

The Imam & the Pastor

Suggested questions for discussion

1. What struck you most about the film?
2. The film depicts a journey from vengeance to forgiveness. What are the key steps leading to a change of heart for each man? Who made the first move to forgiveness? Why? At what point did James change and realise the Imam was genuine?
3. Pastor James says, “*We are like a husband and wife that must not divorce.*” There is a strong unity. Yet both are committed to their own faith and practice, while giving space to the other to practise theirs. What examples do they give from their scriptures teaching them to be inclusive, respectful and peacemaking?
4. What is now being done in Kaduna as a result of this reconciliation between the two men?
5. This is an inspiring story. Talk about a time when you were inspired by a friend or a leader eg Mahatma Gandhi. Does *The Imam and the Pastor* have a message of inspiration for countries beyond Nigeria?
6. Do you have experience of living in a town or city which has divisions in its communities or people from many places? What are the things that seem to cause divisions or even violence? What is being done to create healing and harmony? What more can be done?
7. Is there a practical challenge in this film for you? How do you resolve differences? What in your faith tradition or moral upbringing inspires you to be a reconciler and work for the common good?

(Questions continued on back)

see inside for background information on Nigeria

1.

Further questions for church-based study groups

1. What examples does the Holy Bible give us of reconciliation?
2. How does the teaching of Jesus Christ suggest we respond to violence and hatred?
3. What models can you find in history of Christians bringing love and harmony instead of aggression and alienation?
4. How, according to the teachings of Christianity, should Christians treat Muslims, or those of other faiths?

Bible example: Luke6:27-36, Matthew5: 3-12 Acts7 54-60

OR Further questions for mosque-based study groups

1. What examples does the Holy Quran give of reconciliation?
2. How does the teaching of Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) suggest we respond to violence and hatred?
3. What models can you find in history of Muslims bringing love and harmony instead of aggression and alienation?
4. How according to the teachings of Islam, should Muslims treat Christians, or those of other faiths?

Quranic ayat: ch 60 v 8, ch 42 v 40, ch 42 v 43

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Nigeria is one of the leading countries on the African continent. With a population of over 140 million (based on 2006 census), it is the most populous country in Africa. Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo are the major ethnic groups, while Islam and Christianity are the main religions. The Hausa, who are predominantly Muslim, live in Northern Nigeria. South-Eastern Nigeria is populated by the mainly Christian Igbo. And the Yoruba, evenly distributed among Christianity, Islam and traditional beliefs, dominate the South-West. Minority tribes are also found in each of the regions. The Niger-Delta and Middle Belt are examples of where minority tribes are seeking more rights. It is important to note that the African traditional beliefs are distributed amongst a small fraction of the population. People who are neither Muslims nor Christians are found in all parts of the country.



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Nigeria's official language is English. Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba as well as Pidgin English are also commonly spoken.

The country is made up of 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. It operates a Federal system of government in which power is shared between the Federal Government and the State and Local governments.

Of the 36 states, Kaduna and Plateau States have witnessed serious religious crises in the last twenty years. From the Kafanchan religious riot in 1987 up to 2004, when the Yelwa Shendam crisis reached its peak, thousands of lives were lost and property worth millions of dollars was destroyed. Thousands of people have also been displaced. However at the time of writing, normalcy has been restored and reconciliation and rehabilitation are ongoing.

notes by Musa Aliyu, June 2007