

The GlobalChurch Project

www.theglobalchurchproject.com



Amy Williams – Urban Youth Ministry

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. You don't need to cover all the questions. Allow for a time of response.

Small Group Preparation:

- Video: Amy Williams, 15 minutes
- Participants are encouraged to bring their own journals or writing materials

Theme explored in the video:

- **Serving Among Urban Youth**

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 Amy's responses?
2. How does Amy describe the importance of urban youth ministry?
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 Amy's theology informed and shaped by her practical ministry? What approaches does she take in understanding God in the context of her day-to-day experiences and discipling?

Going deeper

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

1. What inspired Amy's heart and passion for mission with urban youth?
2. What does "hope dealer" mean? Where did the name come from?
3. Why does Amy offer hope in a world of darkness? How is Jesus light in the darkness?

4. What are some key prevention and intervention strategies that Amy mentions?
5. What does this mean? “If he is the *I Am*, then I am the *I Am Not*”
6. What does this mean? “I am a recovering 4th member of the Trinity”
7. What is the role of life on life mentoring when working with urban youth?
8. Why did Amy move into the neighborhood with youth gangs?
9. What does it mean to do ministry *with no to* youth?
10. How does Amy stay spiritually fresh in such a demanding ministry?
11. Amy says she focuses on 3 things. Discuss these. “Knowing you’re called to the work, depending on God, and serving in community.”
12. What are the greatest challenges facing urban youth workers today?
13. What changes in youth culture are shaping urban youth work today?
14. What is the place of social media in youth ministry?
15. How can churches be more connected with urban youth today?
16. What does it mean to see youth as God sees them?

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 gain a better understanding of urban youth ministry? 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

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