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Religion Causes Violence! – Discussion Guide

Based on the book WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT CHRISTIANITY, by Dinesh D'souza, from Tyndale House Publishers.

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last Overflow Show.

PASSAGE: Read Matthew 5:43-47 and Romans 12:19-21. What attitudes do you see taught in these passages by Jesus and Paul?

What do you think of the complaint that religion causes most of the violence and wars? Does that charge strike you as generally true and why?

Section 2

Go to www.OverflowToday.com and listen to the 5-minute podcast titled Religion Causes Violence and War!

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

What surprised you about D'souza's claim that atheism has been the context from which the world's worst violence has stemmed?

The Middle East conflict has seemed to most to be a religious war since ancient times. How do you feel about the author's contention that it is primarily a battle over land and who rules over that land?

Before hearing this show, what has been your operating assumptions regarding the Crusades?

How did you feel about D'souza's views of the historical context of the Crusades?

As you look across the world today, what are some examples of religion and its connection to violence? Which of those examples are single event and which are more systemic?

How would you assess the author's opinion that regarding Christianity, violence is in the ancient past?

Any other thoughts or reaction to this?

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days?

One suggestion (if needed):

Group members form a circle right now. Each member should call the group member on your right and role-play using the below 4 statements/questions. Try to answer the complaint to your caller for practice and to better remember these principles. This way, each group member makes a call as a challenger, and also receives a call as a Christian who might answer those complaints.

- 1) Religion causes most of the violence and wars in the world!*
- 2) The Middle East conflict is a religious battle that causes so much misery for so many.*
- 3) Christians should be ashamed of the crime of the Crusades. It is a campaign that should have never been waged.*
- 4) Christianity causes so much violence today.*

Overflow enthusiastically recommends the book WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT CHRISTIANITY, by Dinesh D'souza, from Tyndale House Publishers.