



## **M. L. Daneel – The Growth & Dynamism of African Initiated Churches & African Earthkeeping Movements**

### **Small Group Study Guide**

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.

### **Materials**

1. Video: M. L. Daneel, 60 minutes.
2. Theme: The Growth & Dynamism of African Initiated Churches & African Earthkeeping Movements

### **Preliminary discussion**

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 M. L. Daneel's responses?
2. How does M. L. Daneel describe African church life?
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 Daneel's theology informed and shaped by his practical ministry? What approaches does he take in understanding God in the context of their day-to-day experiences and discipling?

## Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with M. L. Daneel's theology. Consider the questions that respond to the issues raised in your preliminary discussion. Apply the answers to these questions in your own setting. 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. Why do you think M.L. Daneel is passionate about theological education, community development, earthkeeping, African churches, and missiology?
2. Daneel describes the African Initiated Churches as social movements, as products of indigenous culture and leadership, and as creators of African theologies. What are some other ways he describes these AICs?
3. Daneel has initiated and became a driving force behind earthkeeping in Africa. There's been an amazing response by African traditional religions and the African Initiated Churches to the environmental devastation that had taken place in their country following the war of independence. How does he describe these earthkeeping practices, and how they've been shaped in Africa?
4. How do AICs engage in ecclesiological contextualization, and how does this relate to their growth?
5. How is prophetic church leadership expressed in the AICs?
6. What does an "Africanized" missionary strategy look like (consider some of the things Daneel mentions in the video)?
7. How is Christ the source of the holism and mission we see in African earthkeeping and in AICs?
8. How do we incorporate environmentalism into the heart of Christian sacramental life? And how might this demonstrate a holistic mission model that can be applied in other parts of the world (including the West)?
9. How do we empower grassroots communities to get involved in earthkeeping practices (including women and children and schools, etc.)?
10. How does the creative missional vision of the African earthkeepers bring hope not only to Africa but also to the entire world?
11. What social and ethical issues must African churches address today (Daneel names some of them)? Are these different from the issues faced in the West?
12. What can African AICs teach Western Christians?

## 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 mission and church in Africa? 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, 2016)