

The GlobalChurch Project

www.theglobalchurchproject.com



David Ro – The astonishing ways God is working in & through Chinese Christians today

Small Group Study Guide

This resource is designed to help your small group discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways for understanding the mission of the church. You don't need to cover all the questions. Allow for a time of response.

Materials

1. Video: David Ro, 25 minutes.
2. Theme: The astonishing ways God is working in & through Chinese Christians today.

Preliminary discussion

Consider the questions suggested below to start the conversation for your small group. They'll consolidate the content of the video, after you've viewed it.

1. What were the major themes in David Ro's responses?
2. How does Ro describe God's work in China today?
3. Discuss the difficulties of the content. What was difficult to understand? Was there anything you would like to clarify with the group?
4. Theological method: How is Ro's theology informed and shaped by his practical ministry? What approaches does he take in understanding God in the context of his day-to-day experiences and discipling?

Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Ro's theology. Consider the questions that respond to the issues raised in your preliminary discussion. Apply the answers to these questions in your own setting. Ensure the discussion is specifically drawing on your local setting. Make sure the discussion is relevant to the lives of faith for your small group. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

1. David Ro is the Director for the Christy Wilson Mission Center at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary as well as the International Deputy Director for the Lausanne movement in East Asia. What are his roles at those places?
2. Why is he passionate about mission and ministry in East Asia, and in China in particular?
3. What is "Mission China 2030"?
4. We often hear about the extraordinary growth of the church in China. What does Ro say that God is doing in the church in China today?
5. What can Western churches learn from the churches of China and East Asia?
6. How are Chinese evangelicals communicating the gospel today?
7. What are Chinese people looking for today, spiritually and socially?
8. What are the challenges for the church in China today?
9. How are Chinese churches responding to these challenges?
10. How are the Chinese churches relating to and impacting both rural and urban areas and populations?
11. How are Chinese Christians beginning to influence global Christian conversations today?
12. What do Chinese Christians teach us about fearlessness and courage and perseverance and more?
13. What did you learn from the stories David Ro told about the Chinese churches?
14. What is most misunderstood about the Chinese church today?
15. How is the Chinese church going, as it seeks to reach new Chinese wealthy urban intellectuals?
16. How are Chinese Christians exploring mission today, in their region and further afield?
17. How is the multiplication of churches happening in China today?
18. How can Western and Eastern Christians connect with the exciting movement of God in China today?
19. What are some practical ways we can learn more about the Chinese churches today, and partner with them?

Informing Community

Facilitate the space for your group to respond to the discussion. You might consider this section as a personal time of written journal responses to the following questions.

1. What is God encouraging our class and me, to do?
2. In response to the issues raised in the video, what are areas I want to ask God for forgiveness in? How do I need to change? What does God want me to stand up for?
3. How do I need God to minister to me and my community, for us to better engage with the contextual issues of our community?
4. How can I gain a better understanding of church life in China today? What do we ask that God would do in our hearts?

Prayer

Spend time in prayer over what you've learnt.

Invite the ministry of the Holy Spirit to clarify, heal, and inspire change for your participants and communities.

Links

Website: www.theglobalchurchproject.com

Book: Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2016)