



## Discussion Guide

### Session 1:

## The Anti-Chinese Movement and Chinese Exclusion in the United States - Kornel Chang

### Introduction to the Discussion Guide

Whether you're participating in Hidden No More via an independent discussion group or joining the Thursday night Zoom hosted by Highrock Online, we'll take time each week to process the events, themes, and experiences from each lecture and consider how we may relate or respond to them personally. This guide is provided for facilitators to help them lead meaningful discussions among their peers as we unpack the video content together. Instructions in italics can be spoken/used by the facilitator as a script. For Highrock/church-based discussion groups, additional questions are offered at the end to help emphasize how this relates to faith.

### Conversation Covenant

We hope that all discussions in this course are lively and enriching, but sometimes tough topics will be discussed. Highrock has developed this [Conversation Covenant](#), which is an agreement to hold respect and grace toward all participants within a group, no matter the conversation. Please adhere to the [Conversation Covenant](#) or think about creating one that fits your group's specific context.

## Opening Exercise

- 1 min: *Let's begin with an exercise in word association. In this quiet minute, consider associations you have with the word HOME. List these out (paper, Notes app, etc.). It can be a feeling, a place, a sound, a word, anything. Generate as many associations as you can that are authentic to you personally.*
- 1 min: *Now spend one quiet minute generating associations you have with the idea of MOVING your home, moving to a new place. If you've never moved from your hometown, consider how you'd feel about moving.*

## Introductions and Sharing

*As we embark on Hidden No More, we'll begin with the idea and hope of HOME.*

- 3 min: Invite everyone to introduce themselves by saying their name, how they heard about the course, where they call home now, and their hometown.
- 5-10 min: Give time for everyone to share their responses to the word association exercises. If possible, put them in a spreadsheet or on a chart/board so that all answers can be viewed.
  - Spend half the time sharing associations with HOME, then the remaining half sharing associations with MOVING.
  - You can use a website to create a word cloud (the Thursday Zoom will use Menti or PollEverywhere for this exercise so that everyone can input their associations online)
- 10 min: *What came up for you while reflecting on "HOME"? On "MOVING"? What feelings came up for you when generating the associations? Sharing them? Hearing others' associations? Are there any trends/commonalities you noticed from the compiled list?*

## Lecture Discussion

*Transition (1 min): For nearly everyone, "home" brings up connotations of safety and belonging. Yet for Asian Americans, "home" is a place that is often in flux, which we see right away in our first lecture. Hidden No More began by introducing us to Chinese Exclusion. We were asked to notice the motivations that drove Chinese immigrants to the U.S., in essence, to LEAVE their homes and find/make new ones in the United States.*

*15 min: Let's discuss the lecture, especially the idea of 'home' for the Chinese immigrants.*

- *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching the material? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.*
- *What DREW the Chinese immigrants to the United States? What opportunities, hopes, dreams? But ALSO, what DROVE them here? What were they fleeing or trying to prevent? What did it cost them to come? What did they leave behind or lose? What sacrifices did they make?*
- *How does this period fit into your ideas about American immigration history? What might this say about "American values" - both during the 1800s and now? Do you see any parallels between the two?*

## Personal Experiences

15 min: *We'll finish by considering our own experiences.*

- *Unless you're Native American, everyone in America is an immigrant or descended from immigrants. Think about your family of origin and the stories you've heard. Why (and when) did you/your family come? What drew them? What drove them? How were they treated upon arrival? Do they/how do they talk about their immigration journey/experience? Share with your group.*
- *Think now about your own life (especially once you left your family of origin, if you have): What sort of home have you sought to create (and were any MOVES part of that process)? How is your idea of HOME similar to or at odds with your family of origin's idea of home? Has this created any conflict?*
- *What sense of progress or resistance have you experienced in your quest for home now or recently? Is there any way that the lecture material or discussion resonates with your own quest for home now?*
- *One closing/bonus question: Did anyone encounter a situation where something from the course was brought to mind in your everyday life?*

## Highrock/Church-Based Questions

- *In what ways have you seen the church (in general, or your own) express ideas like the ones that led to the exclusion of the Chinese?*
- *In your faith community, do you know any recent non-White immigrants (particularly Asian) who've come here? What drove and drew them here? How have they attempted to adapt to their American setting? How has the church seen/not seen, cared for/not cared for them as newcomers?*
  - *Or, if this is YOUR story, perhaps take the time to share about your experience in depth.*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage your own story or others' stories differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*