

# Welcome to

“Following the Way of Jesus: a Lenten Holy Land Journey”. The introduction week will introduce you to this 6 week series. Through this journey you will explore the Holy Land, the theology of Sumud and what it means for Palestinian Christians today.

Every Monday on Sumud’s facebook and instagram we will post the video for the week. This is what the video schedule looks like:

2/12: Introduction Video

2/19: Week 1: Sumud the Way of Jesus

2/26: Week 2: Good News or Great Joy For All People

3/4: Week 3: Belovedness in the Wilderness

3/11: Week 4: A Counter Cultural Message

3/18: Week 5: Things That Make Peace

3/25: Week 6: Journey to the Cross

Every Tuesday we will post the scripture, and discussion questions. You can share with your groups in whatever rhythm works for you! Here are the discussion questions for the introduction week:

## Discussion Questions

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. Christianity is indigenous to the Holy Land. How does that help us think about the stories of Palestinian Christians?
3. Palestinians use “sumud” to mean steadfast endurance, resilience, and “resistance through existence” in the face of injustice. What are some other examples of sumud in your own context?

## *Week 1:* Sumud the Way of Jesus

### *Scripture*

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

### *Highlighted Verse:*

Luke 1:46-53

"And Mary said,

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

### *Discussion Questions*

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. What is your favorite image of Mary and Jesus, and why?
3. How is Mary, through her song, an example of sumud?

## *Week 2:* Good News of Great Joy For All People

### *Scripture*

Luke 2:8-20

### *Highlighted Verse:*

Luke 2:8-10

"Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people"

### *Discussion Questions*

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. What would it mean for the promise of "good news of great joy for all people" to be fulfilled in the Holy Land and in the world?
3. What do we learn from Palestinian Christians about living with sumud in a time when the "good news" is not good news for all?

## *Week 3:* Belovedness in the Wilderness

### *Scripture*

Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-13

### *Highlighted Verse:*

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time."

## Discussion Questions

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. What are some of the ways you have "seen Jesus" acting in your life and in the world?
3. Jesus resisted the temptation to use his power for good, in order to use it for the sake of others. What does this "way of Jesus" look like today?

## *Week 4:* A Counter Cultural Message

### *Scripture*

Luke 4:14, 16-20

### *Highlighted Verse:*

Luke 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed

### *Discussion Questions*

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. Who do Jesus' words comfort, and who do they challenge? How do they make you feel?
3. What does sumud have to do with speaking up about injustice?

## *Week 5:* Things That Make Peace

### *Scripture*

Luke 19:28-42

### *Highlighted Verse:*

Luke 19:41-42

"As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

### *Discussion Questions*

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote about the difference between "negative peace" [the absence of tension] and "positive peace" [the presence of justice]. How does that apply to the Holy Land? How might it apply to your own community?
3. What are the "things that make for peace?"

## *Week 6:* Journey to the Cross

### *Scripture*

Luke 23:1-12, 26-56

### *Highlighted Verse:*

**Luke 23:33-35**

“When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

### *Discussion Questions*

1. As you watched the video, what did you notice, and what did you wonder?
2. Given what we've learned about the way of Jesus, and the concept of sumud, how do these ideas relate to the story of Jesus' journey to the cross?
3. What insights from this series will you carry with you into Holy Week and beyond?