

**PRAY**

Someday, o Lord, you promised there will be no more wars and no more tears in the eyes of men.  
We still live under circumstances where there is no certainty that peace will last and weapons will fall silent. Protect us, Lord, from all forms of violence — in our closest surroundings, too.  
Make us creative in always sending new signals of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

**CONTEMPLATE**

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.  
Short silence.

**Exchange:** *What particularly appealed to you?*

**STUDY**

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).

**DISCUSS**

**Also discuss your own questions on this topic!**

**Treasure Book:** *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*

**CHALLENGE**

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at [feedback@youcat.org](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#DOCATChallenge:** *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*

**Mic 4:3**

He shall judge between many peoples and impose terms on strong and distant nations; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again

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**What should happen if war begins, despite everything?**

Wars of conquest and aggression are immoral in themselves. When a war breaks out, the responsible authorities in the State being attacked have the right and the duty to organize a defense, even by force of arms. This is why States can have armed forces and possess weapons, so as to protect their population from external attacks. Likewise, Christians, too, can be soldiers, inasmuch as the military forces serve to defend the security and freedom of a country and have peacekeeping functions. Enlisting children and youths as soldiers is a crime. Their deployment in armed forces of any sort whatsoever must be stopped, and the former “child soldiers” must be reintegrated back into society.

1. How do wars break out — at school, in the family, within a state, among nations? What is the result thereof?
2. Are disputes always bad? Is there even a duty to dispute, perhaps?
3. Are Christians allowed to be pacifists? Do Christians have to be pacifists?
4. De-escalation refers to „preventing conflicts and escalating processes“(German Wikipedia). How can you behave in a de-escalating manner when a conflict arises in your surrounding?

Make a list of persons you are not getting along very well with, who you never want to see again, or who you consider enemies.  
Read this list every night before going to bed over one week, forgive them and pray for them.

Do you take on this challenge?

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