. How would a person feel if their friends and teachers turned against them and became part of a large group that persecuted them and their family?</p>	<p>Discuss with the class how a person would feel if their friends and teachers turned against them and became part of a large group that persecuted them and their family?</p>	10 mins
<p>Omarska / Manjača</p> <p>Ask the students to read through the information on the Omarska and Manjača camps in their student booklets.</p>	<p>Read through the information on page 2 in your student booklet.</p>	5 mins
<p>Explore</p> <p>Split the class into small groups. Using the four statements in the student booklet ask the group to discuss the statement and then use the prompt questions to explore further. Ask students to make notes in the student booklets. Invite feedback as a class.</p>	<p>Work through the four statements in your student booklet and discuss as a group using the prompt questions. Make notes and get ready to give feedback to the class.</p>	20 mins
<p>Kemal's journey towards forgiveness</p> <p>Invite a student to read the quote from Kemal about forgiveness aloud, which can be found on the PowerPoint and on p. 6 in their student booklet. Discuss as a class what they think it means for Kemal and how forgiveness has impacted him and his future life.</p> <p>Ask students to write a couple of paragraphs in their student booklets in response to Kemal's story and his journey towards forgiveness.</p>	<p>Using the quote on page 6 in the student booklet discuss what forgiveness has meant for Kemal and how it has impacted his future life.</p> <p>Write a couple of paragraphs in your student booklet in response to his story.</p>	15 mins
<p>The Future</p> <p>Using information on the PowerPoint, explain to students how Kemal is using his experience to move forward and make change within Bosnia. Discuss as a class.</p>	<p>Read the PowerPoint slide and discuss as a class.</p>	5 mins

Definitions

Omarska camp: labelled a "death camp" by the Hague Tribunal. It was run by Bosnian Serb forces in the mining town of Omarska, near Prijedor in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina, set up for Bosnian Muslim and Croat men and women during the Prijedor massacre.

Manjača camp: a concentration camp, located on mount Manjača near the city of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia. It was used to collect and confine thousands of male prisoners of Bosnian Muslim and Croat nationalities.

Bosnia-Herzegovina profile - Timeline

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17212376>

1908 - Bosnia-Herzegovina annexed to Austria-Hungary.

1914 - A Bosnian Serb student, Gavrilo Princip, assassinates the Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. This precipitates World War I.

1918 - Austria-Hungary collapses at the end of the war. Bosnia-Herzegovina becomes part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

1941 - Bosnia-Herzegovina annexed by pro-Hitler Croatian puppet state. Thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies are sent to the death camps.

1945 - Bosnia-Herzegovina liberated following campaign by partisans under Tito.

1945-1991 - Bosnia is part of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

1991 - Following the collapse of communism, nationalists win first multi-party elections and form coalition government despite having conflicting goals: Muslim nationalists want centralised independent Bosnia, Serb nationalists want to stay in Belgrade-dominated rump Yugoslavia, Croats want to join independent Croatian state.

1992 - Croat and Muslim nationalists form tactical alliance and outvote Serbs at independence referendum. Serb nationalists are incensed as constitution stipulates that all major decisions must be reached through consensus.

War breaks out and Serbs quickly assume control of over half the republic. Ethnic cleansing is rampant in the newly proclaimed Serb Republic but also widespread in Muslim and Croat-controlled areas.

The Bosnian Serbs, under Radovan Karadzic, lay siege to Sarajevo. The city is controlled by Muslims but they are unable to break out through lines set up to defend surrounding Serb villages. There is bitter fighting as well as many atrocities.

1993 - As tensions rise, conflict breaks out between Muslims and Croats, culminating in the destruction of much of Mostar, including its Old Bridge. The bridge had graced the city since it was built by the Ottomans in the 16th century and was a symbol of Bosnia's cultural diversity.

The conflict is extremely complex. Muslims and Serbs form an alliance against Croats in Herzegovina, rival Muslim forces fight each other in north-west Bosnia, Croats and Serbs fight against Muslims in central Bosnia.

UN safe havens for Bosnian Muslim civilians are created, to include Sarajevo, Gorazde and Srebrenica.

1995 - Safe haven of Srebrenica is overrun by Bosnian Serb forces under General Ratko Mladic. Thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys are separated from their families and massacred, despite the presence of Dutch UN troops. Nato air strikes against Serb positions help Muslim and Croat forces make big territorial gains, expelling thousands of Serb civilians on the way.

Dayton peace accord signed in Paris. It creates two entities of roughly equal size, one for Bosnian Muslims and Croats, the other for Serbs. An international peacekeeping force is deployed.

Notes