



Sam Marullo – Releasing Missional & Transformational Churches

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: Sam Marullo
2. Theme of Video: Releasing Missional and Transformational Churches

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. Sam Marullo received the Robin Williams Award from the American Sociological Association, which honors an individual with an outstanding scholarly career in the study of peace, war, genocide, and justice issues. Over the years, how has his work focused on social justice issues?
2. How has his focus on social justice helped him understand the structures of inequality?
3. How has it helped him uncover ways to change such inequalities?
4. How can Christians – no matter where they find themselves in life - serve others and be in just relationships?
5. Why is it worth fighting the good fight for the cause of social justice? And, how do we fight this fight?
6. Why is commitment to justice and peace and equality a life worth living – one of joy and gratitude for all God's love and gifts, freely given to us?
7. Sam directs the Center for the Missional Church at Wesley Theological Seminary Downtown. Why does this center institute exist, and what does it do?
8. What are his strategies for equipping leaders for missional engagement in the world?
9. How does his training help to "turn churches inside out" as leaders learn about fruitful ministry practices in service, mission, social justice, and community transformation?
10. What are the key personal qualities of missional leaders?
11. What key skills do missional leaders need today?
12. How do we get better at training and releasing missional leaders?
13. What kinds of spiritual practices do Christian leaders need today, to grow as disciples and missional leaders?
14. What are the greatest challenges facing the church today?
15. What social and ethical issues must the church address today?
16. What is the mission of the church? How does it pursue this mission?
17. How can the church renew its mission?
18. How can the church activate all of God's people in mission and ministry?
19. How can the church make missional disciples of Jesus?
20. What spiritual qualities and skills do effective missional leaders need today?

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)