



Ray Minniecon – Authentically Indigenous, Authentically Christian

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: Ray Minniecon
2. Theme of Video: Authentically Indigenous, Authentically Christian

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.

Ray and Sharon Minniecon are Australian Aboriginal Christians who lead Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries.

Here's what Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries say about themselves:

Our Values...

We are a ministry for the Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Australian South Sea Islander community.

We aim to build strong and healthy community through respect for culture, heritage and customs.

Who We Are...

We are an Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Australian South Sea Islander ministry based in the inner-city suburb of Glebe, Sydney.

Our core is community, worship, and growing personally and together. We do other things, but this is our core.

Ministry is through community and justice support, counselling, and special projects.

Community is built up by monthly gatherings and special events, like NAIDOC Week and the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

What We're About...

The Jesus Way... living in spiritual closeness with the land, our culture and our heritage.

Being deeply joyful about our Creator.

Being authentically Indigenous and authentically Christian.

Being a part of St Johns Anglican Church, Glebe, Sydney.

Meeting unmet needs in our community.

See the Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries website...

<https://scarredtreeindigenouministries.wordpress.com/>

Discussion Questions...

1. What did you learn about Ray and Sharon Minniecon's ministries?
2. What does Ray Minniecon say about the vibrant life of Redfern (in Sydney)?
3. What is the mission and purpose of Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries?
4. What does Indigenous Australian Christianity teach the wider Australian church, and the global church?
5. What does Ray Minniecon think about Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's 2008 apology?
6. What does Ray Minniecon think about the Australian government having a treaty with its Indigenous people?
7. What are Ray Minniecon's thoughts on the possibilities/necessities for Indigenous theologians to weigh into Australian public life?

8. Ray Minniecon says “healing is a meaningless word for Aboriginal people, because we possess a wound that cannot be healed.” What does he mean?

9. Is reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians possible, or not? If it is possible, what kind of justice and restitution needs to happen?

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)