



Barbara M. Leung Lai –

How Daniel Gives Insight into Multicultural & Minority Experiences of Faith

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: Barbara M. Leung Lai
2. Theme of Video: How Daniel Gives Insight into Multicultural & Minority Experiences of Faith

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. The book of Daniel speaks to the experience of diaspora. What are the six diaspora stories in Daniel?

2. How does Professor Lai engage the book of Daniel as a first-generation Chinese Canadian and as a minority person in her profession?
3. What's the juxtaposition between Daniel's "captive" experience and Lai's experience?
4. How does Daniel cross borders between his home and host culture, and how does this reflect the diaspora experience?
5. How does Daniel break away from a captive status to become an aspiring sage in an adopted culture, and how does this relate to diaspora persons?
6. The book of Daniel has been employed, engaged, and critiqued in postcolonial discourse. Why is this so? And what do you think about this approach to Daniel?
7. How does Daniel help us look into the future with uncertainty but also genuine hope?
8. Daniel is part of a minority, learning to cope in a foreign setting. How and why does he turn to a creative use of satire and humour? How does this relate to diaspora communities today?
9. What cognitive dissonance do we see in Daniel as an aspiring sage (chapters 1–6) and as a dysfunctional seer (chapters 7–12)? How does this mirror the experience of minority students and scholars of the Bible?
10. What other things can diaspora communities teach the church in the West 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

Books:

Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2016).

Graham Hill, *Salt, Light, and a City (Second Edition): Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community: Volume 1, Western Voices* (Cascade, 2017).