



Michael Goheen – A Light to the Nations: Renewing Our Passion for Local & Global 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: *Michael Goheen*
2. Theme of Video: *A Light to the Nations: Renewing Our Passion for Local & Global 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. In *Introducing Christian Mission Today*, Michael Goheen unpacks biblical, theological, historical, and contemporary issues in mission. Why does he believe that we should see Scripture as a narrative record of God's mission?
2. How do we get better at reading Scripture that way?
3. What's the difference between a "theology of mission" and a "missional theology", and how do they relate?
4. What historical paradigms of mission have shaped and limited the church's mission? (in the Early Church, Christendom, Enlightenment, etc.)
5. What are the features of an emerging ecumenical paradigm of mission?
6. How is the shift to the Global South shaping missional theology and practice?
7. What does "holistic mission" look like? (i.e. combining word and deed, mercy and justice, evangelism and dialogue, etc.)
8. What are the key features of faithful contextualization?
9. Goheen calls for a "missiology of western culture." What does this mean?
10. How can the church embrace a missionary encounter with world religions?
11. How do we do mission amidst religious pluralism?
12. How is urbanization shaping mission today?
13. What does "a theology of mission for the city" look like?

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)