

The GlobalChurch Project

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## **Peter C. Phan – Christian Faith and Mission in an Asian Key**

### **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. 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: Peter C. Phan
2. Theme: Christian Faith and Mission in an Asian Key

### **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 Peter C. Phan's responses?
2. How does he describe Christian mission?
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 his 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 Peter C. Phan'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. What is inculturation and how does it work?
2. How is inculturation an encounter between the gospel and cultures?
3. How is dialogue "the modality of mission"?
4. What is the "triple dialogue in Asia"? How does this triple dialogue between liberation, cultures/languages, and religions work?
5. How is mission defined by church, and church defined by mission?
6. What does it mean to put the reign of God at the center of the church's mission?
7. In what sense are conversion and discipleship the goals of the church's mission?
8. What are some examples Peter C. Phan gives of how worship and prayer is conducted "in the Asian way"?
9. How can the church do theology in the context of mission?
10. What do we learn from the life and mission of Alexandre de Rhodes?
11. Does cultural and religious pluralism challenge Christian theology today? And, how do Asians do theology in the context of cultural and religious pluralism?
12. What does an Asian biblical hermeneutics look like?
13. How do multicultural and multi-religious contexts make us reassess our approaches to theological education?
14. In "Christianity with an Asian Face," Peter C. Phan describes the Kingdom of God as a theological symbol for Asians. What does he mean?
15. What does Jesus Christ look like with an Asian face? What are some Asian portraits of Jesus?
16. How are Asians exploring new ways of being the church? What does it mean, in other words, to have "The church not in but of Asia: the Asian-ness of Christianity"?
17. In "Being Religious Interreligiously", Peter C. Phan describes the postmodern and pluralistic challenges to church and theology. How do we do theology interreligiously in the postmodern age?
18. How do we talk about God and practice Christian faith, amidst many and diverse cultures and religions?
19. What is the wisdom of holy fools? How is it a way to the love of truth in postmodernity?
20. What is the mission of the church? How does it pursue this mission?
21. How do the reign of God, mission, proclamation, and the church relate to each other?
22. Peter C. Phan writes that instead of a church-centred approach to mission, we need a kingdom-of-God-centred view, in which the Church is made subservient to, though not separate from, the reign of God. How does the reign of God determine the Church and its mission? How does the reign of God determine the shape of mission, proclamation, and church?
23. How can an understanding of the reign of God transform Christian leaders, churches,

mission, and theology?

24. What is a “liberation theology of mission”? How does it democratize political-power structures in the church?

## 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? 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](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)

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