

MESSAGE TO AMERICA

Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank
Study Guide (student version)
<http://www.saltfilms.net>

Summary: People from each short film were asked what they want to say to Americans, especially Christians in America. In this session, we will hear their answers and consider how we can respond.

5 **Prayer and introduction**
min

Sample Prayer
Merciful Lord, open our hearts and minds to hear the voices of our brothers and sisters in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2 **Scripture**
min 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

10 **Questions**
min *How do you see this passage applying to different levels of the Church? For example, consider individual members of a congregation, different churches in a community, the Church throughout the world.*

3 **Film**
min "Message to America" segment.

20 **Questions**
min *Did any of the messages surprise you? Did any of them interest you? How can you imagine responding to these messages—individually and/or as a congregation?*

3 to 10
min **Closing and prayer**

Sample Prayer
Blessed Lord and Savior, we thank you for this time together, to study your Word and hear from other parts of the Church, your Body. Let us suffer when our brothers and sisters suffer, and rejoice when they rejoice. Let us go step by step with you, because everything will vanish and disappear, but your Word remains. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Continuing the Journey

References and resources for faithful next steps in response to these stories.

Available online: <http://www.saltfilms.net/guides/message-student.pdf>

Go step by step with Jesus, because everything will vanish and disappear. But the words of God remain. –Afaf from “The Cross”

This is the longing of the world, to live in peace; that the wolf live with the lamb, that the leopard lie down with the kid, that we would live in peace. –Fr. Aktham from “The Garden” and “Advent”

Pray

We hope the Church in the West would remember us in their prayers. And we hope that we would always be true brothers in Christ. –Fr. Tomie from “A Mantle”

May your faith be strong; may you always rely on God. May you hope for peace, not just in Palestine, because there are problems all over the world. –Sawsan from “The Garden”

I want to say to Americans: we are living in danger and fear. I hope you pray for us so that we can live in security, free from these problems. –Jerjes from “Life”

Consider intentional prayer for the region:

<http://www.saltfilms.net/now.html#pray>

Visit

I hope people teach their children that there are Christians in Palestine, so that they come here and embrace their faith more strongly. Come and celebrate Christmas in the land of Christmas. –Sylvia from “The Way”

Come visit us. See how we live, how we serve Christ. Then you will see that you need us as we need you. –Fr. Firas from “Resurrection”

Consider taking a pilgrimage with your congregation or committing to a longer period of service in the region:

<http://www.saltfilms.net/now.html#visit>

Listen and Learn

We Arab Christians living in the Holy Land, in Palestine, face many problems. Our voice needs to be heard. We need people to help us. –Mughannam from “Advent”

Consider ways to keep listening and learning about the region:

<http://www.saltfilms.net/now.html#learn>

Advocate

I ask one thing: speak to your decision-makers so they would view the issues here justly. –Sa’ed from “The Wall”

Consider sharing your concerns with your elected officials:

<http://www.saltfilms.net/now.html#advocate>

Act

We want the world to have compassion for us, to help us solve our problems so we can live in peace. We want peace. –Yvonne from “Exile”

We are Christians who think about you as Americans and pray for you and love you. We are here for you and we hope to hear that you are there for us. –Fr. Hosam from “Life” and “The Cross”

There are a number of other creative ways to respond:

<http://www.saltfilms.net/now.html#support>

Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank
Course Evaluation

Our class watched the following segments: (Please check)

- Advent (about religion teacher and youth group leader Mughannam)
- The Way (about college student Sylvia who lives in Tubas and studies in Nablus)
- The Wall (about Sa'ed the electrician who has lost land to the Separation Barrier)
- A Mantle (about Orthodox priest F. Tomie who serves congregations in 3 towns)
- Life (about two brothers who are schoolboys in Nablus)
- Exile (about Yvonne who recalls her childhood in Haifa and fleeing during 1948 war)
- Recurrence (about Fr. Firas and the reopening of the Melkite church in his town)
- The Garden (about Sawsan who is a school secretary and lives in Jenin)
- The Cross (about Afaf who lives in Nablus and volunteers with Mother Theresa sisters)
- Message to America (people from each segment share a message as credits roll)

I followed the "Daily Walk" part of the study guide

- never
- occasionally
- just about every week

I most enjoyed the following aspects of this course:

I least enjoyed the following aspects of this course:

The course could be improved this way:

Please circle the appropriate number (5=strongly agree and 1=strongly disagree)

I learned important things about Holy Land Christians	5	4	3	2	1
I learned important things about my own faith life	5	4	3	2	1
I would recommend the course to others	5	4	3	2	1
I want to get more involved in these issues	5	4	3	2	1

Please put additional comments on the back of this sheet. Thank you!