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This image depicts a stained-glass window of Dietrich Bonhoeffer at the St Johannes Basilikum in Berlin. Photo by "Sludge G" (sludgegulper); online via Flickr and Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).

Following in the footsteps of his parents, Bonhoeffer attended the best academic institutions in Germany. He received a doctorate, with honors, from the University of Berlin in 1927. During his time as a student, he devoured the writings of [Karl Barth](#).

A man of many talents, Bonhoeffer pastored a Lutheran church for a short time in the late 1920s. Following a year of post-graduate study at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, he became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin.

As an educated German theologian, living during the rise of Hitler, Bonhoeffer began to question the ethics of both his country and his church. He spoke out, [on radio broadcasts](#), against the increasing influence of the Nazis and their anti-Semitism before Hitler assumed power. In intellectual circles he spoke against the complacency of Christians who thought Jews were cursed for killing Christ.

Banned by the government from instructing students at the University of Berlin, Bonhoeffer formed a kind of [underground seminary](#). For two years he continued to teach his students as he traveled from village to village. Believing the German church was not taking a sufficient stand against Nazism, he co-founded the Confessing Church. It became a center of German Protestant resistance to the growing power of the [Third Reich](#).

But mere intellectual pursuits and theories did not satisfy Bonhoeffer. Although a pacifist, he decided to actively resist the perverse effects [Adolf Hitler](#) and his regime wrought on the laws and lives of the German people.

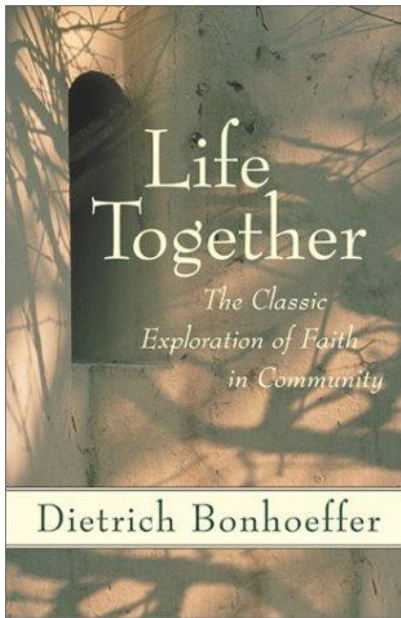
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-BUDDING-INTELLECTUAL-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Media Stream



Life Together - by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Image online, courtesy [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) website.

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Bonhoeffer - Opposes Hitler

Clip from "Bonhoeffer," a [documentary film](#) by Martin Doblmeier, released by First Run Features. Online, courtesy First Run Features Channel at YouTube.

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