



Ajith Fernando – Jesus Driven Ministry

Discussion Guide

This resource is designed to help your small group or college class discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways to understand the issues discussed in this video. You don't need to answer all the questions. Please allow time for discussion and response.

Materials

1. Person Interviewed: Ajith Fernando
2. Theme of Video: Jesus Driven Ministry

Preliminary discussion

Consider the questions suggested below to start the conversation for your small group or college class. They'll consolidate the content of the video, after you've viewed it.

1. What were the major themes in this video?
2. How do those themes relate to your life and context?
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 the interviewee's theology and outlook informed and shaped by their practical ministry and context? What approaches do they take in understanding God in the context of their daily life and ministry?

Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with the 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 or college class. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

JESUS DRIVEN MINISTRY

- Ajith says that our ministry needs to be "Jesus driven." What does he mean by that phrase?
- In Jesus Driven Ministry, Ajith says that Christian spiritual leadership has distinct qualities. How, for instance, is service at the heart of spiritual leadership?
- How can Christian leaders more fully embrace service, instead of drivenness, dominance, power, and control?
- What does identifying with people look like in ministry (especially the broken, vulnerable, suffering, and poor)?
- Ajith says that the Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry and service (the Spirit gives power and fullness for service). How have you experienced that in your life?
- Why do we need to regularly retreat from activity (for times of solitude, prayer, study, and fasting)?
- How can we saturate ourselves in Scripture (the Scriptures are our authority, strength, security, qualification, and delight)?
- What are some key ways that we can disciple others, launching disciples into ministry?
- Ajith says that spiritual leadership is a whole-of-life enterprise, focused on bearing Good News. What does this holistic bearing of Good News look like?
- Christian leaders often neglect their prayer life. How does prayer enable ministry? How can we grow as leaders whose lives are saturated in prayer?
- Ajith says that "to serve is to suffer." How does infectious passion and spiritual leadership develop, as we travel down the road of frustration and suffering and pain?

RECLAIMING FRIENDSHIP

- In Reclaiming Friendship, Ajith says that we need to retrieve the Christian tradition of spiritual friendship. Why is real friendship often alien to our culture and churches?
- What are some ways we can nurture friendship in a frenzied, fragmented, fallen world?
- Why does Ajith turn to Proverbs and Ecclesiastes for insight into friendship?
- How is spiritual friendship central to such things as discipleship and community and mission and personal wholeness?
- How do we build spiritual friendship by lingering with others?
- How do we nurture spiritual friendships through vulnerability and openness?
- What role do redeemed egos and unselfish commitment play?

SHARING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

- Today, many of us live in multi-faith societies. What are one or two things we need to know, to effectively relate to and share the gospel with people of other faiths?
- Why role do the following things play?
 - Dialogue and persuasion?
 - Knowledge of other religions?
 - Respect, humility and sensitivity?
- How can we oppose deception with the truth of God's Word, but do this with love?

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 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 the issues discussed in this video? 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)