



Seeking Peace

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Study Guide III: A Nuclear Free World

Materials Required:

- *A Nuclear Free World* study guide for each participant
- flip chart, easel, and markers
- watch/clock for time keeping
- ball of rope or yarn

Room Arrangement: semi-circle facing flip chart and facilitator(s)

EXERCISE 1—The Use of Nuclear Weapons: 1945 Japan

Facilitator Tips: Process

- Ask for a volunteer to read or offer the opening prayer.
- Read the facilitator's introduction.
- Invite volunteers to read each quote from the memories of children survivors, moving clockwise around the circle. (The final reader can read Hideko Tamura Snider's testimony.)
- Facilitate a discussion of the questions that follow (note: to save time, select two of the four questions).

EXERCISE 2—Testing Nuclear Weapons

Facilitator Tips: Process

- Ask for six readers and invite them to each read their corresponding part.
- For instructions on facilitating a mini session, refer to the Facilitator Introduction booklet.

EXERCISE 3—Nuclear Nonproliferation

Advance Preparations: Cut nine lengths of yarn/rope, each representing the active warheads in the nuclear arsenal of a nation listed below. For each length

of yarn, create a card that tells which nation it represents and how many nuclear weapons that nation possesses. (Note: each inch of yarn/rope represents 10 warheads)

Russia: 43' 4" = 5,200 active warheads

United States: 33' 11" = 4,075 active warheads

France: 2' 11" = up to 350 active warheads*

China: 2' 4" = 160-400 active warheads*

United Kingdom: 1' 8" = 200 active warheads

Israel: 1' 3" = 100-200 active warheads*

India: 1' = 100-140 active warheads*

Pakistan: 6" = approximately 60 active warheads*

North Korea: 1/2" = 0-10 active warheads*¹

(* exact total unknown)

Facilitator Tips:

- **Process:** Explain that you have nine lengths of yarn/rope, each representing the nuclear arsenal of a nation. Ask nine participants to come forward, one at a time, to read the name of a nuclear nation, display the length of yarn, and to tell how many weapons that length of yarn represents. Invite three volunteers to read the texts that follow. Facilitate a discussion of the questions.
- **Content:** The exact number of nuclear weapons in the stockpiles of several nations is unknown, the range listed is based upon the amount of fissile material that has likely been produced as well as estimates of that country's proficiency at nuclear weapons design. The actual number of warheads possessed by the U.S. and Russia is higher (5,535 and 8,800 respectively). This exercise focuses on the "active" warheads (as opposed to inactive warheads awaiting processing, storage, or recycling). Most of these figures come from the National Resources Defense Council, published in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*.

EXERCISE 4—The Top of a Very Tall Mountain

Facilitator Introduction

- **Process:** Begin by reading the facilitator introduction, then ask volunteers to read the scripture, Terry Tempest Williams quote, excerpt from "Toward a Nuclear-Free World," and the "Take Action" opportunities. Offer the group several moments of silence to reflect on the readings and consider the take action opportunities. Then, engage the group in a discussion about which opportunities they have selected to take action. (Note: It may be that the group

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons November 20, 2008.

commits to working in pairs on taking action, or to accomplish their action by the next meeting.)

- **Content:** On May 30, 2008 seventy-nine Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim groups joined together to reject the Bush administration’s plans to build new nuclear bomb plant facilities under a plan known as Complex Transformation. Secretary of State Robert Gates has also indicated an interest in a new generation of nuclear weapons. These efforts to build more nuclear weapons are in stark contrast to the vision and efforts of Kissinger, Perry, Shultz, Nunn, and others seeking to build a nuclear-weapons free world.

EXERCISE 5—Lectio Divina

Facilitator Tips:

- **Content:** Lectio Divina (Latin for “divine reading”) is an ancient Christian practice of prayerful contemplation on Scripture for the purpose of communion with God and spiritual insight.
- **Process:** Explain that this is a meditative exercise on Micah 4:3 that includes moments of silence. Invite participants to get comfortable, close their eyes, and quiet their minds. Then guide them through the four steps below. Read the first stage (lectio), then offer two minutes of silence. Re-read Micah 4:3, then read the second stage (meditation), and offer two minutes of silence. Re-read Micah 4:3, then read the third stage (oratio), and offer two minutes of silence. Re-read Micah 4:3, then read the fourth stage (contemplation), and offer two minutes of silence. Close this exercise with, “Amen.”
- **Process:** Offer longer silences if you prefer to take more time with this exercise. Consider closing with a prayer of your choosing. If you would like, allow time for the group to share insights with each other.