

The GlobalChurch Project

www.theglobalchurchproject.com



Craig Stewart – Helping local churches see transformation in their communities

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: Craig Stewart, 24 minutes.
2. Theme: Helping local churches see transformation in their communities

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 Craig Stewart's responses?
2. How does he describe partnership with local churches?
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 his 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

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Craig Stewart'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. How was The Warehouse (in Cape Town, South Africa) established, and what does it do? (See: <http://www.warehouse.org.za>).
2. How does The Warehouse work alongside congregations as they work with local communities to address crime, poverty, injustice, and so on?
3. Why do they work alongside local church communities?
4. Why do they partner and come alongside church leaders?
5. What roles do encounter, training, and other events play?
6. How do volunteers ("time givers") contribute to what The Warehouse does?
7. What are the features of programs that are both effective and sustainable?
8. Why do we need to see justice and change as a long and patient process?
9. Why is cause and effect often hard to identify (they are complex), and why should this lead us to humility and collaboration?
10. What is wrong with the idea of "best practice"?
11. How does prayer (and listening and discerning) shape what The Warehouse does?
12. What does The Warehouse do among communities impacted by HIV and AIDS? How do they support local churches to address this issue?
13. What are some examples of their community based programs?
14. How are they seeking to ensure that the things they do will last long after The Warehouse has gone?
15. What is the mission of the church, and how should it pursue that mission today?
16. How can the church seek to make disciples today?
17. What role does Micah Global play in God's mission in the world today?

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 our small group 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 community transformation? 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

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