



Charles Ringma – Missional Spirituality: Reintegrating Prayer and Mission

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: Charles Ringma
2. Theme of Video: Missional Spirituality: Reintegrating Prayer and Mission

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.

1. What does a missional spirituality look like, and how does such a spirituality come about?
2. What things does missional spirituality bring together, that have often been separated?
3. What happened in Charles Ringma's life, that led him to explore change in his life, and also missional spirituality?
4. Who has helped Charles Ringma most as he has explored the integration between action and contemplation?
5. What is contemplation?
6. Why is contemplation for activists? Why do people who are active in the world need prayer and reflection?
7. How is mission a pathway to holiness and union with God?
8. How do dualism in Western Christianity affect the way we approach mission and spirituality? What are some of these dualisms?
9. Why do we need to reintegrate prayer and mission today?
10. What prayer and devotional practices does Charles Ringma use?
11. What did Charles Ringma's time in Asia teach him about prayer, mission, theology, and God? What does he mean when he says that it was a "conversion" experience (a "stripping down" of self)?
12. Charles Ringma's students taught him to trust God, even when they had nothing. They also taught him about praying to be led into ministries that might even cost them their lives. What did he discover in all this? What was the big discovery for him?
13. How can we truly become learners again?
14. What kind of spirituality do we need to busy, noisy, urban settings?
15. How do we shape a spirituality that is adequate for those settings, and that focuses both on mission and spirituality?
16. What are ways we can work hard against the pressures of our contemporary 24/7 culture, and create "Sabbath moments"?
17. How can colleges and seminaries help students form a missional spirituality?
18. "Prayer is not our most familiar territory. It is territory that we must learn to inhabit." Discuss this idea.
19. How did work among the urban poor (serving on the ground with people and communities) shape Charles Ringma's teaching?
20. Why is it important that we "incarnate" in neighborhoods? What does that mean (think about how Charles Ringma explains it), and how do we do it?
21. How and why does "incarnational ministry" lead you into prayer?
22. What is the greatest challenge facing the Western church today?
23. What most challenged you as you watched this video?

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)