



Munib Younan – Seeking Peace in Jerusalem and the World

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: Bishop Munib Younan
2. Theme of Video: Seeking Peace in Jerusalem and the World

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. Bishop Munib Younan is the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and President of the World Lutheran Federation. How does he describe his current ministries?
2. In “Witnessing for Peace: In Jerusalem and in the World”, Younan opens with a story about being the only Christian representative chosen to accompany Muslim leaders in a meeting with Pope John Paul II. Immediately after this wonderful moment of interfaith cooperation, he was accosted twice—first by a Muslim extremist man and then by a Jewish woman who spat on him because of the cross he wore. This juxtaposition of mutual respect tempered with outbursts of hatred sets the stage for his book. How does he describe this story?
3. What have such moments revealed to him about Palestinian Christianity, and about peace in the Middle East?
4. What are the key features of his own theology of Martyria and nonviolence?
5. In what ways does our Christian call to witness necessarily include a call to justice, inclusion, and forgiveness? How do these things shape and enhance our witness?
6. Today, we see so much suffering, violence, oppression, and injustice. How can Christians be witnesses in a suffering world?
7. What examples does he provide of people or groups who are doing this well?
8. What are some ways the people of Palestine and Israel can work together for dialogue, peace, and justice?
9. Younan says, “The Church comprises the group of believers who have a clear distinctive identity.” How does he describe that identity?
10. How does “Incarnation theology help Arab Christians understand their identity”?
11. Younan says, “Belonging to Arab Christianity is an unceasing responsibility that falls on the shoulders of every Arab Christian living in the Holy Land.” What is this responsibility, and how is it lived out?
12. What is the mission of the Church in a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-national society?
13. How is the mission of the church fundamentally about love, peace, and justice, for all humanity? (i.e. “a mission of human service” to all people, regardless of ethnicity or religion)
14. What does he mean when he says the church has an “educational mission”?
15. What is the role of “coexistence and mutual dialogue” in this mission?
16. What are Younan’s “principles for witness in theological dialogue”?
17. Why does dialogue between the three monotheistic religions require a robust theology of creation?
18. How does such a theology defy the bigotry, racism and fundamentalism that prevail in the world these days?
19. How do we get better at exploring the common values in these religions? (family, equality, justice, peace, love, etc.)
20. What examples does Younan give of persons of the three monotheistic religions have sought to cooperate to work toward peace, reconciliation, and justice?

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)