

The GlobalChurch Project  
[www.theglobalchurchproject.com](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)



## Joshva Raja

### Group Discussion Guide

#### “Meeting Jesus Among the Margins, the Outcast, the Sick, & the Suffering”

This resource is designed to help your group discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways for understanding faith, theology, mission, and church. You don't need to cover all the questions. Allow for a time of response.

#### Group Preparation:

- Video: Joshva Raja, 8 minutes
- Scripture: Mark 2
- Participants are encouraged to bring their own journals or writing materials.

#### Theme explored in the video:

Meeting Jesus Among the Margins, the Outcast, the Sick, & the Suffering

## 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 Joshva Raja's responses?
2. How does Joshva describe Jesus's concern for (and presence among) HIV and AIDS sufferers?
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 Joshva's theology informed and shaped by his practical ministry? What approaches does he take in understanding God in the context of his day-to-day experiences and discipling?

## Going deeper

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Joshva's theology. Aside from discussing the issues theologically, think and talk about how to apply the principles in your own setting/s.

1. In "Is the Body of Christ Positive", Joshva Raja says that the church needs a "HIV positive theology of mission." As you listen to this video, and think about Joshva's ideas, what would you say a "HIV positive theology of mission" look like?
2. Listen to Joshva's story (and the story of his church and community) as they relate to people with HIV and AIDS. What did they learn from these experiences?
3. Millions of adults and children are infected with HIV and AIDS. Many of these are Christians, but not all of them are. Joshva says that many parts of the Body of Christ are infected with HIV and AIDS, and so are the communities we serve among. How should this shape our approach to those who suffer (both within the church, and outside of the church)?
4. How can the church serve among communities affected by HIV and AIDS?
5. How does this disease, and others like it, help the church better understand our theology and practice of mission today?
6. When Jesus healed people he touched them. He touched and healed the least, the broken, the outcast, the diseased, the rejected, the "unclean", and more. How does this inspire us to reach out to the margins?
7. When we meet Jesus at the margins, how do these margins become a center for caring, for fellowship, for renewal, for faith, for theology, and for service?
8. How does Jesus reveal himself to us at the margins of society?

## 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 response to the issues raised in the video, what are areas I want to ask God for forgiveness in? How do I need to change? What does God want me to stand up for?
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?
4. How can I (and we) gain a better understanding of the issues in this video? 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)