



Name: Christopher J. H. Wright

Title: The Mission of God & the Mission of God's People

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: Christopher J. H. Wright
2. Theme of Video: The Mission of God & the Mission of God's People

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. In 'The Mission of God's People' Wright offers us a biblical theology of the church's mission. Why do we need to know the story we are a part of in order to be missionary? In broad outline, what is that story?
2. What does it mean to say that "Our mission is to participate with God in God's mission"?
3. In simple terms, what is a "missional hermeneutic"? How does it take us beyond mere "biblical foundations for mission"?
4. In a postcolonial and secular world, there is some anxiety or timidity in mission. How does this story of God restore our confidence in mission?
5. How does the Old Testament portrayal of Yahweh - the unique and only living God - inform our mission and push back on our contemporary idols?
6. What key aspects of the life and message of Jesus most shape your vision of mission?
7. What does it mean to be a blessing to the nations?
8. How do the Exodus and Jubilee shape our vision of redemption and restoration, and our approaches to mission?
9. What does it mean to be God's covenant people and how does this affect our witness and Missional ethics?
10. How does wisdom literature help to relate the specific story of Israel to the wider world?
11. Developing various statements from the 1980s, Wright says "the 5 marks of mission" are evangelism, teaching, compassion, justice, and care of creation. Wright condenses these into three major missional tasks: (1) Building the church, (2) Serving society, and (3) Caring for creation. What does Wright say about these?
12. Wright says that this is a holistic mission. What does he mean by that?
13. What does it mean to understand the gospel as not merely a ticket to heaven, but rather the declaration of the whole-Bible story of salvation?
14. How is teaching included within our obedience to the Great Commission?
15. There's been debate recently about the relationship between social justice and the gospel. How should we view the relationship between justice, mercy, and mission?
16. How is care for creation part of our mission today?
17. In Wright's book "The 5 marks of mission", he describes 3 implications of all this. I'd like to go through each one and get your thoughts on them:
 - a. "God's whole mission is for God's whole church (but everybody can't do everything)."
 - b. "The whole church's mission includes every church member (but we have different callings and sendings)."
 - c. "Every member's mission includes the whole of life (there is no secular-sacred divide)."
18. What does all this mean for our lives, as we live and work in the public square?
19. Is there such a thing as missional prayer, and what does it look like?
20. How does God's mission confront our prejudices and idolatries?
21. What do we Christians most misunderstand about the mission of God?

22. What most irritates you about the way people talk about mission?
23. How would you describe the relationship between mission and theology? How about mission and theological education?

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

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

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

Graham Joseph Hill. *Salt, Light, and a City: Conformation—Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community: Volume 2, Majority World Voices* (Cascade, 2020).

Graham Joseph Hill. *Holding Up Half the Sky: A Biblical Case for Women Leading and Teaching in the Church* (Cascade, 2020).

Graham Joseph Hill and Michael Frost. *Hide This in Your Heart: Bible Memory for Discipleship and Mission* (NavPress, 2020).