



Ali Abu Awwad –

Painful Hope: Seeking peace, reconciliation and hope, through nonviolent solutions to conflict

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: Ali Abu Awwad
2. Theme of Video: Painful Hope: Seeking peace, reconciliation and hope, through nonviolent solutions to conflict

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. Today, the world is full of conflict. Many of these conflicts run deep, and are associated with histories, injustices, and ethnicities. What causes conflict? What role do religions play in stoking or resolving conflict?
2. Can you please tell us something about Roots? Why was it founded? What are its aims and programs? <https://www.friendsofroots.net/>
3. What are the roots of conflict?
4. During times of conflict, we often take one side or another. How do we go beyond that, and become “pro-solution” and “pro-peace”?
5. What does history tell us about the nature and activities of nonviolent liberation?
6. What are the features of nonviolent communication?
7. Why does reconciliation begin with seeing the humanity of your enemy?
8. How can people live into their own story of hopes and sufferings, while making room for the other's truth and experiences?
9. How do we challenge hate and suspicion, and transform the enemy into neighbors and partners?
10. Do you have some stories you can share, that illustrate how enemies can become neighbors and partners?
11. The Western perspective is always now. We have to solve the conflict now. But some conflicts go back hundreds, even thousands, of years. What does this mean for the way we view and approach conflict and peacemaking and solutions?
12. What role do religion and faith have to play in peacemaking and reconciliation?
13. What else stood out to you in this interview? What did you learn? How will you change?

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).