



Robert Cousins – Mobilizing the Intercultural Church

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: Robert Cousins
2. Theme of Video: Mobilizing the Intercultural Church

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. Robert Cousins is the Director of Tyndale Intercultural Ministries Centre (TIM Centre), which seeks to engage and encourage multicultural leaders in global missions. What are the aims and activities of the TIM Centre?
See: <https://www.tyndale.ca/tim>
2. Why is Cousins passionate about training people for multicultural leadership and mission?

3. In Cousins' doctoral research, he focused on developing a training program for equipping inter-culturally competent leaders. What did he discover in that research, and what recommendations did he make?
4. What are the key features of intercultural communication?
5. How do Christian leaders analyze how their own cultural values influence their leadership and communication?
6. How can we better recognize cultural differences and how they impact communication?
7. What is the adaptation process of entering another cultural context?
8. What skills do Christian leaders need today, for effective intercultural relationships?
9. How can we develop skills for handling intercultural conflict, and what are these skills?
10. What are ways in which we can develop self-awareness regarding our intercultural leadership capacity?
11. What are the key features of a biblical theology of cultural diversity?

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).