



## **Daniel Jeyaraj – Learning from Indian Christianity and World Christianity**

### **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: Daniel Jeyaraj, 60 minutes
2. Theme: Learning from Indian Christianity and World Christianity

### **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 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

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Jeyaraj'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. 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?

## 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 Christianity in India? 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)