



Name: Nikki Toyama-Szeto

Title: On earth, as it is in heaven: Making love visible

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: Nikki Toyama-Szeto
2. Theme of Video: On earth, as it is in heaven: Making love visible

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. In "Partnering with the Global Church", Nikki Toyama-Szeto says that, in our globally interconnected world, mission depends on healthy partnerships across the globe. What does this mean?
2. What should these partnerships look like?
3. How is partnership misconstrued?
4. What are the qualities of true partnerships?
5. How can Western Christians live out a more humble posture of missional partnership, marked by true mutuality and service?
6. Tricky issues arise as we seek such partnerships (issues like power, finances, transparency, and trust). What are the main issues that emerge?
7. How do we seek to act with integrity and humility and mutuality in the face of such challenges?
8. In "God of Justice", Nikki Toyama-Szeto and Abraham George say that "Christians need to be equipped and mobilized to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who are vulnerable and oppressed." How can Christians be equipped and mobilized this way?
9. Nikki Toyama-Szeto is the Executive Director of Evangelicals for Social Action. Can you please tell us about ESA, and about the ESA-Sider Centre, and also about Nikki Toyama-Szeto's role?
10. What are the big issues facing Evangelicals today?
11. How are Evangelicals responding to social issues today, and are they beginning to embrace and pursue social action and change?
12. Nikki Toyama-Szeto has lived among the poor in the slums of Nairobi, Cairo, and Bangkok. How did she come into this ministry?
13. What did God teach her in those places?
14. Nikki Toyama-Szeto developed and directed the Global Urban Trek, an urban immersion program designed to challenge students to use their majors on behalf of the world's poor people. Can you please tell us about that program?
15. Nikki Toyama-Szeto was one of the authors of "More Than Serving Tea." In that book, Nikki Toyama-Szeto joins other Asian American women in exploring how family expectations and cultural stereotypes affect Asian American women. How have these affected her life?
16. How does Jesus offer 'good news' for Asian American women who feel frustrated or burdened by these expectations?
17. How do power and privilege come into play here, and especially when these are unacknowledged?
18. Rachel Held Evans once asked Nikki Toyama-Szeto how can we become more aware of our own power, and how can we steward it in ways that bring about justice, shalom, and reconciliation? How would you answer this question?
19. How can women reclaim their power, and use redemptive power for the sake of others, and especially in institutional cultures that try to disempower them?
20. Can Christian women be ambitious and assertive?

21. How can women redeem and reclaim power, ambition and assertion as virtues in our society, expressed by both women and men?

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

Books:

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

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

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

Graham Joseph Hill. *Salt, Light, and a City: Conformation—Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community: Volume 2, Majority World Voices* (Cascade, 2020).

Graham Joseph Hill. *Holding Up Half the Sky: A Biblical Case for Women Leading and Teaching in the Church* (Cascade, 2020).

Graham Joseph Hill and Michael Frost. *Hide This in Your Heart: Bible Memory for Discipleship and Mission* (NavPress, 2020).