



Discussion Guide

Session 4: Asian Americans and the Cold War Susie Woo

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)

- Introductions: name, ethnic background, (if your first time, ALSO share how you heard about HNM and where you call home now)
- Warm-up Question: Do you have a jingle, brand slogan, TV commercial, ad, etc. that lives in your head rent-free? What is it? Do you like it? Do you even like the product it's for?
- Entry Question: Speaking of good PR/publicity, when is a time you told a white lie, describing something creatively/dishonestly to make it seem better? Or, think of a time this happened to you personally. Humorous/outrageous stories are welcome. Share this story briefly.

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone for sharing your experiences. It is only natural to look on the bright side of things when a situation is complex, but the more one ignores the negative or difficult things, the more dishonest it eventually seems. Tonight we'll discuss how the United States tries to deal with bad press, especially the lengths it goes to paint itself altruistically and the ways it tokenizes people, especially Asians and Asian Americans. Looking at the Cold War era specifically, we will see how, yet again, Asians in America had to adapt to shifting sentiments in the U.S. about Asians abroad. This lecture also gave special attention to the unique experiences of military brides, mixed children, and adoptees, especially those of Korean descent.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.*
- **American goals and actions:** *How did American political goals affect U.S. actions in Asia? How did it affect America's view of Asian Americans? What does this say about broader American culture and its view of people, national security, and inclusion?*
- **Impact on and Response of Asians/Asian Americans:** *How did Asian Americans respond to shifting international events and American opinions? How did you feel about what happened to them and how they reacted? In what ways were they victims? In what ways did they express resilience?*

Personal Experiences (15 min)

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

- *In what ways in your own life experience have you seen people tokenized or used for propaganda purposes? Have you ever been tokenized or used this way?*
 - *Particularly if you're Asian/Asian American, consider your own experiences of tokenization, when you've been in majority-white-American (or at least non-Asian) settings, and how you've been viewed, included, or publicized.*
 - *Whether you're Asian or not, if your family has been here for more than two generations, consider how some of the prior generations may have navigated this question.*
- *What are the alternatives to tokenization? Have you ever intervened or had to deal with a situation when tokenization was taking place? What was that like?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *As people of faith, what do you think should be our response when we see tokenization occurring (especially in church or our own churches, and by leadership)? 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*