



Discussion Guide

Session 2:

Asian America and U.S. Empire in the Philippines and Pacific Professor Genevieve Clutario

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.

Introductions and Entry (10 min)

- Introduce Self: name, ethnic background, (if your first time, ALSO share how you heard about HNM, and where you call home now)
- Warm-up Question: Can you think of a time when, as a child, you tried to conceal your motives when asking for something? (Or if you have kids, one way you've seen them do this?)
- Entry Question: Think of a time when someone acted with ulterior motives and it affected you personally. How did it make you feel? Invite a few folks to share their story in the chat or unmute yourself and share aloud.
- Briefly, comment on any trends, themes, or things that stick out from these stories.

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone for sharing these challenging experiences. I don't think anybody likes it when someone isn't honest, especially when they have a self-serving motive and it ends up hurting others.

Today we're discussing Lecture 2, which explored how Asian American history doesn't begin here in the States but rather overseas because of America's expansion and impact. Specifically, we'll talk about U.S. colonial rule in the Philippines. As the lecture highlights, the U.S. went to great lengths to communicate that its actions were just, moral, and NOT colonialistic - even when those actions, ultimately, were nearly identical to the Spanish empire they took these colonies from.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this lecture? If something stuck out to you personally, please share.*
- *Name some of the ways mentioned in the lecture that the U.S. idealized itself and its actions. Have you ever heard and/or believed any of these specific stories/ideals? Do you still? Are there ways you now think differently? If so, why?*
- *Let's look now at the impacts of U.S. colonialism on Filipinx life/culture - whether in the Philippines or as migrants to the U.S. What oppression did the Filipinos face? What opportunities were open to them? How do you feel about the coexistence of these?*

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll finish by considering our own experience and context.*

- *Are there additional/modern ways the U.S. idealizes itself or its actions? What are some you've encountered recently or regularly? What ulterior motives do they attempt to hide?*
- *Thinking about your family's experience in the U.S., what has been their/your experiences of oppression or opportunity? What do you (or your family) think about this coexistence?*
 - *If your family has been here for more than 2 generations, consider if the dynamic between the two might've been different than your current experience.*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *As people of faith, what do you think should be our response when we identify ulterior motives, and the idealizations being communicated to hide them? In what ways have you engaged with this dynamic before?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*