



# Seeking Peace

## FACILITATOR GUIDE

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### Study Guide V: War's Silent Casualty

### The Eco-Footprint of War

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#### Materials Required:

- *War's Silent Casualty* study guide for each participant
- flip chart, easel, and markers
- watch/clock for time keeping
- computer with internet access (if possible)
- 23 signs for Exercise 3 (see below for more details)
- blank paper and markers for each participant

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

#### EXERCISE 1—A Culture of Extinction: Genesis in Reverse

##### Facilitator Tips:

- **Process:** Read the opening prayer or ask a volunteer to do so. Invite a participant to read the Annie Dillard excerpt. Post the discussion question on the flip chart and offer two minutes of contemplative silence. Facilitate a mini session (for instructions refer to the Facilitator Introduction booklet). Invite participants to share reflections with the larger group.
- **Communication:** When sharing with the larger group after the mini session, encourage participants to share their individual reflections, not those of their partner, who may not want their reflection shared with the larger group.
- **Content:** War levels a triple impact upon climate change: first, with the production of weapons, which burns fossil fuels; second, with the transportation of weaponry and military personnel as well as warfare's destruction of vegetation (in addition to civilian and animal life); and third, with the fossil fuels

burned in rebuilding destroyed infrastructure. According to the February 2007 *Energy Bulletin*, “the Pentagon is the single largest consumer of oil in the world.”<sup>1</sup>

### EXERCISE 2—War’s Silent Casualty

**Advance Preparations:** Preview the film excerpt by going to [www.linktv.org/video/2990](http://www.linktv.org/video/2990). Set up the computer (the bigger the screen, the better) and make sure it’s on and connected to the internet before the session begins. If you do not have access to a computer with internet, you can skip the film excerpt (and distribute the web address above so that others can view it on their own time) and just read the excerpts from film participants printed in the study guide.

#### Facilitator Tips:

- **Process:** Read the facilitator’s introduction, then view the excerpt from *Scarred Lands, Wounded Lives* as a class (the film clip runs just under five minutes). Facilitate a mini session. Invite various participants to each read an excerpt from the film’s participants. Close the exercise by facilitating a discussion of the questions below.
- **Content:** For more information or to purchase the film, visit [www.scarredlandsfilm.org](http://www.scarredlandsfilm.org). Viewing the entire film as a group (or sharing it with your entire community of faith) is a great possibility for taking further action.

### EXERCISE 3—Earth Cries Out

**Advance Preparations:** Prepare 23 signs, each with three words on them, that read as follows (below). Optional: identify three volunteers ahead of time to read the signs (one by one and in order) to the class. Identifying volunteers ahead of time allows them the opportunity to practice, improvise, dress in costume, or even organize others to act out each phrase.

CAIN	FARMER	SHEPHERD’S	FARMER’S	
ABEL	SHEPHERD	OFFERING	OFFERING	
BROTHERS	RIVALRY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE	
CAIN’S	GOD	“WHY	MUST	CAIN
COUNTENANCE	ASKS	SO	MASTER	KILLS
FALLS	CAIN	ANGRY?	SIN!”	ABEL

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

GOD ASKS CAIN	"WHERE IS ABEL?"	"NOT BROTHER'S KEEPER!"	BLOOD CRIES OUT	EARTH CRIES OUT
ALIENATION FROM EARTH	EARTH WITHHOLDS YIELD	CAIN HELD ACCOUNTABLE	DRIVEN FROM SOIL	
"PUNISHMENT TOO GREAT!	FUGITIVE OF EARTH,	STRANGERS WILL MURDER!"	GOD MARKS CAIN	GOD: CAIN'S KEEPER

### Facilitator Tips: Process

- Invite three volunteers to tell the story of Cain and Abel by reading sequentially the three-word phrases/signs that you have prepared. As they read, ask them to hold up each phrase so participants can follow along (and for dramatic effect).
- Facilitate a discussion of the questions that follow.
- Read the facilitator wrap-up aloud.
- Supply participants with paper and a marker, and invite each person to create a three-word phrase to describe what reconciliation with the Earth might look like. Ask them to write three words on their sheet of paper, then offer time for each person to hold up their sign and read their phrase.

### Closing: Morning Poem by Mary Oliver

- Invite a participant to read the closing poem by Mary Oliver. Optional: ask a volunteer to prepare ahead of time a dramatic reading of the poem.