

# Apartheid Study Series

## Week 3: Faithful Responses

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

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### Overview

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

### Materials Needed

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

### Week 3: Welcome Back & Review

We are in a moment in time where there is consensus among the major human rights organizations that the on the ground realities in Palestine and Israel are *apartheid*

- Part 1 looked closely at those charges
- Part 2 explored our the Biblical, Theological, and gospel responsibilities
  - our commitment to justice/to anti-racism/to the liberative gospel compels us to action – *neutrality is not an option* – certainly in light of what is being done with our tax dollars and in the name of our faith
  - (Highlight Dossier – Palestinian Christian kindred as they reach out to the international church)

In addition to education, one of the goals of these sessions is to prepare our community to take a pledge to work to end Israel’s apartheid regime

## What is asked of us?

	Lesson	Materials
<b>Palestinian Plea</b>	<p>Palestinian Plea: Can you help us get our freedom back? (Read Part 5 of dossier)</p> <p>Bold claims of faith (read together):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● that people can love and live together</li> <li>● and we are called to work for this</li> <li>● in Palestine and in our own deeply divided country</li> <li>● decrying racism, injustice and anything that would deny anyone their humanity, their safety, their opportunity to live in peace and prosperity</li> </ul>	Apartheid Dossier
<b>Past examples</b>	<p>The role of the church in S. African and Jim Crow apartheid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● churches played a significant moral role in naming/challenging apartheid</li> <li>● this created a framework for political action</li> </ul>	
<b>Consider the Apartheid Free Church pledge</b>	<p>A Christian response: Apartheid Free Churches (AFC): Consider pledge and actions to embody commitment (see below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In direct response to calls from Palestinian Civil Society</li> <li>● Network of communities working together to live out the pledge</li> <li>● Non-violent active resistance to apartheid in deep solidarity with Palestinian people who have long been working for liberation</li> </ul>	See text below.
<b>The Pledge</b>	<p>We <b>affirm</b> our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people. We <b>oppose</b> all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression, and we <b>declare</b> ourselves an Apartheid-Free Faith Community. To that end, we <b>pledge</b> to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.</p>	

The Apartheid-Free campaign came together in 2022 as an interdenominational coalition of faith groups in North America following the emerging consensus among the international human rights community that Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people amounts to the Crime of Apartheid.

We ask ourselves and our communities to take a renewed public pledge against all forms of racism, bigotry, and oppression, including against racist discrimination, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and xenophobia in our own communities. We seek to educate ourselves and our communities about the devastation of Palestinian lives under military occupation, settler colonialism, and apartheid, and about the connections between settler colonialism, racist oppression, and the cult of security in Palestine/Israel and in North America.

Inspired by the anti-Apartheid movement that toppled the Apartheid regime in South Africa, we are building an anti-apartheid movement and encourage faith communities and all communities of conscience to step away from any and all support to Israeli apartheid, occupation, and settler colonialism.