

The GlobalChurch Project

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## Daniel Bourdanne

### Local Church Small Group Resource

This resource is designed to help your small group discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways for understanding the mission of the church. Questions are organized in themes. Consider choosing the themes appropriate to your small group context. You don't need to cover all the questions. Allow for a time of response.

Small Group Preparation:

- Video: Daniel Bourdanne, 50 minutes.
- Scripture: Matthew 5:11-16
- Participants are encouraged to bring their own journals or writing materials.

Themes explored in the video:

- **Challenges for the church.**
- **Missional church**, and the **holistic gospel**.
- **Discipleship**, and the **holistic gospel**.
- **Lessons from the Majority World church.**
- **Global conversations.**

## Beginning the conversation

Consider the questions suggested below to start the conversation for your small group. They'll consolidate the content of the video, after you've viewed it.

1. What were the major themes in Daniel's responses?
2. How does Daniel describe the gospel and the missional church?
3. Discuss the difficulties of the content. What was difficult to understand? Was there anything you would like to clarify with the group?
4. Theological method: How is Daniel's theology informed and shaped by global cultures and student ministry? How does the global church inform his faith?

## Going deeper

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Daniel's theology. Consider the questions that respond to the issues raised in your preliminary discussion.

1. **Challenges for the church:** According to Daniel, what are the major challenges facing the church? What does Daniel mean when he says that the church is "teeth-less"? Discuss how the church has lost its convictions. In what ways is the church insecure?
2. **Challenges for the church:** "The church has lost confidence in itself: it is no longer standing on the conviction of the uniqueness of Jesus." How is the church fearful in not being able to articulate its convictions? Discuss Daniel's examples for this, with reference to Matthew 5:11-16.
3. **Challenges for the church:** What external pressures does Daniel highlight about the church? How is *pluralism* culturally redesigning the world, and what challenges does this pose for churches in different cultural contexts?
4. **Missional church, and the holistic gospel:** What does it mean for the church to be "missional"? Explain Daniel's statement: "The mission of the church is the mission of God". How, according to Daniel, might the churches mission at times differ from the mission of God?
5. **Missional church, and the holistic gospel:** Describe the heart of the gospel in terms of Christ's serving. How do serving and dying in Christ characterize the church's mission? Explain Daniel's missiology: how does Daniel understand the mission of the church through the work of Christ?
6. **Missional church, and the holistic gospel:** God has the power to provide resurrection for the church. If the church is not ready to die, the church will not experience the miracle of the resurrection, which is the power of God." How does Daniel's encouragement: "Our mission is to make ourselves available to the world and God will bring the revival", inspire the church?
7. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** Describe the challenges of making disciples in a global consumeristic society. How is discipleship in various contexts "not going deeper"? What does he mean by this?
8. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** How is the holistic gospel evidenced in committing your entire life to Christ? How are we commanded to be the salt and light of the world, with reference to Matthew 5:11-16?
9. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** Discuss the ways in which Jesus learnt from togetherness with his disciples? How is Matthew 5:11-16 a reflection of this?
10. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** How is discipleship about the holistic development of people? How is it beyond engaging peoples minds, and engaging their whole lives? How does Daniel encourage an integrated faith of engaged hearts and minds in all areas of life?
11. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** How does the majority world church teach about "becoming weak like Jesus"? How do the histories of Majority World countries shape theology and churches?
12. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** How does self-determinism in churches "no longer give a place to Jesus"? How does Daniel describe that Majority World churches welcome Jesus in suffering?
13. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** "The Enlightenment has made us autonomous. We have become blind to the spiritual realities and we are no longer engaged with spiritual battle". How does Daniel explain that the church has disengaged with spiritual combat? How does he suggest that Majority World churches teach in this?
14. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** How does a materialism effect church culture? Discuss: individuals ought to consider their possessions as blessings from God without having them take the place of God, and that possessions ought to lead believers to more acts of worship to God rather than constitute worship themselves. What do majority culture churches teach about attitudes toward materialism?
15. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** Why do churches reject alternate ways of looking at scripture and avoid developing new perspectives and consulting different viewpoints? How does Daniel suggest

this affects our understanding of the gospel, and how does Daniel suggest that Majority World provides a new insight to the speech of God?

16. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** What are the dangers of the church becoming too professional? Explain Daniel's statement: "My sense is that the church of God tends to grow in more chaotic setting". Do you agree: "God is not concerned about our professionalism, but our faith and our heart. Not really to do but to be who we are. I can understand the pressure of our society." Discuss the relationship between excellence and ministry.

17. **Global conversations:** How do local churches learn from global conversations? How do global conversations learn from local churches? Describe the ways Daniel encourages intentional spaces to emphasize, "Delight in theological and cultural diversity". How does Daniel's student ministry naturally create a space for students to deepen their faith and love of God?

18. **Global conversations:** How does Daniel suggest holding the tension of dialogue and diversity and the inevitable slide towards disagreement? What does he mean when he suggests that the tension is positive but "needs to be managed"? How does he suggest doing this?

19. **Global conversations:** What are the challenges inherent in dialoguing with other Christian traditions? According to Daniel, how does fear and insecurity about our convictions affect our inter-traditional dialogue? Describe the value of recognising the "common good" in tradition uniting?

20. **Global conversations:** Describe the practical ways Daniel describe churches empowering people in society? How can believers be present and offer hospitality in their own communities?

## Informing theology

Ensure the discussion is specifically drawing on your local setting. Make sure the discussion is relevant to the lives of faith for your small group. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

1. **Challenges for the church:** Do you recognize the "conviction-less" church in your own experiences? How do you know this to be true? What are ways that churches can become more convicted and prophetic? How can you begin this in your small groups?
2. **Challenges for the church:** How has the church "lost confidence in itself", and how has the church "become insecure"? What evidence is there for this? What are the associated challenges for your small groups?
3. **Challenges for the church:** How can your small groups recover the dimension of joy in the gospel? Describe the sense of excitement that the gospel brings. How is the gospel joyful? What is the opportunity in this, in your life and ministry?
4. **Challenges for the church:** Discuss the internal and the external pressures for the local church. How do you invite God into these contextual and cultural situations?
5. **Missional church, and the holistic gospel:** How is your small group and ministries serving others through the gospel? How can churches rediscover the mission of God in service?
6. **Missional church, and the holistic gospel:** How does God continue to assist us in advancing His mission? How do you feel helped by God's spirit? How is God affirmed in the work of the missional church?
7. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** How does discipleship concern the entire life? How does personal salvation lead to affecting communities and societies? How is the gospel not just concerned with the saving of souls, but working towards holistic transformation? Describe the holistic gospel, and discuss how this encourages you and how you minister this gospel.
8. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** How ought we rediscover discipleship in the context of families? How does Daniel encourage this, and how is this relevant in your small group's communities?
9. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** How do individualistic cultures frustrate spaces of openness? How does this impact discipleship? Discuss discipleship in your own contexts. How is God at work?

10. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** “This is discipleship: being together, exploring together and growing together in our faith in Jesus”. Discuss this statement. What are the complexities of this in an increasingly individualistic culture? How true is this in your own communities?
11. **Discipleship, and the holistic gospel:** How is discipleship about being accountable to one another, exploring the gospel together, asking harder questions and growing together in your small groups?
12. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** “We have everything but we still need Jesus”. How can churches become “humble to welcome Christ”? How can this attitude be cultivated in church communities, and in the contexts of your small groups?
13. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** “The church in the West should correct how they read the bible, realizing that they don’t have the monopoly of a good interpretation. Other parts of the world can approach the bible in a different way. Our way is not the only way to listen to God. We need to be open to learn and explore Scripture together as a community”. How does Daniel’s encouragement inspire you to consider other ways and cultures of interpreting Scripture?
14. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** What are the major lessons you learn from Majority World church? What do you want God to change in conformity with Matthew 5:11-16?
15. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** How have churches become professionalized? What are the risks of this? How can your churches encourage greater participation and involvement from laypersons? Discuss what Daniel suggests about chaos: everyone feels apart of the kingdom of God. Why is this important, not at the expense of excellence?
16. **Lessons from the Majority World church:** Describe the importance of an eschatological perspective on Kingdom participation: all participate in the Kingdom of God, because we have a future hope. How does this encourage you in your witness and faith?
17. **Global conversations:** How can your conversations celebrate commonality and advance the discussion on difficult issues? What are the possibilities of this in your small group and local church contexts?
18. **Global conversations:** “We are afraid to engage therefore we engage with the perspective of fear. We are cautious about our engagement, this is related to our insecurity and our convictions.” What are the fears and insecurities pertinent in your own contexts? How can you move to overcome these?
19. **Global conversations:** How does the gospel, and the scripture Matthew 5:11-16 encourage communities to engage with the world? How are your small groups practicing this?
20. **Global conversations:** What is the importance of engaging lay people in ministry? How does this make our communities excited to contribute? How can you encourage persons to become founded in their salvation as they are equipped for ministry in the world?

## Informing community

Facilitate the space for your group to respond to the discussion. You might consider this section as a personal time of written journal responses to the following questions.

1. What is God encouraging me, our small group and our community, to do?
2. In responses to the issues raised in the video, what are areas I want to ask for God’s forgiveness in and what do I need God to change?
3. How do I need God to minister to me and my community, for us to better engage with the contextual issues of our community and our global churches?
4. How can I gain a better understanding of missional discipleship and the global church? What do we ask that God would do in our hearts?

## Prayer

Spend time in prayer over what you've learnt.

Invite the ministry of the Holy Spirit to clarify, heal, and inspire change for your participants and communities.

## Links

**Website:** [www.theglobalchurchproject.com](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)

**Book:** Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2015)