

Study Guide: *Choosing Against War*

By John D. Roth

Introduction

What might have been other alternatives to resolving the situation of violence against the old man in the train car? Can you recall moments in your life when you were a witness to violence? How did you respond?

Chapter 1

Do the descriptions of how modern Christians avoid the question "What Would Jesus Do" ring true to you? Are there any themes that are clearly missing from the five points in Chapter 1 that summarize what it means to follow after Jesus in daily life?

Chapter 2

Do you recognize aspects of the "Nietzschean" worldview in modern culture? Is it thinkable that a war could be "just"? Where have you seen the "myth of redemptive violence" expressed? What is unique or distinctive about a Christian worldview?

Chapter 3

How do you understand the relationship of the Old Testament and the New Testament? There's lots of violence in the Old Testament — did God's will for humanity change on this point after Jesus came? How would you describe "Shalom"?

Chapter 4

Does the emphasis on humility in this chapter weaken Christianity's "prophetic edge" too much? Of the four kinds of humility described in this chapter, which is the toughest for you to live out? How have you witnessed to the gospel of peace with those who disagree strongly? What "strategies" do you have to recommend to others?

Chapter 5

What is your understanding of patriotism? What is meant or implied by the term? Is there anything about patriotism that the Christian can wholeheartedly affirm? Is America a "Christian nation"? If not, should it aspire to be one? How would you describe the role of the state? Is the state ever justified in using violence?

Chapter 6

What are some additional examples of ways in which Christians contribute to the civic well-being of their communities? Can pacifists be good citizens? Can/should a pacifist run for public office?

Conclusion

What questions do you think the book *Choosing Against War: A Christian View* fails to address?