

Salt of the Earth

Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank

A Study Guide



a resource for American Christians, exploring realities facing the Church in the land of its birth



Thank you for choosing to learn about and from Christians living in the Land of the Holy One. It is our hope that the films and study series will act as a bridge between believers in the “Holy Land” and their brothers and sisters around the world, enriching the faith lives of those who view it. This project comes from three and a half years serving as Presbyterian missionaries in the predominantly Christian village of Zababdeh in the northern West Bank. Our ministry there was to strengthen and encourage the Church, and to work toward its unity, across denomination, geography, and culture. If we believe the Church is the body of Christ, then we have an obligation and privilege to be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, as Paul says in Romans 1:12.

Blessings on your ministry in the name of Christ,
Elizabeth and Marthame Sanders

General Information:

- The film is on DVD. It is a series of ten short film segments. Be sure you have the correct equipment to show whatever format you got the film in, and be sure to troubleshoot it before your first session. Keep in mind that the film is subtitled; be sure your screen is big enough for people to read the subtitles.
- Introduce the series as an opportunity to learn about and from fellow Christians in the land where Jesus walked. Be clear that the series is not an exhaustive portrayal of all perspectives on the issues. Rather, it is illustrative of Christian lives and stories not frequently heard. Your class will “meet” individual Christians in the northern West Bank through a series of documentary short films made by 2 missionaries who served there from 2000 to 2003.
- We encourage you to post a relatively detailed paper map of the Holy Land in your meeting space. Refer to it, and the locations that are mentioned in the film. National Geographic has a detailed Holy Lands Reference Map:
<http://www.ngmapstore.com/shopping/product/detailmain.jsp?itemID=375&itemType=PRODUCT&iMainCat=6&iSubCat=45&iProductID=375&itemType=PRODUCT>
- The study guide is designed to fit your needs. There will be 10 one-hour sessions detailed here; however, you can easily do fewer sessions according to your group’s time needs and interests and still benefit from the program. There is a student version and a leader version. The leader version has special **Leader Notes** to guide discussion, provide more background, and address possible questions. *We strongly encourage you to read over the leader notes before leading the session.*
- Each session also ends with **Daily Walk**, an invitation for participants to go a step deeper between sessions, offering 10 minutes a day of scripture, prayer, and information. Participants will need to have internet access to follow the Daily Walk. You may suggest that people follow the DAILY WALK with their families or with a prayer partner. If your group commits to follow the DAILY WALK, you may choose to use a few moments at the start of each session inviting comments and reflection.

Prayer:

Each session should have an opening and closing prayer. Each session includes suggested prayers. You may choose to substitute your own prayers. Some resources are online. For example, *Peaceful Ends through Peaceful Means* organizes a state-by-state prayer vigil for the Middle East, with some resources you may want to use. Or perhaps your church may wish to join the vigil (<http://www.pepm.org/PrayerVigil/PrayerVigilHome.htm>). If the program is offered in a small group setting, you may choose to solicit prayer requests, and intercessory group prayer.