

THE WALL

Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank: A Study Guide

<http://www.saltfilms.net>



Summary: This session looks at walls and barriers, in Scripture, in the West Bank, and in our lives. The class should struggle with the positive and negative aspects of walls, and how we as Christians discern their faithfulness.

3 min **Prayer and introduction**

Sample Prayer

Loving God, remove all barriers between us and you. Open our eyes to see your grace. Open our ears to hear your word. Open our minds to understand your message. Open our hearts to share your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

3 min **Scripture**
Ezekiel 13: 8-16
Ephesians 2:11-17

15 min **Questions**
Consider the walls that Paul and Ezekiel refer to. What kind of walls (literal and figurative) should we as people of faith build, and what kind should we seek to demolish?

17 min **Film**
"The Wall" segment.

15 min **Questions**

- The "Separation Barrier," frequently called "the Wall" or "the Fence" is in some places a twenty-five-foot high concrete wall and in others an electronic fence with dirt paths, barbed-wire fences, and trenches on both sides, at an average width of 60 yards.
- The Barrier may be as long as 400 miles; ten percent of it is planned to be along the border between Israel and the West Bank. The rest winds deep into the West Bank.
- A structure built along the border (the Green Line) would be half the length of the current wall and much easier to patrol.
- The Barrier has reduced Israeli deaths from militant attacks.
- The Barrier cuts off hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their cities, lands, jobs, schools, hospitals, and places of worship.

How does this wall compare to those which Paul and Ezekiel describe? What is its foundation? Is this a wall that we should seek to build or seek to remove?

4 *Closing and prayer*
min Remind the group of “Daily Walk” opportunities, and plans for next meeting. Solicit prayer concerns from the group and then close in prayer, using your own or the sample prayer at right.

Sample prayer
God of grace, Protect us from false prophets and illusions of security. Give us courage and strength to build our foundations on the solid rock of Christ. Let Christ use us and our witness to break down the dividing walls of hostility among your children. May there be reconciliation in our hearts, our relationships, the Holy Land, and throughout the world. We especially pray for Sa’ed, his family, and his community. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

<p>Daily Walk 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> Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Lord and Savior, I pray for your love to break down the dividing walls of hostility in our hearts and in our world. Make us into one new humanity, reconciled to one another and to God through your sacrificial love. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.</p>	<p>Daily Action: Available online: http://www.saltfilms.net/guides/wall-student.pdf</p> <p>Day 1) <i>Read Scripture:</i> 2 Corinthians 5:16-19.</p> <p>Day 2) <i>Hear from a Holy Land Christian:</i> Episcopal priest Naim Ateek’s reflections about the Separation Barrier. http://www.sabeel.org/old/news/cstone29/hafrada.html</p> <p>Day 3) <i>Learn more:</i> A series of multimedia reports from washingtonpost.com. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/interactives/israel/israelFence.html (high-speed connection needed for best viewing of video segments)</p> <p>Day 4) <i>Be inspired:</i> Israeli peace activists breaking down barriers. http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/oldnews/2002/02426.htm</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> Tell your elected officials about your concerns in the region. http://www.congress.org</p>