



DARFUR: A Call To Action

Lessons from faith leaders



Discussion Guide for Christian Congregations

After the film, use the texts and questions below with the entire audience or break into small groups first and then return to the larger group to share ideas. You may wish to distribute this sheet before the film to acquaint the audience with these texts, or wait until after the viewing. We hope this discussion will lead your congregation to think about ways that you can help solve the crisis in Darfur.

1 **Text:** In James 1:27, it is written that, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” When the unnamed Darfuri woman interviewed in the camp said in the DVD: “They attacked our village and killed my husband and my daughter’s husband,” she took her place among the thousands of widows and orphans in Darfur.

Questions: *What does it mean to “look after” these widows who are a world away? Why do widows and orphans take on a special significance in this text and in Darfur?*

2 **Text:** In Matthew 25:40 it is written that, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Later, in Matthew 25:45 it is written that “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”

Questions: *What is the distinction between these two truths? How does it relate to our obligation to the people of Darfur? Are Darfuris “the least of these?”*

3 **Text:** The parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:36-37 includes the text, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

Questions: *What is the Sudanese government robbing the Darfuris of? Is that a fair analogy? Are we neighbors to the people of Darfur?*

4 **Text:** In the film, Moheamed Dafalla Ishag talks about his brother, who was like a father to him, and was shot five times in the back by the Janjaweed militia. He says, “If I have a chance to say something for my brother, I’m praying all days for you.”

Questions: *What role does prayer play in healing the wounds in Darfur? If you made a prayer for one person in Darfur, what would it say?*

5 **Text:** In the film, Bishop Ricard says: “One of the first questions in the Old Testament was ‘Where is your brother?’ when the Lord asked Cain where his brother Able was. And he says, ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ And throughout the remainder of the scripture is an answer to that question - yes you are!”

Questions: *Where in the Bible does God answer that question? How will we as a congregation be the keeper of our brothers and sisters in Darfur? As you read through the “What Can I Do?” options, which seem most appropriate for your group?*