**The Nonviolent Way of Jesus Christ**

The crisis of the Church in our times has set many Christians on a journey of thinking anew about their faith in Jesus Christ. The challenge for religious educators today is to invoke the same thirst for truth among their students in a culture where secular values often belittle those of a spiritual nature.

This 8 part unit provides students with the opportunity to view and learn about the world anew from a perspective that is little understood in today’s society. Students will learn about the Way of Jesus rooted in a nonviolent love of friends and enemies. Through critical analysis and cooperative learning students will be able to perceive how the radical teachings and life of Jesus if faithfully lived by his followers today would result in a completely different social order which would have an innate sense of stewardship for creation. Students will study how Christians have responded to the challenges of Jesus’ commandment for Christ-like love throughout history and how such things as Constantine’s conversion to Christianity and the just-war theory have distorted this irrevocably. In these particularly violent times with the onset of weapons of mass-destruction and the ecological threat to our planet, students will gain an insight into how only a nonviolent praxis will bring the world back from the brink of violence and destruction. It is envisaged a deepened spiritual awareness of the world will result.

