

The GlobalChurch Project

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## **Charlie Abou Saada – Palestinian Christians are Living Stones in the Holy Land**

**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: Charlie Abou Saada, 19 minutes.
2. Theme: Palestinian Christians are Living Stones in the Holy Land.

### **Preliminary discussion**

1. What were the major themes in Saada's responses?
2. How does Saada describe Christianity in Palestine?
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 Saada'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?

### **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. Before watching this video, were you aware of the long and vibrant history of Arab Palestinian Christianity?
2. What are you going to do to become more informed about Palestinian Christianity, its concerns, expressions, and grassroots theology?
3. Why is Saada passionate about witness in Jordan, Israel, and Palestine?

4. What does it mean for Palestinian Christians to carry the cross of Christ in their situation, and in the light of the struggles of their people?
5. What are some of the things that are unique about Palestinian Christian faith?
6. How is Palestinian faith embedded not only in history and historical sites, but also in a living witness in the lands of Palestine?
7. Do you understand that Palestinian Arab Christians are indigenous Christian communities in Israel/Palestine? They are “living stones”, worshipping and witnessing to Jesus Christ.
8. What are the greatest challenges facing the Palestinian church today?
9. Why does Saada think that a strong Arab Palestinian Christian presence in the Holy Land will facilitate peace and justice in the Holy Land?
10. What are the ways that Palestinian Christians are witnessing to their society today?
11. Why do we move toward peace, by embracing forgiveness and justice? How is the progression from forgiveness to justice to peace?
12. How can Christians witness to Christ in multi-religious societies?
13. What does it mean to do mission and ministry through presence?
14. There has been an exodus of Christians from Palestine, due to the difficulties there. Yet, some determine to stay. Saada says that it is easy to lose faith, especially for Arab Palestinian Christians living in the Holy Land. How do we support Christians who choose to stay in the Palestinian Territories?
15. What are some of the qualities of spiritual leaders?
16. How can churches get better at making fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ?
17. How can Christians all over the globe build genuine relationships and partnerships with Arab Palestinian Christians today?

## **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 Palestine? 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](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)

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