



## **Vee Tetseo and Ai Nohara Tetseo –**

# **How the Spirit is shaping faith and mission in Okinawa and Japan today**

### **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: Vee Tetseo and Ai Nohara Tetseo
2. Theme of Video: How the Spirit is shaping faith and mission in Okinawa and Japan today

## **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. Vee Tetseo and Ai Nohara Tetseo together pastor Okinawa Daiichi Baptist Church. What do they say about that church?
2. What do they say about their ministries in Japan, Okinawa, and in other parts of Asia?
3. How strong is Christianity in Japan and in Okinawa? And is it growing or declining?
4. What do they say about the history of gospel missions in Okinawa?
5. How do Okinawa and Japan have different histories of mission and church life?
6. A converted Jew brought the gospel to Okinawa whereas it was Catholic missionaries who brought the gospel to mainland Japan. What difference did this make to the kind of Christianity that developed in those settings?
7. How do Okinawans view Christianity?
8. How has Christianity influenced Okinawans since the gospel was first brought to Okinawa?
9. Can you please tell us something about World War 2 and its effects on the gospel (for instance, the relationship of military occupation (US Base) and the gospel)?
10. Most Okinawans, Christians included, do not want the US military in Okinawa. What effect does that sentiment have on church life and witness in Okinawa?
11. What effect does this have on the way Okinawans feel about the Western Christianity?
12. Most Christians in Okinawa are Pacifist, and they hold on to this view very strongly. More so, because Okinawa experienced the worst land battle of WW2 where more than 200,000 civilians died during the 3 months battle. How has pacifism and these experiences shaped both Okinawan society and its churches?
13. What is happening today in evangelism and church growth in Okinawa?
14. What is the Global Mission work by churches in Okinawa?
15. Are Okinawan theologians doing contextual Okinawan theology, and, if so, what themes are they exploring?
16. What are the greatest challenges facing the church in Okinawa and Japan today?
17. What social and ethical issues must the Asian church address today?
18. What can Western churches learn from Okinawan and Japanese churches?

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

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).