



**Brooke Prentis –**

## **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Voices: A Call to Australian Society & Churches**

**Discussion Guide**

This resource is designed to help your small group or college class discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways to understand the issues discussed in this video. You don't need to answer all the questions. Please allow time for discussion and response.

### **Materials**

1. Person Interviewed: Brooke Prentis
2. Theme of Video: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Voices: A Call to Australian Society & Churches

### **Preliminary discussion**

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

1. What were the major themes in this video?
2. How do those themes relate to your life and context?
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 interviewee's theology and outlook informed and shaped by their practical ministry and context? What approaches do they take in understanding God in the context of their daily life and ministry?

## Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with the 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 or college class. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

1. What ministries are Brooke currently involved in?
2. How has her faith encouraged and enabled her to stand against the injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?
3. How has Brooke found her experience within the church, as an Aboriginal woman?
4. Has the church been complicit in racism, and the peculiar racism that Aboriginal people face every day?
5. Should the church be more inclusive? If so, how?
6. In a recent article, Brooke raised the question where is the church when the reality is that the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians isn't closing. Why isn't the gap closing?
7. What do you feel the church and Christians can do to help close the gap?
8. When it comes to reconciliation and restoration, why do you think the church should be at forefront of this?
9. What is Brooke's vision for Australia, especially with regard to the rights, wellbeing, and honour of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders?
10. What is her vision for the church in Australia, and for its inclusion and honour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?
11. The Uniting Church made a covenanting statement between the church, God and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people... Why was this important to do? Have other denominations done so too? If not, how should other churches/denominations respond?
12. How is the church enriched as it explores and embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theology and faith?
13. How can Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples come together, side by side, as equals, and work out how our relationship will work in this country? What are some things we can do to make this happen? What role does the church play in this?
14. What do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians teach the church about themes like justice, holistic faith, living with the land, etc.?
15. Is there anything else you learnt 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 our group 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 the issues discussed in this video? 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)

### **Books:**

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

Graham Hill, *Salt, Light, and a City (Second Edition): Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community: Volume 1, Western Voices* (Cascade, 2017).

Graham Hill and Grace Ji-Sun Kim. *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* (IVP, 2018).