



Perry Shaw – Transforming Theological Education

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: Perry Shaw
2. Theme of Video: Transforming Theological Education
3. See Perry Shaw's book, here: <https://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Theological-Education-Practical-Integrative/dp/1783689579>
4. See the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary website, here: <http://www.abtslebanon.org>

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. Recently, Perry Shaw wrote *Transforming Theological Education*. What is the main idea he's trying to communicate in that book?
2. What drives his passion for empowering students for service in the church and society?
3. What experiences of ministry and theological education led him to write the book?
4. How has the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Lebanon reshaped its approach to training with new paradigms and instructional techniques in an integrative and holistic curriculum?
5. What did they do well in this change process, and what mistakes did they make?
6. How is what happened at ABTS being explored in other parts of the world (i.e. applied in other theological colleges)?
7. How does intentionality in institutional language and culture help in this process?
8. Why is it important to use learning outcomes to reshape a syllabus?
9. ABTS's core educational values are authentic worship, missional church, Christlike leadership, empowerment, reflective practice, community cohesion, and personal and spiritual development. Why were these important?
10. How did ABTS integrate these values and outcomes in the syllabus and training?
11. What does multidimensional and deep learning look like, when it fosters cognitive, affective, and behavioral development?
12. What elements of class instruction need to change, in this model?
13. How can students reflect theologically on ministry and everyday life?
14. How do students learn from other cultures? Learn in context? Learn through problem solving?
15. How can academics move from ego-driven teaching to helping emerging leaders in their growth and pilgrimage?

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)