

Apartheid Study Series

Week 1: Apartheid and the Palestinian Experience

based on [A Dossier on Israeli Apartheid: A Pressing Call to Churches Around the World](#)

written by Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice

Overview

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| Week 1 | Apartheid and the Palestinian Experience – hearing their cries |
| Week 2 | Biblical and Theological Reflections – uniting in faith |
| Week 3 | Faithful Responses – incarnating Advent’s promises |

Materials Needed

- Lesson PowerPoint Presentation
- Video links and ability to play for class/group
- A copy of the Kairos *Dossier on Israeli Apartheid*

Week 1: Welcome & Framing

We are at a moment in history when a growing number of networks are using the word *apartheid* to describe the on the ground realities of Palestinians - in the past few years many human rights organizations (US, Israel, Palestine, international), as well as new outlets and denominations are naming apartheid – and we recognize that Palestinians *have long named* their reality as apartheid.

With our commitments to justice, liberation and challenging all forms of racism, it is so important for us to take seriously the charge of apartheid and what it means to continue to work for the liberation of our siblings in Palestine and Israel.

Facts on the Ground

| | Lesson | Materials |
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| Document Introduction | The Dossier on Israeli apartheid is a document written by Palestinian Christians and their international solidarity partners. <i>Read Intro, p. 4</i> | Apartheid Dossier |
| Teaser question | When you think of apartheid, what comes to mind? | |
| View video (15 min) | <p>Pause for a moment to sit with what we've seen, feel the impact of it, breath deeply.</p> <p>Process question – share reactions (1-2 words), What questions arise? (not comments)</p> | Israel-Palestine Apartheid Explainer from Amnesty International |
| What is apartheid – definitions (from dossier) | <p><i>“inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them”</i> - International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid</p> <p>Also note the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</p> | slide 2 |
| Three decisive conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System of separation or segregation for domination (based on race, creed, or ethnicity) • Legislative measures to legally enforce • Human rights violations | slide 3 |
| Lived realities | How does this play out in Israel-Palestine? | slides 4-6 from Visualizing Palestine |
| Unique features of Israeli Apartheid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 48, Jerusalem, WB, Gaza ● Pervasive permit system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Controlling education, medical care, where to shop or run a business | slide 7 |

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|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limits personal freedom, economic development, natural growth of villages/city ○ Arbitrary system of permits and licenses ● Limit to housing and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restrictive zoning scheme – especially in 48, Jerusalem, Area C promoting settlements ● Collective Punishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routine punishment of Palestinian cities, neighborhoods and families ○ Gaza example – 2 million inhabitants punished for acts of a few ○ Demolishing an alleged perpetrator’s family home ○ Revoking permits and privileges of a group of people | |
| Conclusion paragraph | Read conclusion paragraph to Part 1 | Apartheid Dossier |

Closing Remarks

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – one of the great modern prophets calling the church and all people to join together to demand justice for all who are oppressed reminds us of the indivisibility of justice - injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. This was said during his Riverside Speech condemning US involvement in Vietnam, recognizing the impact of our international relationships causing great harm to the world. What would he say about the fact that Israel, who is perpetrating the crime of apartheid, receives more US funding than any other country in the world 10 million/day?

May we continue the work of liberation of all God’s children both in our own country and abroad.