

About Fighting

The Big Questions:

- How do we fight?
- How don't we fight?

Break the Ice:

- **If You Struck It Rich**
 - Give each participant an index card and a writing instrument.
 - Say: *Write your first and last names on the top of this card. Now, answer these questions without anyone else seeing your answers. If you struck it rich, what particular wrong would you fight? Why would you fight this wrong? How would you fight this wrong?*
 - Gather the cards and shuffle them.
 - Then read aloud a card. Ask the group to guess the author of the card.
 - Repeat until the time seems right to stop.

Look at the Book:

- Distribute handout: **Look at the Book**.
- Invite participants to read aloud together the scripture headed: Fighting—Two Tactics
- Ask a volunteer to read the scripture headed: How Not to Fight.
- Read to the group the scripture headed: How To Fight
- Invite participants to work in small groups or partners to respond to the three prompts of the Probing exercises. (The last Probing prompt is self-reflective.)

Interact:

- Say: *You are about to hear from Ben—a part of his story. Ben tries to live like Jesus taught. Part of Ben's struggle is that Old and New Testaments give different instructions about killing people. For example, in the Old Testament (II Samuel 5:18-19), David asks God, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?" God answers, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands."*
- *But in the New Testament, Jesus changes things for the people of God. Jesus comes right out and says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Ben believes that Jesus brought a new way. Listen to Ben's story.*

Supplies:

- Index card per participant
- Blank sheet of paper per participant
- Writing instruments
- You-tube video clip: Ben's Story—Chapter 4; link below
- Copies:
 - Look at the Book

- Watch Ben's Story, Chapter 4: *The Bible and War* at www.mcc.org/media/resources/3535 (six-minutes).
- Divide participants into small groups to discuss the following questions:
 - What surprises you about what Ben had to say?
 - What questions do you have about what Ben had to say?
 - What do you think about the following two statements?
 - If I kill a Christian in war, I am killing a brother or a sister.
 - If I kill an unbeliever in war, I am sending a person to hell.

Pray:

- Distribute a blank sheet of paper to each participant.
- Ask participants to look again at the scripture headed: How to Fight.
- Ask participants to identify a piece of the armor for which they feel a special need.
- Ask participants to write two items on their papers:
 - First and last names;
 - The piece of armor they have identified.
- Instruct participants to fold their papers into airplanes.
- Challenge participants to fly their airplanes as far from the group as possible.
- After the planes have landed, ask each participant to pick up a plane (not their own), find the owner, and pray about the piece of armor the owner needs.
- (When this first prayer is concluded, a new set of pairs needs to be formed in order for everyone to receive prayer.)