

1) What the church says

Some of the best descriptions of what Brethren believe about the Bible and peace can be found in Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statements. Go online and use the table of contents to read the Bible background in two of them:

- “Justice and Nonviolence” (1977)
<http://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1977justicenonviolence.html>
- “Peacemaking: The Calling of God’s People in History” (1991)
<http://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1991peacemaking.html>

2) Journal ideas

- Watch one of the trailers from *Another World Is Possible*, volume 1: “War,” by Shane Claiborne and Jamie Moffett
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOwDeoeNLeo>



In your journal, copy these quotations and talk about them:

“There are people who are believing [in the gospel] despite the evidence we see and watching the evidence change.” (Shane Claiborne)

“It’s not that we have tried the cross and it’s failed. It’s that we haven’t tried the cross.” (Dan Berrigan)

“This violence is for people who have lost their imagination. Have we lost our imagination?” (Hospital administrator in Iraq)

- Go online or look in a Bible dictionary to find the words *shalom* and *eirene*. Study their meanings. Online, find these words written in their original Hebrew and Greek letters: Shalom [<http://wiki.ask.com/Shalom>]; Eirene [<http://www.studylight.org/lex/grk/gwview.cgi?n=1515>]. Practice writing them in Hebrew or Greek in your journal. Remember that Hebrew is written right to left.



3) In your Bible

Highlight the passages listed in this session and write notes in the margins. Cross reference passages. For instance, in Luke 4 where Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah, write the Isaiah reference in the margin.

4) Learn



- To learn more about Jesus in the first century, watch parts or all of *From Jesus to Christ*, a Frontline video series available online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/>.
- Surf the Internet to learn about these or other famous Christian peacemakers.

Joan Chittister

Jim Wallis

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ched Myers

Shane Claiborne

Dorothy Day

Thomas Merton

Desmond Tutu



5) Prepare

Start gathering evidence for a file that demonstrates you are a conscientious objector and a Christian peacemaker. Include things such as a copy of your baptismal certificate, essays you wrote in school, letters to the editor, newspaper or church newsletter clippings that show you participated in youth conferences, mission trips, work camps, local service projects. At the end of *Call of Conscience*, you will compile all these items in a file to use as evidence that your faith leads you to oppose military service.