Toward Ending the Occupation of Palestine

Social Policy Resolution
CA 25.03.13

الكنيسة الإنجيلية
اللوثرية
في أمريكا

A Bible Study for reflection on the ELCA's resolution CA 25.03.13

The following texts and questions relate to paragraphs in ELCA SPR CA 25.03.13 passed at Churchwide Assembly in 2025. Each paragraph beginning "**Resolved**" has a key phrase or word that is the focus of reflection. That word or phrase can be used as a guide to connect paragraphs in the SPR to scriptural texts in this study.

The resolution's first paragraph (outlining the ten synods involved in bringing memorials about justice in Palestine & Israel to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly) is not among the paragraphs cited. Reflections below begin with the resolution's second "**Resolved**" paragraph.

Resolved – advocate for peace

- **Psalm 85:8, 12**
- **Romans 5:10**
- **Ephesians 6:15**
- **Ephesians 2:13-22**

Questions for reflection: What do we learn from these texts about how ELCA members/congregations can advocate for peace with justice?

Resolved – sovereign states

- **Genesis 12:1-9**
- **Genesis 28:10-17**
- **Genesis 25:6-11**

Questions for reflection: Isaac and Ishmael come back together to bury Abraham – is this surprising? If so, why? What can this teach us about reconciliation and coexistence?

Resolved – antisemitism & Islamophobia

- **Genesis 9:28, 24-27, 10:21-32**
- **Genesis 1:26-28a**
- **Acts10:34-36**

Questions for reflection: All families of earth are blessed through Abraham – how do these readings inform respect for non-Christians?

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are commonly referred to as the "Abrahamic Faiths" through their shared lineage in Abraham. Yet, each tradition also has texts that have been used to justify harm. How can we help distinguish such actions from the faith traditions associated with them?

Resolved – end genocide and human rights violations

- **Deuteronomy 16:20**
- **Isaiah 1:17**
- **Jeremiah 7:1-7**

Questions for reflection: How do we respond to those who use scripture to justify aggressive or unjust acts while ignoring texts that promote mercy and goodness?

This resolution calls for outreach and accountability to US government leaders. How can we bear witness to the realities on the ground of our Palestinian siblings in our advocacy work?

Resolved – prayerful response

- **Mark 9:26-29**
- **Romans 8:26**

Questions for reflection: Talk about a time when you felt that prayer made a difference. What sustains our call to prayer when situations are difficult?

Resolved – accompaniment

- **Isaiah 58:8-12**
- **Mark 16:12-13**
- **Luke 24:13-34**

Questions for reflection: What are ways that you see God showing up in the work for justice? Where do you see the church walking alongside?