How do Christians reconcile a God who commands genocide (e.g., Deut. 7:1-2) with the God revealed in Jesus as love — including love of enemies? This seminar proposes a fresh reading strategy to answer that challenge. The goal is to help disciples of Jesus to read the whole of Scripture as God’s journey with us, toward the destination of a once-and-for-all end to all our violent conceptions of God. It introduces the impact of René Girard’s mimetic theory — one of the 20th Century’s most important innovations — from one of its most important thinkers.

Recent seminar participants had this to say:

“If you are looking for more insight into bible readings, look to Paul Nuechterlein as a teacher. He is knowledgeable about scripture history and places that history into today’s context. Additionally, he brings the peace/justice piece along to expand study. Excellent.”

“He is an excellent storyteller and gave wonderful examples of another lens to use in bible study.”

“He presents some complex material in language that is clear and easy to understand.”

Grow in your ability to pray with the Bible and apply its lessons to your spiritual life and faith community.

Who is this workshop for?

- Peace-makers and activists
- Faith-based community organizers
- Religious educators
- Preachers and pastors

Paul Nuechterlein is a Lutheran pastor who after 30 of congregational ministry is now leading seminars focused on bringing Scripture alive in a new way. For twenty years, he has authored and edited girardianlectionary.net, a rich homiletic resource.

“Paul Nuechterlein has helped me more than anyone else to read the Scriptures in light of Girard’s groundbreaking work. I’d encourage anyone and everyone to seize an opportunity to learn with Paul.” – Brian McLaren, author