Africa Leadership Study Discussion Guide

As you engage your students, leadership teams and church groups with the *African Christian Leadership* book, utilize these discussion questions as you read each chapter together.

Chapter 1

- How would you describe the moment in which the African Church finds itself? What are the opportunities and challenges you recognize in this time of great growth and global emergence?
- As you review the approach that the ALS team took to the research project, how does that inform some of your own inquiries? Might you learn from their approach as you learn about your ministry context?
- As you read through the brief overview of the book, what big ideas jumped out at you? Consider which ideas you want to explore more deeply as you read the upcoming chapters.

Chapter 2

- Which of the characteristics of African leaders stands out to you? How might you develop some of these characteristics in your own life?
- What are the challenges with "stepping outside the church" as a leader and engaging the community?
- What types of learning would help you go to the next level in your leadership role?

Chapter 3

- As you read through the ways leaders throughout Africa have developed in their roles, which one(s) resonate with you?
- What are your thoughts on Oscar Muriu's assertions about the need to develop leaders beyond theological education efforts?
- Where have you seen mentoring effectively employed in Africa? What has been its unique contribution?

Chapter 4

- What are the barriers that keep you from building your networks beyond your denomination, country, ethnic group or religious group?
- How does your church serve as a linking force to connect you with those you might not otherwise know?
- What did you learn from the discussion of social capital? How would you describe your social capital?

Chapter 5

- What did you learn from the intentional response that FATEB mounted in the face of the violence in the CAR?
- Which of the actions of the leaders in the CAR stood out to you in their response to the crisis?
- Why did Ulrich Marida talk about disarming hearts before physical disarming?

Chapter 6

- How do you see organizations in your community responding to the vision of human flourishing?
- What are some of the challenges and opportunities African organizations have in building and retaining the support of the local church?
- Which example in this chapter was inspiring to you? What are you taking away from that example to apply in your own work?

Chapter 7

- Do you see the advantages of faith-based organizations in Africa at work at a practical level?
- What one or two organizations in your community are having the greatest impact? Why?
- How hard is it for these organizations to maintain strong Christian principles as they grow in influence?
- How can the Church continue to strengthen the legitimacy and influence of faith-based organizations?

Chapter 8

- Where are you seeing women thrive in leadership within the Church or parachurch settings in your neighborhood, city or country?
- Ask yourself or a woman in your sphere of influence about the barriers she faces to leadership? What most strikes you about your/their answers?
- Do you feel that women in your country have access to education at the level that will allow them to thrive as leaders? Why or why not?
- What do you think of the authors realization that many women are finding alternative ways of "negotiating the labyrinth" to have leadership impact? Do you see evidence of this?

Chapter 9
- Why is the giving up of power so hard for leaders you know?
- What strikes you about the authors description of servant leadership in light of empowerment?
- What challenges have you faced and how have they molded you into who you are in Christ?
- Which tools of empowerment do you see at work in your community?

Chapter 10
- What is the last book you read by an African Christian author? What was unique about their perspective?
- Did you resonate with the challenges to Christians wanting to publish in Africa?
- What is the impact of prosperity messages being so vocal in African Christian publishing?
- Do you know an African Christian with a book to publish? What could you do to help them realize their dream?

Chapter 11
- What keeps educational institutions from involving more key influencers in the training?
- How practical is the leadership development training you have received? What was missing that you wish they would have covered?
- How did your parents train you to be a blessing to your community?
- Are institutions in your community measuring their impact via the actual work of their students?

Chapter 12
- What have you learned about collaboration by hearing about the Africa Leadership Study project and the process the team went through?
- What key lesson do you want to take away for use on your next collaborative effort?
- How did the ALS team identify and satisfy a variety of purposes and objectives that their team members had for the data? What can you learn from the way they went about this?