



María Elena Mamarian – Addressing Domestic Violence in Church and Society

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: María Elena Mamarian
2. Theme of Video: Addressing Domestic Violence in Church and Society

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. What motivated María to get involved in family-related issues and the prevention of family violence?
2. Violence in the family seems to be a major problem today. Is such violence widespread, and is any social class exempt?
3. How is silence the main accomplice of violence in the family?
4. Why are churches and victims and families silent on this issue?
5. How can Christian churches be at the forefront of the fight against violence in the family?
6. How do the Scriptures provide the necessary resources for churches to form people willing to break the silence on this endemic?
7. How does the Spirit of God enable shalom in interpersonal relations in general, and families in particular?
8. How can churches work with families and governments and other organizations to break the silence on family violence, and to become agents of change?
9. What's the biggest misconception you encounter about family violence today? How do we deal with this?
10. María has written that losses in life tested our internal resources, even our faith. How do they sometimes produce ruptures of our hopes and dreams?
11. How do we better understand the nature of these losses?
12. What does it mean to feel compassion for those who suffer?
13. How can we recover the value of hope in God, who keeps us firm and secure?

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).

Graham Hill and Grace Ji-Sun Kim. *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* (IVP, 2018).