



Conversation Guide - Part I

Things to listen for:

- What common things do you hear in Bryan and Stephanie's work in Bosnia as similar to our context here in the U.S.?
- What consistently shows up in the conversation as themes important for their work in Bosnia? What does that tell you about making peace here in the U.S.?

Question: What is your definition of peace?

Quotes that stood out:

- "Depending on what we think peace is can really change whether or not something is peace making or peace breaking."
- "When we dive into those hard conversations, in the right way, with the right tools and skill sets, and the right posture, then we can take situations of conflict, tension, and difference as an opportunity to move toward healing, God's peace - Shalom."
- "It's really a deep commitment to the mission of God. That's why we are all about Shalom - peace making."

Ideas for you to consider:

- How do you define peace and why is it important that we define peace? How does your theology impact how you understand peace?
- How can peace-keeping a hinderance to peace-making?

Question: What practical things do you do that make for peace?

Quotes that stood out:

- "Are we willing to see beauty on the other side and to vulnerably lament our own self critique?"
- "Unmet needs drive cycles of conflict because we'll fight to defend our needs. So how can we understand the other side's needs, and our own? And then learn to have conversations about those things without having to resort to positions. "

Ideas for you to consider:

- Notice how Stephanie and Bryan's answers hit on both large scale systemic practices along with small ordinary practices. What might be some practices that you consider to be important for making peace?



- Consider someone or a group of people you consider to be different than yourself. Ask yourself, what beauty is there on the 'other side'?
- If "humility inspires humility", when has someone else's posture of humility inspired you to be more humble and open?
- Bryan talked about how humility impacts our discipleship. In what ways does humility help you see God at work in the world?
- How does a change from "getting to heaven" to "cultivating peace" change how you think about discipleship and what it means to follow Jesus?

Question: What barriers are present for Christians when making peace?

Quotes that stood out:

- "Christians get caught up on in our heads rather than living relationally."
- "Whenever we are in a room with someone we disagree with.... For us to sit and listen in humility... sometimes we think that is a compromise of our theological values. Sometimes our posture is unloving when we are not respecting others in the room."
- "The moment you stop learning is the moment you are no longer doing the work of peace building."

Ideas for you to consider:

- What positions might I hold that are keeping me from being in relationship with someone else that sees or understands the world differently than me?
- Do I feel like I am compromising my positions to listen and understand their needs?

Topics discussed in Part II

- How do you make peace when you are misunderstood or carry negative baggage because of labels you can't control?
- What unity have you found between Christians and Muslim in making peace?
- How do you see others who are different than yourself as partners in making peace?