

- Why are Israelis and Palestinians fighting in the Middle East?
- Hasn't this conflict been raging for millennia?
- Isn't Israel just defending itself against terrorism?
- Who are the Palestinians? Where did they come from?
- Who are the Israelis? Where did they come from?
- Wasn't Jesus a Palestinian Jew?
- What is Zionism? Are all Jews Zionists?
- Why are there Palestinian refugee camps?
- What are the Occupied Territories?
- What are the Jewish settlements and why are they in the Palestinian Territories?
- Why is Israel building a separation wall/fence in the Palestinian Territories?
- What is the role of the US in this conflict?
- What is Christian Zionism?
- What alternatives are there for resolving this conflict?
- How can people of faith advocate for a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians?
- Why are some churches passing resolutions supporting divestment?

SABEEL:
Voice of the Palestinian
Christians

Sabeel is a Palestinian Christian organization, based in Jerusalem, that is committed to nonviolence and promotes a just solution to the conflict in the Holy Land. *Sabeel* is an Arabic word that means "the way" and "spring of water." *Sabeel* strives to promote a more accurate international awareness of Palestinian struggles, and encourages individuals and groups from around the world to work for a just, comprehensive, and enduring peace informed by truth and empowered by prayer and action. The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu from South Africa is the *International Patron of Sabeel*.

Friends of Sabeel-Colorado

Friends of Sabeel-Colorado is a local group affiliated with Friends of Sabeel-North America (www.fosna.org) and Sabeel in Jerusalem (www.sabeel.org). Our mission is to increase awareness of the situation in Israel/Palestine and to advocate for a just peace.



For more information, contact Joy Lapp at 303-494-2338, or email lappj@earthlink.net.



Hope for the
 Holy Land:
 Understanding and
 Responding to the
 Israeli/Palestinian
 Conflict

A Course of Study for Adults

How can people of faith contribute to the creation of a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians?



*Presented by
 Friends of Sabeel-Colorado*

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand the background of the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.
2. To understand current developments in the Middle East.
3. To consider possible alternatives for resolving the conflict.
4. To become advocates of a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

Format of the Study:

The course consists of three to five one-hour sessions, beginning with an introduction to the conflict, and ending with a discussion of ways to advocate for a just peace. Friends of Sabeel-Colorado will work with you to craft a course that best meets the needs of your group. Resource people who have first-hand experience of Israel/Palestine are available to meet with your group, to present information and slides, and to facilitate discussion. There are also several excellent videos available that your group may wish to include in the study.

Cost of the Study:

Sabeel will gratefully accept donations to be used to continue their work of education and advocacy. Checks should be made out to "Friends of Sabeel."

Possible Class Sessions

- 1. Introduction to the Conflict**
This session will discuss the beginnings of modern Zionism, the UN partition of 1948, Palestinian refugees, the Israeli military occupation that began in 1967, and the realities of Palestinian life under occupation.
- 2. The Role of the US, the Media and the Israeli Lobby**
This session will discuss US policy in the Middle East, and the role of the media and the Israeli lobby in maintaining the current situation.
- 3. Challenging Christian Zionism**
What is Christian Zionism? How do Zionist Christians use the Bible to support the current State of Israel, and what does the Bible really say?
- 4. Current Developments and Alternative Solutions**
This session will consider the current situation in Gaza, Lebanon, and the continuing development of Jewish Settlements in the West Bank. What are Bantustans and will apartheid prevail? What is the Two-State solution *vs.* the One-State solution?
- 5. Advocating for a Just Peace**
This session will discuss options for responding including: lobbying of Congress, divestment, boycotts, responding to the media, and education.

Speakers Bureau

Sergio Atallah. Colombian-Palestinian-American Engineer. Currently working with several organizations to effect change in US policies that have contributed to the violence and suffering in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

Meir Carasso. Holds a Ph.D. in Engineering from UC Berkeley. His professional career was in energy policy. Meir spent 17 years in Israel. He is an experienced Restorative Justice facilitator, and has been studying the Israel/Palestine conflict for many years.

Ira Chernus. Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Founding member of Colorado Jews for a Just Peace. Author of *American Nonviolence: The History of an Idea*.

Bill Durland. Professor, lawyer, and Quaker activist, author of *No King But Caesar?* and *God or Nations*, recipient of Colorado's 1999 MLK, Jr. Humanitarian Award. He has participated with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, Iraq, and on the Mexican border.

Genie Durland. Quaker activist and war tax resister for over 30 years. She has participated with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, Iraq, and on the Mexican border.

Ron Forthofer. Retired university Professor. Green Party candidate for Colorado Governor. Peace activist and delegate with Christian Peacemaker Teams to Hebron.

Rev. Larry Grimm. Presbyterian minister. He has been active with Middle East Peacemaking since 1980, and participated in dialogue with the American Jewish Committee and Palestinian Christians through the Colorado Council of Churches.

Joy Lapp. Instructor of Religion and Ethics, Metro State College of Denver. She spent three years in the Middle East working with Mennonite Central Committee.

Rob Prince. Senior Lecturer at the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. Publishes the *Colorado Progressive Jewish News*.

Bonnie Jones Shinneman. Leader of 10 work/study Missions to Israel. The West Bank and Gaza since 1991 for American Christians to meet Christian Palestinians and see firsthand what it means to live under occupation. She has been working with the Christian Palestinians thru economic ways from 1953 - 2002.

Rima Barakat Sinclair. Palestinian-American business woman and translator, frequent speaker, active in the Denver Muslim community.

Rev. Arnie Voigt. Retired Lutheran Minister. He has visited Israel/Palestine many times and has led several tour groups.