



J. Dudley Woodberry –

Sharing the love of Jesus with Muslims today

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: J. Dudley Woodberry
2. Theme of Video: Sharing the love of Jesus with Muslims today

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. Born to second-generation missionaries to China, Dudley Woodberry spent his life and teaching career building bridges between the Western world and the Middle East, leading the way in Islamic studies, and training countless evangelical missionaries to work in the Islamic world. What were the origins of his passion for mission, the Middle East, and witness within Islamic contexts?
2. How does commitment to mission run through generations of Woodberry's family?
3. What happened to Woodberry as a child in the winter of 1939, that led him to the conviction that he had been saved for a purpose?
4. As a missionary and scholar with a particular interest in Muslim-Christian relations, Woodberry had some extraordinary experiences. What happened, for instance, during his 2014 visit to Tehran, and what was he doing there?
5. How do Westerners in general—and evangelicals in particular—often misunderstand Muslims and Islam?
6. Why do Westerners often see Muslims as an unsophisticated people, completely ignoring their highly varied and developed cultures rich with art, tradition, and theological reflection, and so miss an opportunity to connect and witness?
7. What does it mean to love and appreciate the indigenous culture of the Islamic nations for what they were, while still yearning to bring the redeeming love and light of Christ to them?
8. How did engaging folk Islam help Woodberry make great progress in building bridges between Christianity and Islam, and in leading Muslims to Christ?
9. How does one distinguish between formal and folk Islam?
10. What are the key facets of "Muslim popular piety", and why should we pay great attention to these?
11. In Woodberry's research in South Asia and in Africa, he showed that Muslims were coming to faith in Christ not only in an "attractional model" but also in a "transformational model." Can you please explain the difference? (Not just being attracted to church, but studying the Bible stories of people mentioned in the Qur'an within trusted groups of fellow Muslims, and thus gradually coming to faith in Christ as Savior).
12. There is a lot of debate these days about whether Muslims and Christians worship the same God. Where do you stand on that question?
13. Woodberry says that the Muslim world wants justice as well as peace, and that injustices committed by the West have fueled Islamic militancy. Can you please explain?
14. Recently, Muslims have begun to see the West as unjust, but it wasn't always that way. How and when did Middle Eastern views of the West change?
15. What role do Christians play as peacemakers and as advocates for justice?
16. How should Christians think about Islam and Muslims today?
17. How should Christians think about Islamic militancy, and what role do we have in helping solve that global problem?
18. During the last couple of decades, Woodberry and his family have been quite involved in Pakistan and Afghanistan. What has he been doing there?
19. Woodberry's life has included some extraordinary experiences: (1) three arrests in three countries, (2) hitchhiking from New York to Ecuador and through Iran, Pakistan, and India, (3) working as a deckhand for passage from Panama to the United States, (4) negotiating on behalf of hostages, (5) speaking with heads of state, (6) consulting on the Muslim world to President Jimmy Carter and the State Department, and (7) weaving through civil wars and revolutions...

- What has been most difficult in his years of service?
- What has given him most joy in your ministry?
- What is his hope for the future of Muslim-Christian relations?
- What is his hope for the future of Christian witness in Islamic contexts, and how does it need to grow and mature?

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

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).