



Joel Edwards – Rehabilitating “Evangelical” and Pursuing Spiritual and Social Transformation

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: Joel Edwards
2. Theme of Video: Rehabilitating “Evangelical” and Pursuing Spiritual and Social Transformation

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 "An Agenda for Change", Joel Edwards challenges the church, and especially evangelicals, to embrace a fresh mission. How does Edwards define an Evangelical? How would you define an Evangelical?
2. Edwards says that we need to go back to Scripture to recover or "rehabilitate" the idea of being "Evangelical." How will Scripture reshape the way we approach being evangelical?
3. How do we humbly reassess our tribal theological rigidities?
4. Do Evangelicals shy away from proclaiming Christ today? And, have we become too apologetic for our faith?
5. How can Evangelicals get better at integrating proclamation, social action, reconciliation, justice, care for creation, passion for prayer and Word, and so on?
6. Why is inter-faith and multi-faith dialogue critical for the future of the church? How do we get involved in such dialogue?
7. How do we present the uniqueness of Christ in a culture that values diversity and pluralism?
8. How do we maintain a credible witness to Christ in societies that are increasingly against God in the public square?
9. Does this mean we need to "un-domesticate" Christ, and how do we do this?
10. Edwards says that to start a movement for the social and spiritual transformation of nations, we need long-term thinking. What does Edwards mean, and what does this look like?
11. How is Christian citizenship integral to discipleship?
12. What else does Edwards say about how we can unveil Christ to government and culture, business and marketplace, the poor and the marginalized, etc., with a vision for the Gospel and for a transformed world?
13. How can we re-conceive Christian leadership, so that Christians "lead today for a just tomorrow"?
14. What are the key attributes of leaders who lead others in God's work of justice?
15. What is the cost of "just leadership"?
16. What else struck you about the things Edwards says, 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)