

EXILE



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

Study Guide

<http://www.saltfilms.net>

Summary: This session addresses ideas of home and exile. We will meet Yvonne, who shares her memories of losing her family home in Haifa.

3 min **Prayer and introduction**

Sample Prayer

Merciful Lord, open our hearts and minds to you. Move and shape us with your word and love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

10 min **Question**
What do "home" and "homeland" mean to you?
Write down or draw your thoughts and feelings.

5 min **Scripture**
Psalm 137: 1-6
Hebrews 11: 13-16

20 min **Film**
"Exile" segment.

15 min **Questions**
1) Have you ever felt like Yvonne? Like the psalmist? What did it or would it feel like to lose your home?

2) What does it mean that, as Christians, our homeland is a heavenly one? How then should we treat our homes, others' homes, and the rest of the world we live in?

4 min **Closing and prayer**

Sample prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for refugees, for the homeless, and all who feel alienated from your love and care. May your grace surround them and may we all find our place in your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

<h2>Daily Walk</h2> <p>An invitation to daily prayer and witness</p>	
<p>Daily Prayer: <i>Frame your daily walk with this series in prayer—feel free to use your own prayer or the one provided:</i></p> <p>Merciful Lord, restore us to yourself; renew and reconcile us. Let your grace stream over this world, that those who feel as orphans and homeless may find hope and refuge in you. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.</p>	<p>Daily Action: Available online: http://www.saltfilms.net/guides/exile-student.pdf</p> <p>Day 1) <i>Read Scripture:</i> Lamentations 5.</p> <p>Day 2) <i>Hear from a Holy Land Christian:</i> Selections from Fr. Elias Chacour's book <i>Blood Brothers</i>, which covers his childhood growing up in Biram (a town in the Galilee), Biram's depopulation and destruction, his development into a young man, and early years as a Melkite priest. (Fr. Chacour was named Archbishop of Galilee in February, 2006.) http://www.meei.org/who/bookBB.pdf</p> <p>Day 3) <i>Learn more:</i> Facts and figures about Palestinian refugees from Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights. http://www.badil.org/Refugees/facts&figures.htm</p> <p>Day 4) <i>Be inspired:</i> Israeli group Zochrot helps Jewish Israelis hear Palestinian stories of loss. http://www.nakbainhebrew.org/index.php?id=390</p> <p>Day 5) <i>Share:</i> Take time to tell someone new about how you've been moved this week by this Study Series. Invite him/her to pray with you.</p> <p>Day 6) <i>Act:</i> Help meet the needs and show hospitality to refugees. http://www.churchworldservice.org/Immigration/</p>