



## **Elias Chacour – Blood Brothers: Blessed are the Palestinian, Israeli, and Other Peacemakers**

### **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: Elias Chacour
2. Theme of Video: Blood Brothers: A Palestinian Christian Continues to Work for Peace in Israel

### **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. In “Blood Brothers”, Elias Chacour describes his childhood and move into the priesthood. What struck you about his story? See the book here: [https://www.amazon.com/Blood-Brothers-Dramatic-Palestinian-Christian/dp/0801015731/ref=pd\\_lpo\\_sbs\\_14\\_t\\_0/142-2531486-9552661?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=74GBQDWVMBD20F5SYNDA](https://www.amazon.com/Blood-Brothers-Dramatic-Palestinian-Christian/dp/0801015731/ref=pd_lpo_sbs_14_t_0/142-2531486-9552661?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=74GBQDWVMBD20F5SYNDA)
2. What key experiences most shaped his call to ministry, to nonviolence, and to peacemaking?
3. How did his parent’s faith and devotion shape those passions?
4. What led him to found Mar Elias Educational Institutions?
5. How does he describe Mar Elias Schools?
6. How does he describe Ibillin?
7. What are Mar Elias School’s goals and activities?
8. Why does Chacour focus on youth and education?
9. Mar Elias is the only private campus in the history of Galilee where all the religions of the region study together with a vision for peace. How does that work? Are other groups seeking a similar path?
10. What are the key features of his theology of nonviolence?
11. How can the four major religious communities of the Holy Land (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Druze) move toward peace, reconciliation, collaboration, and steadfastness?
12. Chacour says that Christians need to embrace a vocation that is bigger than confessional or denominational boundaries—instead, behaving as Jesus behaved, and representing the living, risen one. How can we do that better?
13. How do we move from seeing people as enemies to neighbors and partners, and even friends?
14. In one of Chacour’s books, he challenges his readers to “get up, to go forward, to do something, to take the risk, and to make a difference for justice and peace.” What challenges does he present to you and me as we watch this interview?
15. How can Christians, from all parts of the world, recover a biblical passion for justice for all the peoples who live in this region?
16. How should they approach issues relating to Israel and Palestine?
17. What pains and grieves Chacour most in his work?
18. What gives him the most joy and satisfaction?
19. Where does he see signs of hope, in a land full of conflict?

## 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](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)

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