

The GlobalChurch Project

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Julie C. Ma and Wonsuk Ma – Mission in the Spirit

Small Group Discussion 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. Questions are organized in themes. Consider choosing the themes appropriate to your small group context. You don't need to cover all the questions. Allow for a time of response.

Materials

1. Video: Julie C. Ma and Wonsuk Ma, 60 minutes.
2. Theme: Mission in the Spirit.
3. Scripture reference: Acts 2

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 Julie and Wonsuk Ma's responses?
2. How do Julie and Wonsuk Ma describe mission in the Spirit?
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 the Ma's theology informed and shaped by their practical ministry? What approaches do they take in understanding God in the context of their day-to-day experiences and discipling?

Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Julie and Wonsuk Ma'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. The church and its mission are naturally renewalist/charismatic. The church is “charismatic if left with little theological ‘assistance.’” The church birthed in Jerusalem was highly charismatic, indigenous churches are highly charismatic, and the Chinese churches are another example of this. How do Wonsuk and Julie Ma explain these ideas?
2. The church and its mission are dependent on the Spirit, who creates, fills, and empowers it. What do we learn from Majority World churches about Spirit-empowered mission?
3. What are the missional characteristics of these Majority World renewalist churches?
4. In “Mission in the Spirit,” Julie and Wonsuk Ma assert that a theology of empowerment, creation, and the “last or end times” characterize Majority World Spirit-empowered mission. Discuss what these characteristics mean.
5. How do Spirit-empowered charismatic and Pentecostal practices accompany Majority World Spirit-empowered mission (healing, miracles, tongues, prophecy, etc.)? What do these look like? How do they enable mission?
6. How do Majority World renewalists democratize ministry—the whole community participating in mission and ministry?
7. How is their missional zeal and commitment palpable—passion for mission is a primary characteristic of many of these churches?
8. Are there unique ways in which Majority World renewalists engage in Gospel proclamation, power evangelism, indigenous leadership, and church reproduction?
9. Why do they expect Holy Spirit manifestations to go with their preaching? (divine healing, speaking in tongues, miracles and wonders, prophecy, and power encounters with angels and demons).
10. Why and how does Majority World renewalist mission focus on spiritual warfare and deliverance from evil?
11. How does Spirit-empowered mission engage with other religious, spiritual, and secular worldviews? (In Asia, this is especially Animism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, and secular perspectives).
12. Does it address the plight of women and girls in the Majority World? (Since many of these women face degeneration, violence, rape-cultures, and poor educational opportunities).
13. In a book chapter on “Theological Education in Pentecostal Churches in Asia”, Julie and Wonsuk Ma study how theological education has grown in Pentecostal and charismatic churches in Asia. They claim that Pentecostal and charismatic theological education is missional, pneumatological, democratized, mobilized, educational, networked, and adaptational. Discuss what these features might mean for such education?
14. How does Majority World Spirit-empowered mission integrate Spirit-empowered mission into ministry training and theological curriculum? Is this integration central to theological and ministry education in Majority World renewalist churches?
15. How can congregations today use the *spiritual gifts as missional gifts*?
16. How do we recognize the presence of the Spirit beyond the walls of the church? (E.g. in popular spirituality, contemporary spiritual quests, consumer culture, film and media, and

sports and recreation). How do we join with what the Spirit is already doing in those places?

17. How can Western Christians increase their spiritual expectation, and foster openness to “the invasion of the Spirit” and to encounter with God?
18. What other things can Majority World renewalist mission and churches teach the West churches today?
19. What other thoughts do Julie and Wonsuk Ma have about how Majority World renewalist/charismatic/Pentecostal Christians are reshaping the face of the global church today?

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 me, our small group and our community, 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 mission in the Spirit? 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)