



Daniel Jeyaraj – Learning from Indian Christianity and World Christianity

College and University Class Resource

This resource is designed to help your classroom discussion. It has specific application questions appropriate to local church ministry contexts. Questions are ideal for paired discussions, group-forum style discussions, and personal reflective responses. Consider using a discussion method most suitable to your classroom setting. Select questions most appropriate to your group. Consider isolating particular themes.

Materials

1. Video: Daniel Jeyaraj, 60 minutes
2. Theme: Learning from Indian Christianity and World Christianity

Preliminary discussion

1. What were the major themes in Daniel Jeyaraj's responses?
2. How does Jeyaraj describe Indian Christianity?
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 Jeyaraj'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?

Explore and apply

Consider isolating a particular theme of interest for your classroom discussion. You might allocate topics for questions to particular groups or pairs. Or, raise particular questions in a forum style for group responses. Apply the answers to these questions in your own setting.

1. What do the Indian and Asian churches teach the West about inculturation in mission?
2. What do they teach us about the cross-cultural communication of the Christian message?
3. How has Indian Christian faith, theology, and witness affected the global church? (e.g. in areas like inculturation, cross-cultural communication, living as minorities, dealing with politics,

flourishing with limited resources, rejuvenating mission, hospitality, indigenization, etc.).

4. When we consider the Majority World churches today, what do we learn about the growth and decline of the church? What do we learn about the rejuvenation of mission?
5. What impact have Majority World (i.e. non-western) mission insights had in the past on Euro-American missionaries, their agencies, and their sponsors? What impact do they have today?
6. In a recent article, Jeyaraj wrote that Christian mission has three challenges. (1) Christian mission and colonialism are often seen as identical. (2) Some say Christian mission destroys culture. (3) Christian mission history often focuses on people like William Carey, to the exclusion of local, indigenous missionaries. What does Jeyaraj say in this interview, that addresses these three challenges?
7. How can Western Christians embrace courage and humility to bear the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ today?
8. How can Christians relate to other religions, with confidence, sensitivity, respect, and faithfulness?
9. What can the dynamism of Christians living in southern countries teach western Christians today?
10. What other things can Majority World Christians teach the churches of the West today, in theology, church, and mission?
11. What is the mission of the church? How does it pursue this mission?
12. How can western churches be missional in their own context, helping their members to act locally and think and serve globally?

Classroom ministry

Facilitate an opportunity for students to respond to the video in light of the classroom discussion. Consider inviting students to write their responses to the following questions.

1. What is God encouraging our class and me, 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 Christianity in India? What do we ask that God would do in our hearts?

Prayer

Spend time in prayer over what you've learnt. You may encourage your class to pray for one another. Or, in light of your discussion, you may choose to pray over your class.

Links

Website: www.theglobalchurchproject.com

Book: Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2016)