

A Challenge to Change Our Thinking About War
Overview of Course
Draft Facilitator's Guide
January 2011

This is an introductory overview course based on the book, "Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide". In four two hour sessions, this course will give participants the opportunity to:

- Explore the possibilities for a world without war
- Embark on a path to becoming an Everyday Peacebuilder

Note: If it is possible to have people come together for a "pre-meeting" in which they view the Beyond War DVD, meet people and get the book, it makes starting the course easier. It could also be an introductory evening in which they sign up for a course time slot. If there are fees involved (for purchasing the book and other materials to be provided, it is good to have that completed in advance of the first session, if possible.

Goals/Objectives/Outcomes

By the end of this course, our hope is that participants will have gained the following:

- A new awareness about conflict and war, and about the consequences of our choices in response to conflict;
- A broader knowledge about alternatives to war and ways to avoid war;
- A connection between their own attitudes, actions and responses and the means to live without war;
- A sense of empowerment in their ability to make positive change; and
- An interest in continuing to work with Beyond War to become an Everyday Peacebuilder.

Facilitator Instructions

We are in the process of refining this course and the facilitator instructions to make it contemporary and easy for new facilitators to help a group get going. As we test it together, please help us refine, correct and improve it in all aspects. As soon as we have our new website capabilities, we will set up an online way to share feedback. In the meantime, please e-mail or call Elaine Hallmark (elaine@beyondwar.org or 503-781-0116) with any questions, ideas, suggestions, etc. We will try to set up periodic conference calls for the facilitators who are pilot testing this curriculum to share experiences. Please let Elaine know of your interest in this.

Facilitator Role

The facilitator serves as the guide to get through the agenda and the experiences in the curricula. The facilitator is NOT trying to convince or even "teach" people, but rather to help people have an opportunity to explore the idea of building a world that works without war and to consider the guiding principles and personal implications. The facilitator does set the tone of inclusiveness, listening and respect that we hope groups will share. Help provide the tools for good interaction and for relationship building, but don't feel you have to be anything other than yourself.

Balance of Learning Styles

Adult learning research shows us that adults take in information in different ways—visually, aurally, and kinesthetically. We want to have a balance of each in each session, so we have tried to incorporate

videos, music, discussion of reading materials, and hands on experiences. If you have experience with other exercises, videos and music that would serve the goal of the session, feel free to substitute, but let us know what you did and how it worked. Also feel free to adjust the balance according to the “style” of the group you have. It is ok, after all, to have a straight book discussion group if that is what the group wants. You should always feel free to draw from materials in the book or the old discussion course as you go. This curriculum is an attempt to synthesize and update the best of what has been used in the prior courses, while also shortening the course to four sessions.

Timing

Times in the draft agendas are approximate and have been tested only with a group of about 8 participants. You will have to adjust for discussion times. With enough people you can often break into 2 sub-groups for exercises, especially if you have co-facilitators. The agendas list times based on a two hour meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. Please adjust for your time slot. Always regard the time as just a reminder of approximately where you should be in order to finish everything in the allotted time. It is sometimes necessary to skip things or adjust according to what is happening in the group. It is important to respect the commitment the group has made for starting and ending the session. You do not have to do everything.

Use of video and other resources

As noted, this version of the curriculum incorporates contemporary materials and exercises. Most of the videos are available from YouTube, which means you have to have a computer/video/audio hookup with internet access to be able to show them. As we get this ready for mass market, we may find a way to have the videos downloadable or available on DVD. In the meantime, please review each session in advance and be sure you are able to access the resources you need for that session. We will give you whatever support we can, but do not have a way of reproducing these materials yet.

We can send copies of the cd's that are mentioned as resources. It is best if you are able to copy the cd's for your group. All written resources should be included in this packet electronically, for you to copy for the session.

Help us improve this Guide

We know the facilitator instructions are not as complete as they might be. Please help us fill in the missing or clarify the confusing so we can make this work for the multitudes!! Thank you so much for helping us pilot test and refine this course.

Elaine Hallmark, Coordinator

elaine@beyondwar.org

503-781-0116 cell