

# Travel with CMEP

## SMALL GROUP RESOURCES AND CURRICULUM

CMEP seeks to elevate diverse voices promoting equality, security, & human rights for all people in the Middle East. All resources listed below are for you to study the history and reality of Egypt and Israel/Palestine. Not all resources and opinions are supported by CMEP, but can help you to see a full picture of the communities we work with to establish your own critical thoughts and opinions.

### **The Search for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land | Churches for Middle East Peace**

The Search for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land is a curriculum designed to be taught in a small-group environment over a period of five weeks with one 90-120 minute session each week, based on discussion time. Each unit will consist of a preliminary reading text, a multimedia presentation, a series of group discussion questions, and a list of further resources. The first two units will provide participants with general background information on Christianity in the Holy Land, the origins of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, and how the occupation has affected Christians in the region. The second two units will focus on the contemporary political, social, and economic realities facing the peoples of Israel and Palestine, including the status of Jerusalem and life under the occupation. The last session will equip participants with the skills they will need to be able to advocate on behalf of Israelis and Palestinians to their representatives in government. Each session's video is approximately 50 minutes, and includes discussion questions.

### **A Land Full of God Study Guide | Churches for Middle East Peace and Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon**

*A Land Full of God* gives American Christians an opportunity to promote peace and justice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It shows them how to understand the enmity with brief, digestible, and comprehensive essays about the historical, political, religious, and geographical tensions that have led to many of the dynamics we see today. All the while, *A Land Full of God* walks readers through a biblical perspective of God's heart for Israel and the historic suffering of the Jewish people, while also remaining sensitive to the experience and suffering of Palestinians. The prevailing wave of Christian voices are seeking a pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro-peace, pro-justice, pro-poor, and ultimately pro-Jesus approach to bring resolution to the conflict.

## BOOKS

### **Skeptics Guide to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict | Dale Hanson Bourke**

With all of the heat surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, even the most basic facts can be hard to grasp. How do we make sense of what we read in the Bible – and what we read in the news? In this Skeptic's Guide™, Dale Hanson Burke sheds light on the places, terms, history, and current issues shaping this important region. Offering an even-handed presentation of a range of views on the most controversial issues, she provides a framework for American Christians to use in understanding why the conflict occurred, why it continues – and what remains to be done.

#### **A Wall in Jerusalem | Mark Braverman**

An American Jew, Mark Braverman thought he understood the reasons for Israel's existence. But when he began to understand the forces perpetuating the conflict, he realized just how far we are from achieving peace. Drawing on the historical lessons of the Civil Rights movement and the struggle against South African apartheid, Braverman offers a course of action both at home and abroad that will bring about a just and lasting peace. He delivers a strong message to Jews and Christians alike: it is not anti-Semitic to stand up for justice for the Palestinian people. *A Wall in Jerusalem* offers a provocative and unique perspective on this controversial issue, and specific, real-time prescriptions for action, with specific emphasis on the role of the church in our time.

#### **The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine | Ilan Pappé**

Renowned Israeli historian, Ilan Pappé's groundbreaking book revisits the formation of the State of Israel. Between 1947 and 1949, over 400 Palestinian villages were deliberately destroyed, civilians were massacred and around a million men, women, and children were expelled from their homes at gunpoint. Denied for almost six decades, had it happened today it could only have been called "ethnic cleansing". Decisively debunking the myth that the Palestinian population left of their own accord in the course of this war, Ilan Pappé offers impressive archival evidence to demonstrate that, from its very inception, a central plank in Israel's founding ideology was the forcible removal of the indigenous population. Indispensable for anyone interested in the current crisis in the Middle East.

#### **Righteous Victims | Benny Morris**

At a time when the Middle East has come closer to achieving peace than ever before, eminent Israeli historian Benny Morris explodes the myths cherished by both sides to present an epic history of Zionist-Arab relations over the past 120 years. Tracing the roots of political Zionism back to the pogroms of Russia and the Dreyfus Affair, Morris describes the gradual influx of Jewish settlers into Palestine and the impact they had on the Arab population. Following the Holocaust, the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948 resulted in the establishment of the State of Israel, but it also shattered Palestinian Arab society and gave rise to a massive refugee problem. Morris offers distinctive accounts of each of the subsequent Israeli-Arab wars and details the sporadic peace efforts in between, culminating in the peace process initiated by the Rabin Government. In a new afterword to the Vintage edition, he examines Ehud Barak's leadership, the death of President Assad of Syria, and Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, and the recent renewed conflict with the Palestinians. Studded with illuminating portraits of the major protagonists, *Righteous Victims* provides an authoritative record of the Middle East and its continuing struggle toward peace.

#### **A Land Full of God: Christian Perspectives Toward the Holy Land | Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, ed.**

*A Land Full of God* gives American Christians an opportunity to promote peace and justice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It shows them how to understand the enmity with brief, digestible, and comprehensive essays about the historical, political, religious, and geographical tensions that have led to many of the dynamics we see today. The prevailing wave of Christian voices are seeking a pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro-peace, pro-justice, pro-poor, and ultimately pro-Jesus approach to bring resolution to the conflict.

#### **Blood Brothers | Elias Chacour**

As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Palestinian village in Galilee. The townspeople were proud of their ancient Christian heritage and lived at peace with their Jewish neighbors. But early in 1947, their idyllic lifestyle was swept away as tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and nearly one million forced into refugee camps. An exile in his native land, Elias began a years-long struggle with his love for the Jewish people and the world's misunderstanding of his own people, the Palestinians. How was he to respond? He found his answer in the simple, haunting words of the Man of Galilee: "Blessed are the peacemakers." In *Blood Brothers*, Chacour blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the birth of modern Israel. He touches on controversial questions such as "What behind-the-scenes politics touched off the turmoil in the Middle East? ", "What does Bible prophecy really have to say? ", and "Can bitter enemies ever be reconciled?"

#### **The Lemon Tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East | Sandy Tolan**

In 1967, Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian twenty-five-year-old, journeyed to Israel, with the goal of seeing the beloved old stone house, with the lemon tree behind it, that he and his family had fled nineteen years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house he was greeted by Dalia Ashkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student, whose family fled Europe for Israel following the Holocaust. On the stoop of their shared home, Dalia and Bashir began a rare friendship, forged in the aftermath of war and tested over the next thirty-five years in ways that neither could imagine on that summer day in 1967. Sandy Tolan brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down to its most human level, suggesting that even amid the bleakest political realities there exist stories of hope and reconciliation.

#### **Mornings in Jenin | Susan Abulhawa**

A story about the life of a Palestinian family throughout the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, following their displacement from 1948 until today.

#### **The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land | Donna Rosenthal**

This is a great book to look beyond politics at the diverse lives, aspirations and challenges of ordinary Israelis.

#### **Dark Hope: Working for Peace in Israel and Palestine | David Shulman**

For decades, we've been shocked by images of violent clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. But for all their power, those images leave us at a loss: from our vantage at home, it's hard for us to imagine the struggles of those living in the midst of the fighting. Now, American-born Israeli David Shulman takes us right into the heart of the conflict with *Dark Hope*, an eye-opening chronicle of his work as a member of the peace group Ta'ayush, which takes its name from the Arabic for "living together."

## FILMS

#### **5 Broken Cameras (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2125423/>)**

An enlightening documentary sharing some serious eye-opening truths about journalism and its suppression.

#### **Budrus (<http://www.justvision.org/budrus>)**

A beautiful film about nonviolent Palestinian resistance and solidarity expressions by Israeli activists, with a positive message and example to our societies. Palestinian community organizer Ayed Morrar and his daughter Iltezam unite local Fatah and Hamas members along with Israeli supporters in an unarmed movement to save their village of Budrus from destruction by Israel's Separation Barrier. Budrus won over 20 awards internationally and was hailed by the New York Times as the "must-see documentary of the year."

**Promises** (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0282864/>)

A documentary that follows the lives of Palestinian and Israeli kids, and what happens to them when they grow up in conflict.

**The Gatekeepers** (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2309788/>)

A documentary featuring interviews with all surviving former heads of Shin Bet, the Israeli security agency whose activities and membership are closely held state secrets.

**Omar** (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2852406/>)

A love story amidst the occupation and working within a system of collaboration and manipulation.

**Little Town of Bethlehem** (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1602609/>)

"Little Town of Bethlehem" shares the gripping story of three men, born into violence, willing to risk everything to bring an end to violence in their lifetime. A Christian, a Muslim, and a Jew-shaped by events of their Palestinian and Israeli upbringing-find inspiration in the words and actions of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. Sami, Ahmad, and Yonatan believe that violence can indeed be stopped but recognize their own struggles will remain. Yet they will struggle together to discover a common humanity through non-violent action. In the city of Bethlehem where it is said God became man, these men stand alongside others whose central desire is to be accepted and treated as fully human. Their story brings fresh hope to the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel while taking a stand against violence throughout the world.

**The Wanted 18** (<http://www.justvision.org/wanted18>)

Humorous and thought-provoking, *The Wanted 18* shows the power of mass mobilization and nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation during the First Intifada – an era too-often simplistically depicted with stone-throwing Palestinian youth facing armed soldiers. This is a poignant film about nation-building from the bottom up, by the people not the politicians.

**My Neighborhood** (<http://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood>)

Only 25 minutes long, this short film tells the story of a young Palestinian boy. Mohammed El Kurd is a Palestinian boy growing up in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. His family loses half of their home to Israeli settlers leading a campaign of court-sanctioned evictions to guarantee Jewish control of the area. This Peabody Award-winning film captures voices rarely heard, of those striving for a shared future in the city.

**Home Front** (<http://www.justvision.org/homefront>)

A series of four short films chronicling the resolve of a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem, where families are struggling to keep their homes in the face of escalating Israeli settlement expansion. Residents are surprised when support comes from the most unexpected of places. Richard Branson called Home Front "films that make a difference."

**Encounter Point** (<http://www.justvision.org/encounterpoint>)

A story of everyday leaders who refuse to sit back as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates. Encounter Point follows a former Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother who risk everything to promote a future of freedom, dignity, security and peace for everyone in the region.

**Why are Palestinian Christians Leaving Jesus' Birthplace** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pa6igKc1M9s>) and (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHT-SjIM0tA>)

This is a short, informative video depicting life under occupation for Palestinian Christians, with a focus on the Palestinian Christian community in Bethlehem. It features CMEP partners such as Daoud Nassar of Nassar Farms/Tent of Nations, Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, and others. Part two focuses on the role of Evangelicals in supporting the occupation, which deeply affects Palestinian Christians.

## WEBSITES AND NEWSPAPERS

**Churches for Middle East Peace** - <http://cmep.org/>

CMEP works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all the people of the region. Sign up to receive weekly news and updates from CMEP's Bulletin directly to your inbox.

**Another Voice** - <http://www.anothervoice.info/>

A group of Israeli Messianic Jewish and Palestinian Christian women.

**Haaretz** - <http://www.haaretz.com/>

Israel Newspaper

**Jerusalem Post** - <http://www.jpost.com/>

Jerusalem Newspaper

**972** - <http://972mag.com/>

+972 Magazine is a blog-based web magazine that is jointly owned by a group of journalists, bloggers and photographers whose goal is to provide fresh, original, on-the-ground reporting and analysis of events in Israel and Palestine. Our collective is committed to human rights and freedom of information, and we oppose the occupation. However, +972 Magazine does not represent any organization, political party or specific agenda.



## Books

### **Messages from Egypt Series |** Steven J. Wunderink

Steve is an ordained minister in the Reformed church, an Egyptologist, and an OT Scholar (DMin from Fuller, and currently a PhD candidate in the UK). He leads many tours to Egypt, and has written these three books connecting ancient Egypt to the Old Testament.

- Desert Fathers: *Walking the the Paths of the First Monks in Egypt*
- Ancient Egypt: *Walking the Paths of the Ancient Egyptians*
- The Temple: *Walking through the Ancient House of Life*

### **Modern Egypt: What Everyone Needs to Know** (2018) | Rutherford & Sowers

The book begins with the 2011-2012 uprising that captured the world's attention before turning to an overview of modern Egyptian history. The book then focuses on present-day Egyptian politics, society, demography, culture, and religion - and then analyzes Egypt's core problems.

## NEWS

Daily News Egypt

The Egyptian Gazette

Egypt Independent

Egypt Today

Middle East Times

## WEBSITES

**Christian Religious Liberty in Egypt** by Mae Elise Cannon, [dojustice.crena.org](https://dojustice.crena.org), May 2022

**Report: Mossad chief secretly visits Egypt to discuss annexation**, Middle East Monitor, June 2020

**Report: Mossad chief met with Egyptian officials over sovereignty bid**, Israel Hayom, May 2020

**Overview of Israel-Egypt Cooperation**, Jewish Virtual Library

**A New Role for Egypt: Sisi's Government and the Arab Israeli Conflict**, Harvard International Review, 2015

**Movement of People via Rafah Crossing**, Gisha, 2018

**Israeli Natural Gas Giant Signs \$15 Billion Export Deal with Egypt**, Haaretz, 2018

## ACADEMIC UNDERSTANDING

- The Copts of Egypt: The Challenges of Modernisation and Identity, Vivian Ibrahim
- Two Thousand Years of Coptic Christianity, Otto F. A. Meinardus
- Christians versus Muslims in Modern Egypt, S. S. Hasan

