

The GlobalChurch Project

www.theglobalchurchproject.com



Joseph Nyamutera – Healing and Reconciliation is the Message of the Church (A Story of Hope from Rwanda)

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: Joseph Nyamutera, 39 minutes.
2. Theme: Joseph Nyamutera – Healing and Reconciliation is the Message of the Church (A Story of Hope from Rwanda)

Preliminary discussion

1. What were the major themes in Nyamutera's responses?
2. How does Nyamutera describe reconciliation?
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 Nyamutera's theology informed and shaped by his practical ministry and context? 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 was Joseph Nyamutera's life like, growing up in Rwanda?
2. What did his experiences growing up teach him about ethnic prejudice and faith in Jesus Christ?
3. What was the history and shape of Christianity in Rwanda, before the genocide? How did this

contribute to the problems, and eventually to the genocide?

4. Why do Christians need to deal with issues of identity, and the way it is associated with ethnicity, nationalism, and so on?
5. Why does discipleship need to deal with issues to do with identity, unity, and overcoming enmity, division, hatred, and fear?
6. How does prejudice put an anesthesia in the heart?
7. What weaknesses were present in the Rwanda church before the genocide?
8. It is clear that Christians are called to be part of a new family. How do we embrace this new identity, without relinquishing our ethnicity, memory, natural identity, and personal and corporate history?
9. Issues of loyalty can sometimes threaten Christian identity and unity. How do we get better at submitting and offering our loyalties to Christ?
10. How do we make our primary loyalty to God and his kingdom?
11. How did Nyamutera experience God's faithfulness and promise in a refugee camp?
12. What was his journey to healing?
13. What was the story of Nyamutera's call to ministry?
14. What kinds of things does he (and others) do in healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation workshops?
15. How has God called Nyamutera and his team help other nations move toward healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation?
16. What are some of the features of successful conflict transformation?
17. What role does repentance play in reconciliation—both individual and corporate repentance?
18. How did a white Western person's repentance for what Westerners did to Africa, help the healing and reconciliation process?
19. How do we get better at blessings and honoring different ethnic groups?
20. What does it mean to express unity amidst the rich diversity within the people of God (and also in our societies)?
21. What does it mean to say that the church's message is a message of justice, healing, and reconciliation? How does this shape our proclamation, presence, and witness?

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 healing and reconciliation? 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)