Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Chapter 1: Introduction: The Bible Should Never Be Used to Harm Others 1

Part 1: Exploring the Old Testament’s Troubling Legacy

Chapter 2: The Old Testament’s Troubling Legacy 15
Chapter 3: The Pervasive Presence of “Virtuous” Violence in the Old Testament 27
Chapter 4: The Danger of Reading the Bible 45

Part 2: Proposing a Way of Reading the Old Testament Nonviolently

Chapter 5: Developing Good Reading Habits: Becoming Ethically Responsible Readers 61
Chapter 6: Reading the Old Testament Nonviolently 73

Part 3: Applying Nonviolent Reading Strategies to Violent Texts

Chapter 7: Confronting Canaanite Genocide and Its Toxic Afterlife 95
Chapter 8: Keeping the Old Testament from Being Used to Justify War 115
Chapter 9: Preventing Violence against Women 129